



Alderwood Elementary School Neighborhood Meeting Minutes Wednesday, May 29, 2019

Micah Smith, Alderwood 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.

Zach Ham, project architect from Dykeman Architects, reviewed the process the Ed Spec/Design Advisory Committee went through during the last year to get where we are tonight, including the project schedule, project givens, site and building charette exercises, size and adjacencies of spaces, considering the top five characteristics expressed by the community and Ed Spec/Design Advisory Committee and resulting Guiding Principles. He then shared the site and floor plans and preliminary schematic exterior and interior design images of the new school.

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

- **Likes**
 - Grade level separation
 - Separation of buses and parent drop-off/parking
 - The connection with nature
 - Natural light
 - Gorgeous design
 - Library design
- **Questions**
 - Clarify the location of the bus loop off Redwood
 - See recommended site plan
 - Clarify site lightning.
 - There will be on site lightning and lighting on the street if required per code.
 - Clarify street improvements on Hollywood and Redwood
 - City standards for a 3/4 street will be applied. Curb, gutter and sidewalk on the school side and crushed rock on the opposite side.
 - Will staff parking have a separate entrance from parent drop-off?
 - Yes
 - What is the future capacity?
 - The building will be able to accommodate up to 450 students.
 - How many classrooms per grade are there now?
 - There are two classrooms per grade.

- Are there exits at the end of each of the hallways?
 - Yes
- What is a penthouse?
 - An enclosed mechanical space above the second floor where heating and ventilation equipment is housed.
- Are the interior renderings displaying natural wood in the interior?
 - Yes
- Will there be lighting on the building?
 - Yes
- Will lights be on timers?
 - Yes
- Parking comparison?
 - Currently, there are approximately 44 spaces with 62 spaces planned.
- Is one faculty room on the second floor adequate?
 - Yes, it is only used for lunches.
- Will there be blackout curtains for presentations?
 - Yes, architects will work on staff needs
- Will big events be in the cafeteria or gym?
 - With the operable walls between the gym and cafeteria, we can accommodate small and large group gatherings.
- **Feedback/Suggestions**
 - Add lighting in the bus loop area and well-lit trail path to the school for custodial and food service staff arriving early in the morning or leaving late in the evenings, so they feel safe.
 - Try to keep the playground somewhat open and not so ‘tucked away’ so it feels safe.
 - Will the wetland area be cleared?
 - The underbrush adjacent to the wetland may be cleared but the wetland itself needs to remain intact.
 - Can the wetland area be fenced?
 - Yes, there will likely be a split rail fence.
 - Is the AECC building being demolished?
 - Yes.
 - How many bike racks will there be?
 - 25 spaces are planned.

Micah explained that the next step in the process would be for the 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 <http://bellingshamschools.org/about/committees/alderwood> and thanked everyone for attending.

The meeting adjourned at 7 p.m.