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## Happy Valley Educational Specifications Advisory Committee

### Community Meeting Minutes

**PROJECT:** Happy Valley Elementary  
**PROJECT NUMBER:** 121-14011  
**MEETING DATE:** April 21, 2014

#### 1. Introductions

Karen Tolliver welcomed people to the school and had people introduce themselves. Ron Cowan introduced the planning and design process to the community. Kevin Flanagan explained that this is the very start of the project and there are no plans yet – the design team is looking for broad input and information to help guide the design process.

#### 2. Background

Kevin Flanagan described the established aspects of the project including:

- Project square footage (~50,000 SF)
- Construction cost (~13.3M plus soft costs)
- Basic schedule:
  - Start input process now
  - Initial conceptual design layout in June
  - Permit in the winter
  - Bid next spring
  - Construction to begin next summer and will last for over 1 year
  - The school will move into the new building for school in fall of 2016
  - The old building will be demolished in late summer or fall of 2016
- At this time we have not developed a plan as to what the building will look like or where it will be located. We do know that the current building will remain in use during the construction so the new building will likely be in the field area somewhere. We do not know if it will be 1 or 2 stories; it was noted that 2 stories would keep more land open for increased parking, drives and still have lots of play area

#### 3. Discussion – The Site and Setting

The attendees were asked to describe attributes of the Happy Valley property, i.e. natural setting, best parts of the site, community and after hours use and what is the neighborhood like.

- The traffic flow on and off the street is poor during peak pick-up and drop-off times
- There was some concern for loss of playground space to accommodate more drives and parking
- Noted kids love the “stage” outside for both formal use and informal play
- Field is used a lot by community and sports teams
- Gym is used a lot after hours

- Blacktop play area is a mecca for activity; play, kickball, etc.
- College students use the site after hours
- School is a community park on weekends
- It is generally quiet at night
- Noted that it is easy to get on roof
- Noted it takes 3 people to oversee pick-up and drop-off
- Fun Run is a big fundraiser
- History - this was formerly farmland

#### **4. Positives of Current School**

The attendees were asked to brainstorm about aspects of the current school they like that they would miss in the new school or that they would like to see in the new school.

- Large/wide stage
- Principal up front
- Large playfield
- Cherry trees outside the window

#### **5. Discussion – The Intrinsic Culture of the School**

The attendees were asked to discuss unique, intrinsic qualities of Happy Valley Elementary and Larrabee Elementary (regardless of the building or setting).

- The “Happy Valley Way” - a culture of citizenship, kids helping kids, ownership and responsibility by students
- Close connections and lots of support from WWU and families
- This is a lab for WWU students
- Like the salmon program

#### **6. Discussion – Features People Would Like to See in New School**

The attendees were asked to brainstorm on what features they would like to see in the new school.

- Make it the center of the neighborhood; a community asset
  - It would be nice to have restrooms available somewhere for after-hours use
  - Secure zones in the school to allow after-hours use of some portions while keeping the rest of the school secure
  - Good use of technology
  - Support collaboration and team teaching
  - Places for events like family night, movie night, potlatch
  - Support STEM learning
  - Outdoor learning spaces; theatre, garden and outdoor classrooms
  - A landscape buffer to neighbors
  - PTA does a lot to support art in the school; would like an art room
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- Display of student art is important; would like display area that was visible from outside (through a window)
  - Visibility of salmon project
  - 3 classes per grade level and at least 1 preschool class; connecting preschool and kindergarten would add flexibility
  - Kids want lots of play area
  - Ways that the building might help students be better mathematicians, scientists, artists and writers
  - Make kids aware of the environment; building as a teaching tool
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