

District Office Design Advisory Committee
 Bellingham Public Schools
 June 25, 2020

Attendees:

Bellingham Public Schools:	Jessica Sankey	Lauri McBeath-Davies
Dr. Greg Baker	Kristi Dominguez	Lisa Gilchrist
Steve Clarke – (Co-chair of DAC)	Kurt Gazow	Deanna Bannerman
Jackie Brawley	Mike Copeland	Jeff Tetrick
Curtis Lawyer – (Co-chair of DAC)	Simone Sangster	Amanda Ingram
Bob Kuehl	Julie Denton	Kathryn Weilage
Isabel Meaker	Cindy Pearson	
Jay Jordan	Charisse Berne	
Other Participants:		
Ryan Pflueger – Barkley Company	Jeff McClure – RMC Architects	Lori Walker, WGNW
Kathy Dooley (for Kim Lund)	Allison Ross – RMC	Anne Cunningham, WGNW

1. Introductions

- a. Superintendent Greg Baker welcomed committee members and facilitated introductions.
- b. Capital projects director and committee co-chair Curtis Lawyer explained the DAC process
 - Committee recommendations are advisory to the superintendent through the issuing of a design brief.

2. Newspaper Headline Exercise

- a. In order to explore the Design Advisory Committee’s aspirations for the New District office building, Lori Walker with The Walker Group NW asked each person to “Imagine it is the end of the first week of the building opening, what would you want the headlines in the newspaper to be?”
 - “Bellingham Public Schools opens welcoming warm space to all.”
 - "New Bellingham central office combines school and community services in an innovative way"
 - “School district opens their new building and arms to the children and families of the district.”
 - “New Central Office Energizes BSD staff and community.”
 - “What an amazing new public space for our community!”
 - “New District Office puts community at the center of design.”
 - “What a great use of tax payer dollars. :)”
 - “Bellingham Public Schools creates accessible, environmentally-friendly space under budget.”
 - “A warm and welcoming space that speaks to the community.”
 - “BPS Opens new building with community in mind.”
 - “BPS knocks it out of the park with a fantastic and welcoming building for families!”
 - “I’m inspired when I enter the space.”
 - “District office is welcoming to all. A reflection of the Promise!”



- “New District Office is welcoming to all.”
 - “Parents and community activists celebrate new child-friendly BPS Community Resource Center.”
2. Our design process is being conducted amid the COVID-19 pandemic. The design team asked the participants to break out into smaller groups to share their experience of how working remotely has changed their perspective about the design of the New District Office. - “

The following comments are representative of reflections shared in breakout groups via Zoom.

- This experience has emphasized the importance of mobility.
 - Less attachment to personal office/desk spaces than before.
 - Enjoying the greater flexibility of remote work
 - There are challenges associated with working from home, such as finding a quiet space to work, technology and connectivity, and furniture (monitors, desks, chairs, etc.).
 - There is an increased importance of flexibility in work methods.
 - Promoting personal wellness has been easier from home.
 - Found clarity on tasks that can and can't be accomplished remotely.
 - Missing the ability to spread out and collaborate with others easily.
 - Difficulty in finding a quiet space at home.
 - The delineation between work and home can be unclear.
 - Some groups/departments have a greater need for space/collaboration than others (OT/PT as an example).
 - Having some people work from home reduces congestion in the office.
 - There are sanitation concerns in spaces that will be shared/common.
 - It is likely that Zoom will be used more widely moving forward to communicate, it will be important to have space that support this.
3. Committee members shared feedback on images shared via PowerPoint of innovative office settings and design ideas. Here is some additional feedback from committee members:
- a. How could the 17 Outcomes of The Bellingham Promise be supported by the new district office? Can these be another filter through which to look at the design?
 - b. It would be great to see some of the amenity/public spaces being leased to social enterprises/employment development businesses that serve community need (could also generate cost off-set revenue, even taxes).
 - c. Location to Interurban trail is a great feature of the site.
 - d. Designate a space to reflect each of the Promise Outcomes, such as an Innovation space that would showcase examples within the district.