



MEMORANDUM

TO: Superintendent Greg Baker

FROM: Mylo Allen, Parkview Elementary School Principal, Co-Chair; Ron Cowan, Executive Director, Capital Projects and School Facilities, Co-Chair

ON BEHALF OF: Parkview Educational Specifications/Design Advisory Committee

RE: Recommended Schematic Design and Site Plan

DATE: June 13, 2019

We are pleased to present the following document that provides information about the Parkview Educational Specifications/Design Advisory Committee process and outlines a set of recommendations related to the 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. Recommendations
- V. Conclusion

I. Introduction and context

The Facilities Planning Task Force convened in spring 2017 to make recommendations on priority facilities projects for a bond. The task force was comprised of staff, families, students and community members. The task force recommended a rebuild of Parkview Elementary School be included in the bond proposal. The bond was approved by voters in February 2018.

II. Scope of advisory group's work and schedule

A call for applications to serve on the Parkview Educational Specifications/Design Advisory Committee was shared with staff, families and the community on May 4, 2018. The following members were selected:

- Kate Mills, Educational Technology Coach (formerly Fifth Grade Teacher)
- Nic Castona, PE Teacher
- Jennifer Herndon-Schepper, Fourth Grade Teacher
- Tiffany Knudsen, Second Grade Teacher

- Cindy Batdorf, School Secretary
- Wendy Albrecht, Paraeducator – Resource Room
- Cindy Scott, Parkview Parent
- Alisson Bonner, Parkview Parent
- Jon Tesarik, Parkview Parent
- Seth Vidana, Parkview Parent
- Candy Smith, Parkview neighbor
- Janice Biletnikoff, Park Planning and Development Coordinator for Bellingham Parks and Recreation
- Nicole Oliver, Parks Development Manager for Bellingham Parks and Recreation
- Brian Smart, Planner II for City of Bellingham
- Lynn Heimsoth, Sunnyland Elementary Principal
- Kristi Dominguez, Executive Director, Teaching and Learning - Early Childhood
- Steve Clarke, Assistant Superintendent, Teaching and Learning
- Simone Sangster, Assistant Superintendent, Finance and Operations
- Lisa Gilchrist, Communications Technician, Communications and Community Relations
- Jonah Stinson, Director, School Safety and Emergency Management
- Bill Palmer, Director, Teaching and Learning - Technology Integration
- Kurt Gazow, Executive Director of Technology
- Mike Anderson, Director, Buildings and Grounds
- Curtis Lawyer, Capital Projects Manager
- Julie Denton, Executive Secretary, Capital Projects and School Facilities
- Mylo Allen, Parkview Principal, Co-Chair
- Ron Cowan, Executive Director, Capital Projects and School Facilities, Co-Chair
- Terry Brown, Zervas Group Architects

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

- Review the elementary level educational specifications for the Bellingham Public Schools. These specifications are used to describe the district’s elementary school program; and
- Following the completion of the elementary educational specifications, review and provide feedback on schematic and design development drawings for the Parkview Elementary rebuild project.

The group began their work in spring 2018. The first three meetings were joint meetings with the Alderwood Educational Specifications/Design Advisory Committee to review our elementary school model and standards. This allowed both groups to become familiar with the district elementary school model and standards. During the initial meetings project parameters were shared including the building sites, size, capacity, schedule and budget for each project. It was shared with the committee that the goal was to build the new Parkview adjacent to the current building. Students would remain onsite. This has proven to offer educational opportunities for students with the building contractors and means relocating staff and students during construction is not required.

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

In addition to the three joint meetings the committee held nine additional meetings, including a neighborhood meeting near the beginning of their work on June 6, 2018 and another near the conclusion of their work on May 23, 2019. These neighborhood meetings were very important and helpful in terms of learning what our neighbors' aspirations were for the new school as well as to hear their feedback on the committee's work and draft recommended site and floor plans.

During the nearly year-long process committee members developed and refined various documents related to the new school including the narrative program, detailed space requirements, important characteristics and attributes, safety and security features, etc.

The committee also participated in an exercise called a design charrette. Using a large site map and puzzle pieces that represented each space in the new school, the group laid out where certain spaces might be placed on the site and how they would relate to one another.



As part of their work the committee toured Happy Valley Elementary which is the district's newest elementary school built in 2016. The committee discussed aspects of the school that they liked including materials, shared spaces and the natural light.

In March 2019, based on the committee's work, Terry Brown and his team from Zervas Group Architects presented their initial site plan and floor plan. The committee reviewed these designs, provided some feedback and asked the Zervas team to make some modifications. Taking the committee feedback into consideration, Zervas shared a revised site and floor plan on March 25, 2019. These plans were approved by the committee as their draft recommendation to be shared with the community.

On May 23, 2019, the committee hosted a neighborhood/community meeting and shared the process and proposed designs. About 50 people were in attendance including committee members, Parkview neighbors and staff. The community shared positive feedback about the design of the school. Most questions or concerns were related to parking and traffic. The committee shared what solutions they had come up with for improvements. After the project meeting, the committee met and unanimously agreed to move forward with the proposed floor and site plans in a recommendation to you.

IV. Recommendations

The recommended site plan below allows for the current Parkview Elementary School to remain open while the new Parkview is being built on the same campus. This prevents the need to relocate students and staff during construction.

The plan takes into consideration traffic and keeps bus traffic and parent pick-up/drop-off separate. The parent pick-up/drop-off will now be off Cornwall Avenue. The bus loop will move to Coolidge Drive. Both locations will have additional parking for staff and families, which will nearly triple current parking capacity. Additionally, both the bus loop and parent pick-up/drop-off loop will be larger to help the flow of traffic during peak times. The adjacent park space as well as an area in the northwest portion of the site will provide playfield space. New hard and soft surface play areas with play equipment will be located in close proximity to the new school and available for community use during non-school hours. The school garden is planned near the north end of the school.



The proposed floor plan below represents a two-story building, with classrooms in clusters with extended learning spaces. Younger students (PK-2) will be on the lower floor and the older students (3-5) will be on the second floor. The plan includes two Pre-K classrooms, three classrooms per grade level with adjacent extended learning spaces, ancillary spaces for support staff and a full-size gymnasium.



In addition, because of the feedback from our neighbors regarding traffic the committee also recommends the district work with the City of Bellingham next year on a possible Safe Routes to School Grant that would involve improvements to intersections at Cornwall Avenue and Illinois Street, Cornwall Avenue and West Indiana Street, pedestrian and bike rider improvements, parking improvements on Cornwall Avenue and improvements to Cornwall Avenue between Plymouth Drive and the new school. Ron Cowan, Executive Director of Capital Projects and School Facilities has been in conversation with Chris Comeau, Transportation Planner for the City of Bellingham, who indicated the city would like to apply for a Safe Routes to School Grant next year for improvements in these areas and welcomed the district’s involvement.

It is the goal of the committee to open the new Parkview Elementary School by fall 2021.

V. Next Steps

Following your approval, we will direct the team at Zervas Group Architects to proceed with designing the recommended site and floor plans above as well as preparing a related cost estimate that could result in necessary modifications.

Please let us know if you have any question or need additional information.