



## Parkview Elementary School Neighborhood Meeting Minutes Thursday May 23, 2019

Mylo Allen, Parkview Elementary School principal, welcomed the attendees and explained the purpose of the meeting was to share information about the proposed new school design, answer questions and seek feedback. He introduced and thanked the Educational Specifications & Design Advisory Committee, district staff as well as neighbors and parents in attendance. He read a list of desired design elements that were expressed by attendees at a similar meeting a year ago (before any design work began) and pointed out that the design being shared tonight includes many of those elements.

Terry Brown, project architect from Zervas Group Architects reviewed the process the Ed Spec/ Design Advisory Committee went through during the last year to get where we are tonight, the project schedule, project givens, as well as the committee's recommended site plan and floor plan. He then shared several exterior and interior design images of the new school.

A summary of likes, questions and suggestions included the following:

- **Likes**
  - Natural lighting
  - Grade level pods
  - Two stories
  - Library
  - Brick and natural wood
  - Improved traffic flow
- **Questions**
  - Will there be improvements to intersections at Cornwall/Illinois and Cornwall/W. Indiana?
    - Ron Cowan, Executive Director of Capital Projects and School Facilities indicated that he 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. The city would like to partner with the district on the grant. Ron indicated the district is interested in exploring this grant with the City and reminded people that this is a competitive grant and there are no guarantees the grant will be funded.
  - Will there be bike access?
    - Yes. Ron showed a couple of routes bike riders could take to the school.
  - Is Coolidge Drive able to handle school buses?
    - Yes, in the past the bus drop-off was located at the Coolidge Drive school entrance.

- What about construction traffic?
  - There will be traffic associated with construction. The district will emphasize the importance of safety with the contractor.
- Was a 'drive-through' connecting Coolidge and Cornwall considered as part of the traffic plan?
  - Yes. A 'drive-through' was looked at but has several drawbacks including it could be used as a 'short cut', does not separate bus traffic from non-bus traffic (safety concerns), and not enough room on the site to accommodate a 'drive-through.'
- What about parking for big events like the school carnival?
  - The proposed plan nearly triples the amount of onsite parking from 30 to approximately 84 spaces.
- Will there be streetlights on Illinois Street?
  - Illinois Street is not on district property so the district will not be installing streetlights there.
- Will there be enough parking for staff (including intern teachers and itinerant staff) in the Coolidge Drive parking lot?
  - We are increasing parking from 30 to approximately 51 spaces in the Coolidge Drive parking lot. Intern teachers can also park in the new parent loop parking lot.
- **Feedback**
  - Consider bike safety as part of the grant.
    - Ron will convey this to the City.
  - Look at parking improvements on Cornwall Avenue between Illinois Street and the new school entrance as part of the grant.
    - Ron will convey to the City
  - Cornwall Avenue between Plymouth Drive and the school needs to be improved.
    - Ron will convey this to the City for possible inclusion in the grant.
  - 'I don't like Hardiplank siding'
  - Keep established trees currently along south fence line where the new bus loop will be.
  - Move the covered play from the proposed location to create more open space
  - Playground seems small
  - Provide on campus bike path
  - Install a crosswalk on Cornwall Avenue at Illinois Street
    - Ron will convey this to the City.
  - Provide a 'rolled curb' so that the hard surface play area can be used for overflow parking for big events.
  - Provide vegetation buffer between the new bus loop and adjoining properties to both create more distance and so neighbors do not have to look out onto a parking lot.
  - Use something other than cyclone fencing along the fence line between the new bus loop and adjoining properties.
  - Don't allow off hours parking in the new main parking lot/bus loop. Concerned about illegal activity.

Mylo explained that the next step in the process would be for the Ed Spec/Design Advisory Committee to process the information they heard tonight before making their final recommended site and floor plan to Dr. Baker.

He reminded people to follow the project on the district website [bellingshamschools.org/about/committees/parkview](http://bellingshamschools.org/about/committees/parkview) and thanked everyone for attending.

The meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

