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## Happy Valley Elementary School

### Community Meeting #2

**PROJECT:** Happy Valley Elementary

**PROJECT NUMBER:** 121-14011

**MEETING DATE:** July 21, 2014

**MEETING LOCATION:** Happy Valley Elementary

Leading the Meeting:

Ron Cowan, Assistant Superintendent

Matt Rumbaugh, NAC|Architecture

District Personnel:

Dr. Greg Baker, Superintendent

Karen Tolliver, Happy Valley Principal

Curtis Lawyer, Capital Projects Manager

Mike Anderson, Director, Buildings and Grounds

See below for list of other attendees

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- A. Ron Cowan began the meeting with introductions and noted that the purpose of the meeting was to provide an update on the Design Advisory Committee's work to date and to solicit feedback on the committee's preferred conceptual design.**
- B. Matt Rumbaugh followed with a PowerPoint presentation summarizing the work of the design committee to date. This summary included the goals established by the committee, a synopsis of the visioning and design process, and the committee's preferred design direction.**

The following project goals from the design committee were highlighted:

1. Create a new school to serve the Happy Valley and Larrabee communities
  2. Create a school that better meets the needs of teaching and learning in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.
  3. Improve onsite automobile, bus, and pedestrian circulation and safety.
  4. Create a site plan that strengthens connections within the neighborhood.
- C. After the presentation completed a little before 6:30, the remaining time was dedicated to listening to comments, questions, and suggestions from those in attendance. Generally, the questions/comments fell into two main categories – bus circulation/access and sustainability.**

1. Regarding bus circulation, routing and access:

- Many of those in attendance expressed concern about the buses circulating down Mill Street and up 27<sup>th</sup> to access the site from the east. A strong preference for having buses access the site from 24<sup>th</sup> was expressed. The primary concerns centered around the streets we being wide enough to safely accommodate buses and that bus traffic would compromise the existing quiet neighborhood atmosphere. One person expressed support for the idea of buses circulating down Mill Street and up 27<sup>th</sup> to access the site from the east.
- People talked about different aspects of pedestrian safety and suggested that the school district consider and review with the City the condition of the intersection at Mill and 24<sup>th</sup> and the width and lack of sidewalks associated with Mill and 27<sup>th</sup>.

2. Regarding sustainability:

Many people expressed interest in the District incorporating as many sustainable features as possible. Some of those features people expressed an interest in seeing incorporated were:

- Consider adding solar panels if possible or at least providing some infrastructure so those panels can be added later.
- Consider providing a green roof on the covered play area.
- Consider using cisterns to store water for irrigating the vegetable beds.
- Consider recycling and/or reusing the existing building. Maybe the old bricks can either be crushed and used onsite or used as planter beds for the vegetable garden.

**D. The intent of the evening was to gather feedback, not to respond to each of the comments and questions received, but the District and design team were able to answer/respond to a few of the comments/questions as follows:**

- Regarding sustainability, the District noted that the building is required to have sustainable elements and the District will incorporate additional sustainable features where applicable and possible within the established budget.
  - Regarding bus circulation, the District noted that Happy Valley is currently one of the most challenging and difficult parent and bus pick up conditions of any of the District's elementary schools. This is due to lack of sufficient space on 24<sup>th</sup> and not having sufficient separation between buses and parent drop-off areas.
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- Northern Heights Elementary was noted as a successful example of having buses and automobiles separated on opposite sides of the site as is proposed for the new Happy Valley Elementary.

**E. The District handed out comment forms and notes that people could fill out the form with additional comments or provide an e-mail comment to the email address noted on the form.**

Some in attendance did fill out the comment forms and gave them to the District.

**F. The District noted that the Bellingham Public Schools website, under the facilities tab, provides regular updates on the status of the design for Happy Valley and the other capital projects.**

[www.bellinghamschools.org](http://www.bellinghamschools.org)

**G. Conclusions and next steps:**

1. Ron Cowan indicated that a meeting would be set up with the City of Bellingham to discuss bus, automobile, and pedestrian circulation and access to and around the site.
2. Ron Cowan thanked everyone for their interest in the project and for their feedback/comments/questions and indicated that the District and design team would be considering and reviewing all the feedback and comments received.
3. The District will schedule another community meeting, likely in September, to provide the community an update on the project and share with the community the response to the feedback received at this meeting.

Meeting attendees

Mike Squires  
Rachel Taggart  
Margaret Loudon  
Wendy Scherrer  
Bill Baumann  
Bruce Smith  
Janice Keller  
Hellen (indecipherable)  
Emiko Grubb  
Yvonne Dean

Ruthann Lockwood  
Sam Lockwood  
Jim Wassall  
Sally Wassall  
Laya Shriaberg  
Keith Fredrickson  
Paul DeJong  
Sue Blethen  
Kathy Hasenjaeger  
Marijo Martini  
Carmen Gilmore