
Happy Valley Educational Specifications Advisory Committee

Workshop 2 Meeting Minutes

PROJECT: Happy Valley Elementary

PROJECT NUMBER: 121-14011

MEETING DATE: April 21, 2014

MEETING LOCATION: Wade King Elementary

Members Present:

Anderson, Mike	Holland, Melissa
Aperule, Tara	Howard, Gretchen
Caldwell, Thomas	Lawyer, Curtis
Cowan, Ron	Lin, Ming
Dalton, Mark	Morse, Steve
D'Hondt, Mike	Moss-Owen, Jamine
DeJong, Jill	Prichard, Tony
Dominguez, Kristi	Scherrer, Wendy
Flanagan, Kevin	Sterling-Chue, LaVonne
Gazow, Kurt	Tolliver, Karen
Haberman, Mike	

Members Absent:

Angell, Dennis
Rumbaugh, Matt

1. Workshop 1 Meeting Minutes

Correction to Workshop 1 Minutes: Section 9, Goals – The item “Net zero (energy/water)” should be revised to read “provide solar panels and develop strategies to target net zero energy and water”.

2. Recap of Tours

On 4/17 several members of the Ed Spec Committee toured 3 recently constructed elementary schools: Riverview Elementary in Snohomish, View Ridge Elementary in Everett and Jefferson Elementary in Everett. The group used this as an opportunity to see different building designs and different aspects of school facilities in order to better recognize features that will be supportive of the needs for Happy Valley.

The following are comments from people regarding what they saw that may be applicable to the design of Happy Valley:

- Riverview appeared to reflect “whole child” perspective of Happy Valley
- Students worked independently; good visibility allowed for good management and good student behavior

- Riverview had a warm vibe
- Student traffic patterns were well thought out (wider hallways where groups were larger)
- OTPT room was well designed for the needs of that program
- Liked idea of lab up front and liked covered outdoor area connected to this room (with hose). The location was good for parents to use and good as "PR" high visibility
- Riverview had a variety of spaces that provided both collaboration areas and quiet area (at end of hall by stairs)
- Liked the self-healing, tackable wall at Riverview (texture, color and patterns)
- Liked reclaimed wood beams at stairs
- Coats fell off hooks too easy; would want better coat hooks
- Good acoustics at Riverview
- Liked entry foyer at View Ridge; large enough, welcoming and provided good security and control
- Liked spaces with lots of natural light; double row of windows at Riverview gave good light
- Liked glass wall on back of stage at Riverview
- Liked wood floor for community use
- Would like to see all spaces being used, i.e. creating nooks under stairs and at landings
- Liked versatile furniture at Riverview; rolling tables
- Liked idea of adjustable height projectors and smart boards
- Liked having a good flow from cafeteria to play areas
- Liked the "public zone" at View Ridge that had gym, stage, library and commons near the entry and the classroom wings could be locked off separately
- Did not like openness of office to entry and circulation at Jefferson
- Liked outdoor patio and green roof at Riverview; liked that it was removed from student view
- Liked signage and graphics to explain sustainable features
- Liked window into mechanical room at Riverview
- Liked how Riverview had a connection to the wetland; liked lookout to wetland
- The small kiln room was too small at Riverview; could excess heat from kiln be captured for building use
- Thought that lockers at Jefferson and View Ridge used a lot of space and blocked connection to other spaces
- Liked that Riverview had lots of informal seating areas throughout; "invites us to slow down"
- Like textured concrete outside of entry (cleans shoes) and long walk-off mat inside school at Riverview
- Riverview felt like "a place you want to stay"

3. Design Elements to Consider for Happy Valley

- It was noted that this school should have solar panels; ITEK is a local Bellingham manufacturer of solar panels
 - We should consider a long hand washing sink at lunchroom to allow option for recess before lunch
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- Noted that all 3 schools had operable walls but they were all closed; felt that just a door between classrooms was better for Happy Valley; maybe door could have dry erase surface
- Continue to have a large field area
- Liked the fully adhered TPO roof
- Liked idea of small green roof area
- Consider option to provide "timeout with dignity" area; not highly visible
- Unisex restroom for transgender
- Think about the flow of students

4. Sense of Place

Kevin showed a Power Point to introduce the topic of "sense of place" that used terminology that we will use as we get more into the creation of a design for Happy Valley.

- Refuge - a safe/protected spot
- Prospect - a spot that allows views to other places
- Edge - something that defines the perimeter, boundary or maybe the place of transition from one place to another
- Context - how it relates to the surroundings, setting, use and time
- Community - how the pieces that make the whole relate to each other
- Discovery - not everything needs to be revealed at once
- Scale - the feel of the space relative to the size of people; the activities using the space

In the design process we will:

- "Diagnose the patient" (identify what needs to be done)
- Generate lots of options and ideas
- Filter these ideas by considering how the design concept is:
 - Relevant to the goals, functions and needs of the school
 - Contextual to the setting and the culture of the school
 - Intended to show clarity and restraint
 - Sensuous in that it excites or intrigues our senses

5. Review of Goals – Added Goals

- We reviewed the goals as stated previously
 - We asked what goals we should add to the list:
 - The school should be welcoming and inclusive
 - The building should offer a sense of equity and access; a place where all are included
 - The school should be the heart of the neighborhood
 - Honor learning; a sense people get just by walking through the doors
 - There is a purpose here
 - A school that looks globally (including sister school in China); one world view
 - Safe
 - A place you want to stay
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6. People were asked to give an adjective or description of what the new school will be like:

Imagine walking into the new school and looking around. What adjective or phrase would you use to describe what you see.

- Fresh
- Light/bright
- Everyone is engaged
- Safe/secure
- Warm
- Happy/friendly
- Active
- Inclusive
- Harmonious/balanced/Zen-like
- Exciting
- Well planned/purposeful/organized/common vision
- It is about learning
- Artistic
- Sense of community

7. The Group Toured Wade King

8. Next Steps

- On 4/28 we will have detailed meetings for each space in the school
 - On 5/12 we will meet as a full group to bring together all of the Ed Spec information, outline space allocation and explore how the new school may layout on the site
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