
Happy Valley Educational Specifications Advisory Committee

Workshop 6 Meeting Minutes

PROJECT: Happy Valley Elementary

PROJECT NUMBER: 121-14011

MEETING DATE: June 06, 2014

MEETING LOCATION: Happy Valley Elementary

Members Present:

Anderson, Mike	Howard, Gretchen
Angell, Dennis	Lawyer, Curtis
Aperule, Tara	Lin, Ming
Brawley, Jackie	Love, Brian
Caldwell, Thomas	Morse, Steve
Cowan, Ron	Moss-Owen, Jamine
D'Hondt, Mike	Prichard, Tony
DeJong, Jill	Rumbaugh, Matt
Flanagan, Kevin	Scherrer, Wendy
Gazow, Kurt	Sterling-Chue, LaVonne
Haberman, Mike	Tolliver, Karen
Holland, Melissa	

Members Absent:

Dalton, Mark
Dominguez, Kristi

A. Comments on Workshop 5 Meeting Minutes

No comments or corrections noted.

B. General Comments from the Committee

1. Wendy reported that she met with the Happy Valley Neighborhood Association and others and based on the information they were provided by her they preferred access/ingress/egress to the site from 24th. It was noted that street improvements will be included in this project as necessary as part of the permitting process. Some members of the committee expressed a different perspective on this and noted their preference for buses on 27th if it would add sidewalks. Ron indicated that the existing combination of parent vehicles, school buses (3-5) and neighborhood traffic all using the same space on 24th creates a great deal of congestion and that separation between buses and autos is a must. Location of the buses will continue to be studied as the design develops.
2. It was noted that the design team will meet with the city as part of the standard permitting process at such a time the drawings have been developed, the standard the city requires for such reviews.

3. Wendy noted that she attended a green school conference in Bellingham. She noted that PSE provided grants for energy efficient construction.

C. Classroom Neighborhoods/Previous Design Options

NAC presented a PowerPoint reviewing the three concepts presented at previous workshop meetings. It was reiterated that the preferred classroom arrangement was 3 or 4 classrooms per pod, with rectangular shared areas that do not lie within the circulation path, and providing all classrooms with equal access to the shared areas. NAC reviewed the elements of design used during evolution of their design concepts, including prospect, edges, scale, community, and discovery.

D. General Design Option Concepts

NAC presented 2 main design concepts, "Community Green" and "Crossing Paths".

E. Discussion for each Design Concept

The following are pros, cons and comments for each of the concepts presented (see attached for drawings of each concept).

1. Concept 1 – "Community Green"

This concept further developed design ideas presented previously with modifications responding to previous comments.

a. Pros

- + Warm, inviting entry
- + Like the openness/transparency/views to all spaces
- + Spaces feel open and inviting
- + Like the efficiency
- + Blends in well with nature
- + Courtyard is a good connection

b. Cons

- The second grade feels isolated within the 4 classroom arrangement
- Courtyard feels like it could divide the spaces on rainy/cold days
- Second floor classrooms don't have direct access to outdoor classrooms
- Classrooms feel separated
- Less flexibility

c. Comments - general conclusion was this concept had a lot of positive characteristics but was not selected for further development.

2. Concept 2 – "Crossing Paths"

This was a new concept presented to the group.

- a. Pros
 - + Like the architectural play; feels dynamic
 - + "Wow" factor is high
 - + Good flexibility with the classroom arrangements
 - + Feels more connected as a larger community space
 - + Clear division of public/private
 - + Parking is somewhat removed from entrance (reinforces the positive aspect of walking)
 - + The light wells could work as a teaching tool
 - + Idea lab feels central to the building
 - + Second floor feels more dynamic than "Community Green"

- b. Cons
 - Industrial looking
 - Distance between the gym and classrooms is somewhat long
 - Gardens are in a shady spot
 - Cafeteria does not open to the exterior
 - Would like it to blend in with nature better

- c. Comments - this concept was selected for further development although some concerns were raised which will be addressed as the design is further developed.

F. General Comments for "Crossing Paths"

1. Improve the connection between the courtyard and the cafeteria.
 2. Consider the location of the vegetable garden; the current location seems like it will be too shady.
 3. Take the warm, inviting elements of "Community Green" and incorporate them in this design. The current design feels too industrial.
 4. Look into rotating the gym and commons to create better access to the exterior.
 5. Children learn by doing; consider this as the design is furthered. How can this concept be incorporated into the design? The design should reflect a mental exploration, visibility of learning, and stimulation of ideas.
 6. Consider sustainability measures.
 7. Consider the maintenance involved with excess glazing and green roofs.
 8. Consider appropriate roof slopes for ease of maintenance.
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9. Solar is good as a teaching tool but may not be all that functional. As technology improves, anything installed will quickly be out of date. Solar panels make maintenance more difficult.
10. Consider the amount of impervious surfaces in the design.
11. Continue to integrate Pre-K into the design.
12. Consider making the courtyard more connected to the building.
13. Consider how to engage Larrabee ES into the design process.

G. Conclusions and Next Steps

1. Both schemes were generally well liked but the "**Crossing Paths**" was selected **as the preferred design concept** to develop. NAC will continue to develop this scheme over the summer.
 2. The next meeting will be on 6/16 to review and comment on the draft Ed Spec. A draft will be e-mailed to the team for review Friday 6/13.
 3. The committee will reconvene again after the summer break (in late August or September) to review the development of the design.
 4. The meeting concluded with a 'whip around' where everyone offered comments about the process and work thus far. There were overwhelming positive comments about the work, how fun it was, how exciting the people were, how well NAC listened and incorporated ideas into design concepts, how creative they were, etc.
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