



MEMORANDUM

TO: Superintendent Greg Baker

FROM: Michelle Kuss-Cybula, Sehome High School Principal, Co-Chair; Steve Clarke, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, Co-Chair; Ron Cowan, Executive Director, Capital Projects and School Facilities, Co-Chair

ON BEHALF OF: New Sehome High School Educational Specifications/Design Advisory Committee

RE: Recommended Schematic Design and Site Plan

DATE: June 10, 2016

We are pleased to present the following document that provides information about the New Sehome High School Educational Specifications/Design Advisory Group's process and outlines a set of recommendations related to building a new facility.

The document is organized in five sections:

- I. Introduction and context
- II. Scope and schedule
- III. Summary of advisory group work, site plan and input from shareholders, neighbors, families and staff
- IV. Recommended design concept
- V. Next steps

I. Introduction and context

Bellingham Public School's Facility Planning Task Force completed a districtwide facility assessment in 2012-13 to make recommendations on priority facilities projects for a bond. The task force recommended the superintendent include in the bond proposal a new facility for Sehome High School. The bond passed with strong support in November 2013.

II. Scope of advisory group's work and schedule

A call for applications to serve on this group was publicly extended to students, staff, parents and neighbors.

The New Sehome High School Educational Specifications/Design Advisory Group consists of the following members:

- Michelle Kuss-Cybula, Sehome High School Principal, Co-Chair
- Steve Clarke, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, Co-Chair
- Ron Cowan, Executive Director, Capital Projects and School Facilities, Co-Chair
- Tim Jewett, Dykeman Architect
- Zach Ham, Dykeman Architect
- Pete Dawson, Dawson Construction
- Jeremy Carroll, Dawson Construction
- Jon Tesarik, Dawson Construction
- Curtis Lawyer, Capital Projects Manager
- Julie Denton, Executive Secretary of Capital Projects and School Facilities
- Grace Schubeck, Fairhaven Student
- Oliver Trulock, Sehome Student
- Gus Diehl, Sehome Student
- Melissa Ashby, Sehome, Fairhaven and Wade King Parent
- Mark Peterson, Sehome and Geneva Parent
- Rachel Williams, Sehome and Fairhaven Parent
- Kathy Hasenjaeger, Sehome Community Member
- Gail Knops, Sehome Community Member
- Jeff Allen, Sehome Custodian
- Corinne Schenck, Sehome Cooking Cluster Manager
- Martha Zender, Sehome Career/Vocational Guidance Assistant
- Kevin Criez, Sehome Technology Teacher
- Colin Cushman, Sehome Activities and Athletics Coordinator
- Amy Hankinson, Sehome Science Teacher
- Kevin Johnson, Sehome Dean of Students
- Kacy Keck, Sehome Special Education Teacher
- Dana Smith, Sehome English, Journalism/Media, CTE Teacher
- Craig Snyder, Band/Social Studies Teacher
- Mike Haberman, Director of Teaching and Learning, Special Education
- Kurt Gazow, Executive Director of Technology
- Jonah Stinson, Director of School Safety and Emergency Management
- Mike Anderson, Director of Building and Grounds
- Mark Dalton, Director of Food Services
- Kristi Dominguez, Director of Early Childhood Education
- Jeff Tetric, Director of Career and Technical Education
- Jacqueline Brawley, Communications Manager

The group was given the following tasks as part of its scope of work:

- Review student, staff, parent and community feedback gathered during the new Sehome High School Visioning Process conducted during early November 2015;
- Use the feedback and [The Bellingham Promise](#) to develop Educational Specifications for the new Sehome High School;
- Review and provide feedback on schematic and design development elements for the new Sehome High School, culminating in a recommendation to the superintendent.

As the group began its work in November 2015, members expressed pride and excitement to be part of such a dynamic group and the process.

The group also acknowledged the complexity of recommending a design for a facility to meet varied program needs over time while still creating a flexible, open space with multiple uses to support different teaching and learning styles for Sehome High School.

The group continued meeting through May 2016, and will meet periodically through spring 2017 as the design is refined. Construction is slated to begin sometime in the spring or summer of 2017 and the project will be completed by the time school opens in August 2019.

III. Summary of advisory group work, site plan, and input from stakeholders, families, staff and neighbors

The advisory group and architects from Dykeman met 11 times to learn, brainstorm, listen, discuss and plan. Members of the group also had the opportunity to visit and tour other schools, including Lynnwood, Issaquah, North Creek and Glacier Peak high schools. From these site visits, characteristics that resonated included natural light and the use of glass; sustainability; open and multi-use spaces; student-focused and adaptive spaces; and spaces for community use.

