
Happy Valley Educational Specifications Advisory Committee

Workshop 1 Meeting Minutes

PROJECT: Happy Valley Elementary
PROJECT NUMBER: 121-14011
MEETING DATE: April 10, 2014

Members Present:

Anderson, Mike	Holland, Melissa
Angell, Dennis	Howard, Gretchen
Aperule, Tara	Love, Brian
Caldwell, Thomas	Morse, Steve
Cowan, Ron	Moss-Owen, Jamine
Dalton, Mark	Prichard, Tony
D'Hondt, Mike	Scherrer, Wendy
DeJong, Jill	Sterling-Chue, LaVonne
Flanagan, Kevin	Tolliver, Karen
Gazow, Kurt	

Members Absent:

Lin, Ming
Rumbaugh, Matt
Dominguez, Kristi
Haberman, Mike

1. DESIGN COMMITTEE MISSION

Ron Cowan reviewed the purpose, mission and decision making process of the committee within the school design process as was stated in the Committee Template that everyone saw when applying for the committee.

2. INTRODUCTIONS

Attendees introduced themselves, described their connection to the Happy Valley and Larrabee school and community, and explained their interest in the school design process.

3. BACKGROUND

Kevin Flanagan described the established aspects of the project including project square footage, construction cost, broad schedule, and addressed the issue of operating Happy Valley Elementary while construction occurs.

4. DISCUSSION – THE SITE AND SETTING

The committee was asked to describe attributes of the Happy Valley property. (e.g. natural setting, best parts of the site, community and after hours use. What is the neighborhood like?)

- 24th Street arterial has parent traffic and buses, pedestrian use, auto, bikes
- Several housing types surround the site: single family, multi-family and apartments
- Happy Valley Neighborhood Plan addresses tree retention
- No crosswalks
- Challenging pedestrian access
- Parking overflows into neighborhood, particularly during events
- Best part: open, green space
- Community use of open space: soccer in summer, basketball in winter
- Locating building in back, allows big visible open space in front
- Walking field trips to Connelly Creek and other locations in neighborhood
- Storm water drainage ditches
- Community center: school as a resource for community support
- Impact of Larrabee repurposing
- After hours use: ease of access, gym use, field use
- Balance use, access, with maintenance
- Lots of traffic on West side, concern about impact of traffic on East side
- Open space = views and light

5. DISCUSSION – THE INTRINSIC CULTURE OF THE SCHOOL

The committee was asked to discuss unique, intrinsic qualities of Happy Valley Elementary and Larrabee Elementary:

- Neighborhood, family feel inside the school
 - Committed to all, strong peer support
 - After school enrichment
 - Value having fun, don't take themselves too seriously
 - Happy Valley Way: kids look out for other kids
 - Pre-service teacher training ground
 - Special events: school play every 2 years, Fall fun run, "Salmon in the Classroom", and a Sock Hop
 - School garden for food (Edible Schoolyard)
 - Seed to Table
 - Garden is a community project
 - Preschool programs
 - School capacity (historically 350-500)
 - Art program
 - School filled with volunteers (parents, student teachers)
-

6. DISCUSSION - THINKING ABOUT EDUCATION

The committee was asked to discuss how education has changed. Additionally, they considered how Teaching and Learning may change in the future:

- Much more collaboration
- Moving around classroom
- Variety of sizes of spaces
- Include special needs in same classroom (“calm down with dignity”)
- More flexible (includes all)
- Space designed for cross-grade collaboration
- Textbooks => FOSS kits => STEM
- Engaged in immersive, learning, activity, experience based
- “One-to-One” technology approach vs. “One-to-World” (Alan November)
- Khan Academy
- Interactive environmental information
- Building becomes the teacher
- Digital native
- Potential for adult/community learning
- Happy Valley to host teacher from sister school in China (Xiejiawan Primary School)
- Family resource center
 - Education from birth – 5 years
- Earlier tech education
- Priorities
 - Flexible
 - Durable
 - Efficient (energy, cost, space)

7. PRESENTATION – 21ST EDUCATION IN OTHER PLACES

NAC Architecture showed PowerPoint images regarding changes in education and examples of places that are designed to accommodate the type of teaching and learning that is occurring in schools. These examples included schools in other parts of the world as well as businesses that promote collaboration and creativity. The PowerPoint also showed examples of how the design of the new school may be responsive to environmental issues including energy efficiency and integrating learning with the environment.

8. DISCUSSION - THINKING ABOUT EDUCATION FOR HAPPY VALLEY

The committee was asked to brain storm on what design elements or features they would like to see in the new Happy Valley.

- Building systems are visible and explained to students
 - Appropriate use of pervious surfaces
 - Clear traffic flow (get cars out of the neighborhood, circulation onsite and offsite)
 - Appropriate-sized spaces for community use
 - Transparency between educational spaces
 - Space supports teacher collaboration
-

- “Quiet” spaces for balance
- Garden plus kids’ kitchen
- Native plants
- Net-zero water/energy, living building, no waste
- Theater
- Sufficient storage to reduce clutter
- Maintenance friendly
- Student integration in school care
- Outdoor oversight, student monitoring
- Efficient layout that supports ease of use
- Energy/water monitoring (interactive display)

9. DISCUSSION – GOALS FOR THE NEW HAPPY VALLEY ELEMENTARY

The committee was asked to brain storm on what goals they should have for the design of the new school. These goals may relate to educational environment, cultural issues, sustainability or other issues.

- Technologically flexible
- Flexibility for education programs
- Maintain Happy Valley culture and values (Happy Valley Way)
- Global
- Relevant educational programs
- Student creation of their own learning
- Involve all community groups, “Warmth of Happy Valley”
- Support the whole student
- Culture of Happy Valley: taking care of each other
- Net zero (energy/water; solar)
- Be a responsible community member
- Diverse play areas outdoors

10. DISCUSSION – CLOSING THOUGHTS FROM PARTICIPANTS

The committee was asked to note any added thoughts that they did not bring up previously:

- Include quiet spaces
 - Rainy day recess/covered outdoor play
 - Sink in art
 - Drinking fountain outside
 - Use lessons learned from other district projects
 - Bring food service forward
 - Robotics lab
 - Appropriately placed restrooms
 - Demonstration technology (solar, water)
-