

District Office Design Advisory Committee  
 Bellingham Public Schools  
 August 11, 2020

Attendees:

<b>Bellingham Public Schools:</b>	Jessica Sankey	Lauri McBeath-Davies
Dr. Greg Baker	Kristi Dominguez	Lisa Gilchrist
Steve Clarke – (Co-chair of DAC)	Kurt Gazow	Cindy Pearson
Curtis Lawyer – (Co-chair of DAC)	Mike Copeland	Charisse Berner
Bob Kuehl	Simone Sangster	Amanda Ingram
Jay Jordan	Julie Denton	Kathryn Weilage
Jeff Tetric	Deanna Bannerman	Isabel Meaker
<b>Other Participants:</b>		
Ryan Pflueger – Barkley Company	Jeff McClure – RMC Architects	Lori Walker, WGNW
Kim Lund – BPS Foundation	Anna Gunderson– RMC Architects	Anne Cunningham, WGNW
David Webster – Opportunity Council	Jason Williard – RMC Architects	

1. Introductions
  - a. Committee Co-Chairs Capital Projects Director Curtis Lawyer and Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning Steve Clarke welcomed committee members back.
2. Lori Walker with Walker Group Northwest shared the revised vision and goals and thanked the group for their feedback.
  - a. General agreement that changes made reflect the spirit of The Bellingham Promise and project vision and goals.
  - b. Feedback from chat
    - Updates are liked.
    - Fewer words are easier to track.
    - Cleaner and more streamlined.
3. Lori and Jeff McClure from RMC Architects shared site options with the group. Committee members shared the following feedback:
  - a. More room to breathe (landscaping) between sidewalk and building is good.
  - b. Unsure about entry on north side of building.
  - c. Early Learning Center Discussion
    - Separate entry for Early Learning Center (ELC) would be preferred if it is intended to mainly serve the public, however a single entry is better if the ELC is intended to mainly serve employees.
    - Make sure the ELC outdoor play area is well protected from the street.
    - There is no clear right or wrong on the entry to the ELC.
    - A single, primary entry is seen as building a stronger sense of community. Prefer to have service/delivery entrance farther from ELC outdoor play area.
    - Outdoor play area noise levels should be a consideration in its placement.



- Consider how building configuration can be a part of wind block for outdoor play area.
  - Consider how children can safely access the building via the parking lot (walking across drive lane).
  - Consider noise and car traffic (pollution, control of environment) for the young children.
- d. Additional feedback from chat
- Love the idea of having the building set back farther off the street, but don't want it to limit the building area.
  - Paper delivery is done via semi.
4. Jeff McClure and Jason Williard of RMC Architects presented 3D models of introductory massing models for each site option showing relationships to site context and topography. Committee members shared the following feedback:
- a. There is no future expansion option shown for Option 1 as the site area is very restricted.
  - b. Future expansion is meant to be 10 to 20 years down the road. Not included in this project.
  - c. Lowest level acts as a daylight basement and is cheaper to develop than upper floors.
    - Daylight basement is shown in both Option 2 and Option 3.
5. The committee broke into break-out groups via Zoom. The groups reviewed site options and massing models in relation to project vision and goals. The following comments are reflective of the group's questions and feedback:
- Like Option 4, but worried about presentation to the street.
  - If Option 4 is not really viable, the group favored Option 2 for the entry and overall flow.
  - Option 2 roof deck would be better served if moved to the West or South.
  - Favored Option 2
    1. Entrance feels welcoming.
    2. Love the green space available.
    3. Concerned about shade on the ELC outdoor play area.
  - Like the basement storage of Options 2 and 3 for IT, printing and OT-PT.
  - Option 4 has the best sun exposure.
  - Potential for Option 5
    1. Use building location of Option 4 and build something of interest along Barkley Blvd. Potentially an art installation.
  - Favored Option 2 for the entry, green space, and distance from road.
  - Option 4 seems hard to find because of its poor visibility from the road.
  - Option 3 is lacking the green space of Option 2.
  - Option 1 is fine but does not compare to Options 2 and 3.
  - Option 1 is too boxy and unwelcoming.
  - Option 2 is favored for the entry, greenspace, and relation to neighboring buildings.
  - Concern about cars backing out of radial visitor parking at site entry.
  - Option 3 is similar to Option 2 but boxier.
  - Option 4 does not have good options for expansion.
  - Option 4 is nice because the site is more open and avoids the "canyon of buildings" effect.
  - Option 4 is off the table for this group because they don't want to compete with the Barkley Company or City of Bellingham on Urban Village design standards.
  - Option 2 is favored for the entry and daylight basement.
  - Option 3 is very similar to Option 2.



- Radial entry element favored to be seen in any option that is chosen.
6. The design team shared some precedent images and photos; the follow comments are reflective of feedback sent from committee members via the chat tool.
- a. General feedback:
    - Too much glass would feel like a fish-bowl, especially from the street.
    - Like the wood ceiling, windows and different material for siding.
    - Love the warmer tones of natural woods rather than darker.
    - Love the heavy wood beam for overhangs, identifies the entry well.
    - Like variations in siding rather than heavy on brick.
    - Like the idea of a unique roof line.
  - b. Image #1 – Kenmore City Hall, Kenmore, WA
    - Like the warmth and welcoming feeling.
    - Like the clean lines and wood.
    - Feels organized.
    - Would like to see a combination of #1 and #16.
  - c. Image #9 – Timberline Highschool, Lacey, WA
    - Like the wood, overhangs, and canopy.
    - Like the rooflines and overhangs.
  - d. Image #11 – EPS Community Resource Center, Everett, WA
    - Like the interior of this building.
  - e. Image #12 – LWSD Resource Center, Redmond, WA
    - Hard to find the entrance.
  - f. Image #15 – Industrial Technology Center, Oregon City, OR
    - Nice clean lines and material use. (x2)
  - g. Image #16 – Goodwill Training Center, Seattle, WA
    - Love the warmth of the wood.
    - Like the use of wood.
    - Beautiful.
    - Wood overhang is great; reminiscent of Options HS.
    - Wood is much warmer than masonry.
    - Wood entries feel warmer.
    - Favorite so far.
    - Would like to see a combination of #1 and #16.