Group members started their process by developing [Guiding Principles](#), which were based on themes that emerged from community, student and staff visioning meetings and subsequent feedback collected during the visioning process. The Guiding Principles for the new Sehome were also aligned with [The Bellingham Promise](#), the strategic plan of Bellingham Public Schools.

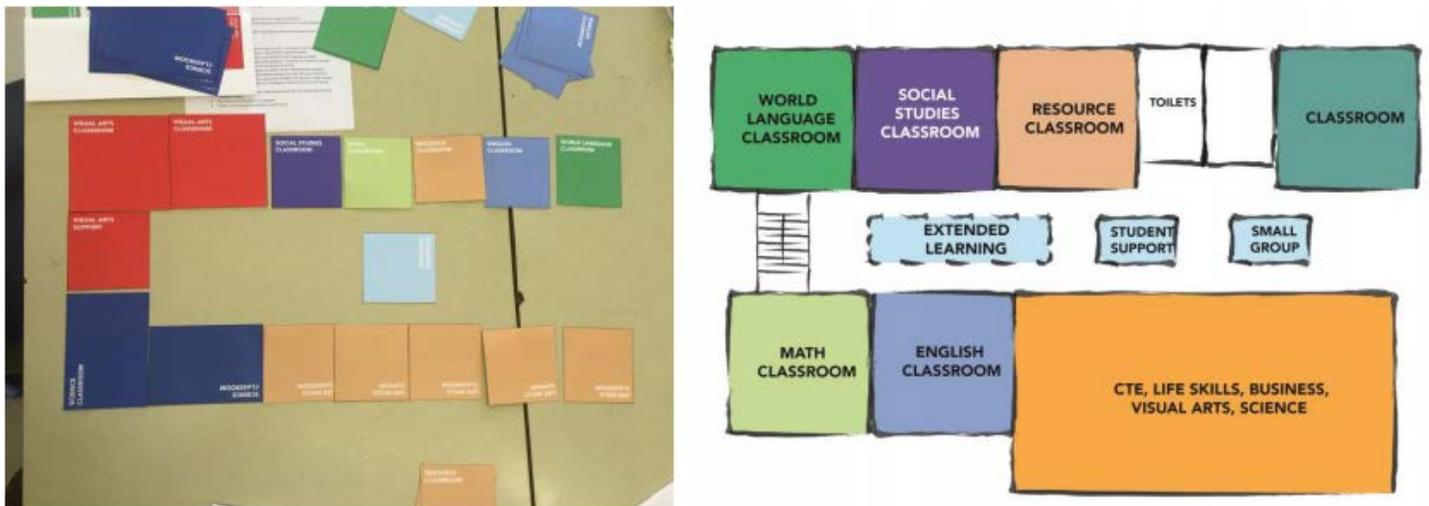
The Guiding Principles helped inspire diagramming and adjacency exercises, as well as the area allocation model, which is a system for determining how many square feet to allocate for specific spaces in the school, including classrooms, science labs, a commons area, arts spaces, restrooms, performing arts spaces, gymnasium(s) and offices. The group spent many meetings wrestling with variances to address a number of square footage challenges. This process resulted in the new Sehome being approximately 8,000 square feet larger than the existing school due primarily to more space being needed for occupant circulation and mechanical spaces. The process to finalize the area allocation schedule, which is also referred to as the “numeric program,” was arduous at times, given all the needs and requests of various programs, but ultimately, it was a gratifying and important team effort. As part of this exercise, the group determined that the new Sehome would have 600 lockers (about half the student body) to accommodate students who need space to store athletic equipment and/or musical instruments. This reduction is due, in large part, to the 1:1 (one-to-one) technology initiative that will be implemented by the time the new school opens.

The design advisory group also spent considerable time in small groups to brainstorm and consider the layout of the new school, which includes parking, fields, flow and views.



Above: examples from diagramming exercise

Next, the design advisory group worked on an adjacency exercise, which involved grouping (or, in some instances, mixing) certain programs and classrooms to one area, hallway or wing.



Above: examples from adjacency exercise

In March, Dawson Construction was announced as the official General Contractor/Construction Manager for this project. The contractor selection process was different for the new Sehome facility than past projects and as a result, the group receives the benefit of the contractor's expertise at the beginning of the project. Starting on March 29, Pete Dawson and members of his team became part of the New Sehome Educational Specifications/Design Advisory Committee. They attended group meetings and worked closely with Dykeman Architects and staff. It should also be noted that Dawson has pledged a minimum of \$100,000 toward a sustainable feature in the new building or on the site that we wouldn't be able to fund otherwise. They plan to work with other community partners.

