

DESIGN GOALS

GENERAL DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS

As part of a brainstorming exercise, the committee (and the neighborhood) was asked to list the TOP FIVE most important Characteristics, Qualities, and Attributes. Asking this question was helpful in beginning a dialogue and providing insight into what may or may not be successful in a new Parkview Elementary.

BRAINSTORMING SESSION:

What are the TOP FIVE most important: Characteristics, Qualities, and Attributes?

- Community Center: safe place, adequate lighting
- Sustainable and resilient building materials
- Incorporate natural elements into the design
- Multiculturalism should be emphasized
- Natural light
- Hub for community, gathering space
- Diversity
- Create a sense of belonging
- Connect to nature and the adjacent park
- Unobtrusive safety features
- Reduce visual scale or mass of the building
- Smaller scale inside & out
- Quaint, small community school feel
- Multi-Purpose space for art, tech, collaboration space
- Covered bike parking
- Good ventilation
- Blend into the neighborhood
 - Building and landscaping
- Provide views to the park from classrooms
- Cozy, intimate scale
- Inviting entrance yet secure
- Open feel - garage doors to exterior?
- Orient building for sun exposure
- Natural materials
- Panda motif - bamboo
- Kids come first

SITE

- Improve traffic flow and parking
- Pro-pedestrian access
- Avoid open stormwater pond
- Separate bus and parent drop-offs but both close to front entrance
- Convenient short-term parking
- Enhance the garden
- Landscaping should blend into neighborhood
- Open Space
- Make it easy to find your way around
- Outdoor gathering spaces



BUILDING IMAGE

- Sustainable and resilient building materials should be used
- Incorporate natural elements into the design
- The school should feel like a place to come “home” to
- Design to intimate, human scale
- Relate to park
- Blend into older, established neighborhood
- Child-centered community school feel
- Multi-generational
- Multi-cultural
- Windows, natural light
- Interior trees for scale?
- Outdoor covered areas

TEACHING AND LEARNING ENVIRONMENT (EXAMPLE)

- Quality of light and sound - bright light and echoes affect special learning
- Light control, non-fluorescent & natural light
- Provide views to park
- Functional layout
- Flexibility
- Versatility / quality of space
- Flow and circulation – focus on the adjacencies and length of hallways
- Small group activity off of learning communities
- Classrooms should be adjacent to the flex spaces – limit disruption from circulation
- Special services should be adjacent to general classrooms and flex spaces
- Teaching wall at front of room with flexibility on the ancillary walls
- Usable technology
- Display school art
- Easy supervision
- Collaboration spaces
- Private/quiet spaces
- Centralized workroom

EDUCATIONAL GOALS (EXAMPLE)

- Classrooms should accommodate for more than one teacher teaching at one time (small group learning)
- Doors between classrooms to support collaboration
- Collaboration of “one school house”
- Furniture should accommodate different sizes of children
- Have the ability to separate technology as a distraction in small group flex spaces
- Options for outdoor meeting/playing – smaller more intimate spaces
- Technology will be flexible – wireless environment
- Teaching station flexibility

DESIGN GOALS AND KEYS TO DESIGN

GOAL: THIS ELEMENTARY IS A NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOL (EXAMPLE)

The school should express the central qualities of warmth and welcome, stability, and the importance of the school's place in the community. Design and appearance should suggest a timeless quality, emphasizing the seriousness of the school's educational mission and commitment to students. It should promote and respond to the needs of the students, emphasizing a feeling of well-being and safety.

KEYS TO DESIGN (EXAMPLE):

- The site should be accessible for use by the community and serve as a focal point for a diverse community.
- The design needs to meet the unique needs of the students.
- The building needs to support and encourage casual conversation and collaboration.
- The site should accommodate a community garden.
- The building should be accessible to all.
- The building should present a welcoming presence and avoid creating barriers to the community.
- The building should be modern, efficient, and respond to the needs of today's students.
- This is a walking school, keep the site pedestrian friendly.
- The scale of the building should be sensitive to the neighborhood.
- Bus/car separation
 - Separate teacher and visitor parking
 - Separate bus and parent drop-off



DESIGN GOALS AND KEYS TO DESIGN

GOAL: PROVIDE A QUALITY TEACHING AND LEARNING ENVIRONMENT (EXAMPLE)

An elementary school should welcome students, staff, and community by providing an attractive, secure, comfortable, well-organized and user-friendly environment to all who enter the school.

KEYS TO DESIGN (EXAMPLE):

- Provide good natural light that can be controlled.
- The design should provide views to the park.
- Special care should be given to controlling sound levels.
- Flow and circulation – focus on adjacencies and length of path of travel to spaces.
- Versatility – there needs to be spaces that accommodate all aspects of learning
 - Quiet space
 - Sensory
- Pull-out spaces should be adjacent to classrooms to limit disruption that occurs from circulation.
- Promote green building.

DESIGN GOALS AND KEYS TO DESIGN

GOAL: THE DESIGN NEEDS TO SUPPORT THE EDUCATIONAL GOALS OF THE SCHOOL AND THE DISTRICT (EXAMPLE)

An elementary school should accommodate equitable access to a wide range of educational programs, services and activities designed to ensure each student's success in school and preparation for further educational experiences. The characteristics of the educational spaces should support the goals of high performing schools.

KEYS TO DESIGN (EXAMPLE):

- The design should support a “one school house” approach to teaching and learning.
- The furniture and classroom size should accommodate student size.
- The design needs to support today's and tomorrow's technology – flexibility.
- The design needs to support today's and tomorrow's elementary programs, some which we don't ever know about – flexibility.
- Provide good accommodations for special education services.
- The library and administration should be centrally located.
- Provide adequate space for movement at the early learner's stage.
- Outdoor learning – community garden
- Teaching station location needs to be flexible.
- Self-contained classrooms should be integrated with general classrooms.
- The design should enable the staff to arrange individualized instruction; small, intermediate and large-group instruction; and whole-school gatherings.
- The design should provide for after school enrichment programs.
- Classroom technology placements should allow flexibility in configuration.



DESIGN GOALS AND KEYS TO DESIGN

GOAL: THE SCHOOL SHOULD SUPPORT COLLABORATIVE LEARNING AND FACILITATE COMMUNICATION (EXAMPLE GOAL)

(EXAMPLE GOAL STATEMENT)

An elementary school should be an inviting, highly personalized learning community that supports academic success and facilitates communication, collaboration and team-building through its ability to support diverse educational programs and activities.

KEYS TO DESIGN (EXAMPLE BULLETS):

- There should be a large space that accommodates events and performances.
- Provide options for outdoor meeting/playing that are smaller and more intimate.
- Provide for communication between classrooms through the use of doors & relites.
- Provide spaces to have conversations, gathering points, watering holes.
- Direct connection to the exterior from the classrooms with visibility.
- Project pull out spaces should be located adjacent to classroom clusters to support student projects and instructional activities.
- Classrooms should include doors at the common walls that facilitate team planning.