



Meeting Minutes #1 Sunnyland Elementary School Ed Spec/Design Advisory Committee Wednesday, December 4, 2019

Lynn Heimsoth, Sunnyland Elementary School principal opened the meeting and welcomed the Sunnyland Educational and Design Advisory committee together. Everyone introduced themselves and shared what inspired them to participate.

Superintendent Dr. Greg Baker greeted everyone, thanking them for their interest in the project and their valued input. He encouraged the group to listen to each other and allow everyone their voice in the process. He indicated we will work closely with the city as the school uses the adjacent Memorial Park.

Lynn shared a handout of Team Norms and asked the committee which norms resonated with them. The group interacted with each other, sharing which norm is going to be key for them in the process.

Curtis Lawyer thanked everyone for their time and participation. He reviewed [The Bellingham Promise](#), sharing it is what guides and grounds Bellingham Public Schools in everything we do. We collectively make a commitment to our students. The community supported a recent bond which allows us to continue to provide quality facilities for our children and the adults who teach them. This committee is the advisory group making the recommendation to the superintendent. He may accept it, challenge it or request we meet again. Ultimately, he will approve the recommendation and it will go to the school board for their approval.

There will be two meetings in December prior to winter break, two meetings in January and two in February. At the end of this process we will have a community meeting to share the design that will be created. We ask that members of this committee attend this meeting. Additional meetings may be added as necessary.

Curtis reviewed with the group the [Committee Template](#), then followed with sharing the [Elementary School Model and Standards](#). The standards include certain core agreements that are part of every new elementary school we build.

The new school will be a two-story building approximately 58,000 square feet, and will include 3 classrooms per grade level, 1 special ed classroom, 2 pre-K classrooms, 3 additional classroom spaces, (the committee will determine their use), and a full-size gym. Construction will begin late spring of 2021, with completion planned for the fall of 2022.

Curtis introduced Zach Ham, who is the lead architect from Dykeman. Dykeman has provided exceptional work on past district projects including Whatcom Middles School, Birchwood Elementary School, Lowell Elementary School and most recently, Sehome High School. Dykeman is also the design

firm currently working on Alderwood Elementary. Zach will be on the project from now until the end of construction, making sure the building is functioning as it should.

Zach explained that during the design process the committee will contribute in creating an educational specification that will become a booklet and reference at the end of our sessions. It will include a Narrative Program, Numeric Program and Detailed Space Requirements. It will inform the design team of the end result of what the project will be. The architects make sure there is consensus that they heard the groups goals and expectations.

Zach then shared the committees' homework assignment which includes homework instructions, [Narrative Program](#) and [Detailed Space Requirements](#). He requested that the committee members go through and note any questions or comments. The group will review this information at the next meeting.

Committee questions and comments included:

- Will there be an opportunity to tour some of our other newer facilities? Yes.
- Will we be able to include any of Sunnyland's current memorabilia? Possibly. Birchwood was able to save their entry façade and it was used as the entry to their library. Sehome has several items, including pieces of the gym floor and anchors.
- There may be some growing pains. There will be more students, additional staff, a bit of a cultural shift, while maintaining the school's culture. The new school will be quieter, brighter and with technology upgrades.
- We will need to think about if we want to use technology differently in the new school and how best to accomplish that.
- Will portables stay after construction is complete? Some or all may stay.

In closing, Lynn said she felt privileged to be able to build a new school and grateful to the community and to the group for their time and thoughts.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 18, 3:00p.m.-5:00p.m. at Sunnyland Elementary School Library.

Meeting adjourned 4:40p.m.