As a result of the site diagramming process, we determined the following design goals:

- Take advantage of views and daylight
- Community presence
- Site security (central and fewer entrances)
- Public/private separation
- Physical education access to fields
- Commons central to campus
- Connection to the outdoors

In May, group members and Dykeman Architects shared their thinking and plans with staff and students (separately), then held a public community meeting for families, neighbors, staff, students and other interested parties to learn more about the proposed design and process.

Feedback and input was very positive, and many expressed excitement, appreciation for the design and gratitude for the process. One theme that emerged from the feedback is that one building will provide a great foundation for a strong school culture and climate.

IV. Recommended Design Concept

The recommended site plan allows for the existing Sehome High School to remain in full operation while the new school is being built just to the south. The committee is very excited about the plan as it means there will not be the need to phase the project or move students around during construction. There is the possibility that some after school athletic activities will need to be relocated during the construction months.

Proposed Sehome Site Plan With Existing Building



The recommended design concept is a three-story facility with the main entrance and commons area off Bill MacDonald Parkway. The proposed design incorporates natural light, open spaces, beautiful views and outdoor spaces, while also providing a unified feel under one roof that offers flexibility, space for our community and enhanced security.

Proposed Floor Plans



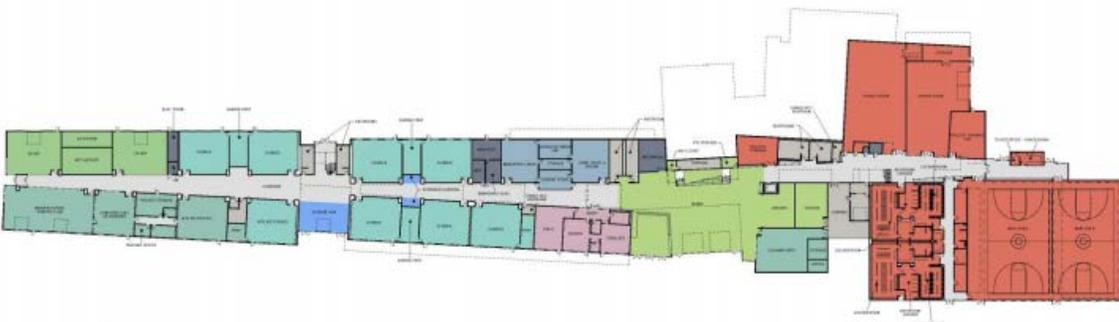
- THIRD FLOOR LEGEND
- ◻ CIRCULATION
 - ◻ Circulation
 - ◻ COUNSELING
 - ◻ EXTENDED LEARNING
 - ◻ GENERAL ED
 - ◻ LIBRARY
 - ◻ LIFE SKILLS
 - ◻ MECH / ELEC.
 - ◻ OUTDOOR SPACE
 - ◻ PE
 - ◻ PERFORMING ARTS
 - ◻ SUPPORT

Level 3



- SECOND FLOOR LEGEND
- ◻ ADMIN
 - ◻ CIRCULATION
 - ◻ EXTENDED LEARNING
 - ◻ FACULTY
 - ◻ GENERAL ED
 - ◻ LIFE SKILLS
 - ◻ MECH / ELEC.
 - ◻ NURSE
 - ◻ PE
 - ◻ PERFORMING ARTS
 - ◻ SUPPORT

Level 2



- FIRST FLOOR LEGEND
- ◻ BUSINESS
 - ◻ Career Technical Education
 - ◻ CIRCULATION
 - ◻ Circulation
 - ◻ COMMONS
 - ◻ CTE
 - ◻ EXTENDED LEARNING
 - ◻ GRADS
 - ◻ MECH / ELEC.
 - ◻ PE
 - ◻ SCIENCE
 - ◻ SUPPORT
 - ◻ VISUAL ARTS

Level 1



Above: south facing entrance



Above: north facing entrance



Above: main entrance off Bill MacDonald Parkway

V. Next steps

Following your approval, we plan to schedule a pre-application meeting with the city to share our plan and receive regulatory comments related to building codes, fire, storm water, zoning, etc. In addition, we'll be working with the Dykeman and Dawson teams to refine and further develop the architectural design to incorporate structural, mechanical and electrical elements.

Please let us know if you have any questions or need additional information about our recommendation or process.

Thank you for this opportunity to be involved in a very encouraging and exciting process. This campus will most definitely deliver on The Bellingham Promise!