



## **Minutes Meeting #7 Alderwood Elementary School Ed Spec/Design Advisory Committee Wednesday October 24, 2018**

Micah Smith, Alderwood Elementary School principal, welcomed the group, and was excited to share updates about the Alderwood project.

Committee members reintroduced themselves to one another, including their connection to the project.

Ron Cowan, Executive Director of Capital Projects and School Facilities, shared a [project summary document](#), giving the group time to read through and write down questions they may have. He then summarized the information, including a slide presentation sharing the work that has been going on with the following consultants:

- Brent Planning Solutions
- Argus Pacific
- GeoEngineers
- Heffron Traffic Consultants
- Northwest Ecological Services
- Pacific Survey and Engineering

[Aerial views](#) of the site were provided indicating where wetlands were identified. Building on wetlands is not allowed, however there are things that can be done in terms of wetland mitigation. Property can be purchased elsewhere off site or wetlands can be built somewhere else on the site. Neither of those options seems feasible. The district would like to take the small wetland in the middle of the property and move it to the area of the other 4 wetlands. There will be compensation ratios to contend with, but this opens that area for potential development.

Dykeman architects compiled [Educational Specifications](#) for the new Alderwood Elementary School into a final document. It reflects the compilation of all the work the committee has done. It will be presented to the school board at their November 7<sup>th</sup> meeting.

The school district had the Alderwood property surveyed. On this [aerial](#), the bold border is the Alderwood Elementary School property. The pink and blue area noted is known as the playground tract. In 1929 when platted, the playground tract area was designated as 80% to be used as a playground and only 20% could be built on.

In 1955 Whatcom county determined that this was surplus property and no longer needed it. The district acquired the site in 1955 with the above restriction. Ron inquired with the County to see if this restriction could be eliminated to open up more space for the new school and playground. In the event the restriction cannot be eliminated, Dykeman architect Zach Ham and team are looking at the opportunities with east/west orientations.

Ron is hoping to have a more definitive answer from the county within the next 30 days.

Alderwood, Parkview and Sunnyland elementary schools, selected for rebuild in the 2018 bond are slated for completion by the fall of 2022. The hope was to have Alderwood completed earlier but working through wetlands and the playground tract may slow the process, making completion in the fall of 2022 more realistic.

Ron stated that once all areas of the property that can be used are identified, the architects will design a recommended site plan and building plan schematic. In the meantime, the traffic consultant will be working on traffic flow, bus drop off etc.

Once there is a site plan and building plan schematic that the committee reaches consensus on, there will be another community meeting to gather additional input before finalizing a recommendation to Dr. Baker.

Then Dykeman will begin working on the interior schematic and the process will be repeated. During the interior design work, Dykeman will meet with small groups at Alderwood to work out details of different areas within the school.

The hope is for an update before winter break.

Meeting adjourned 3:55