

District Office Design Advisory Committee
 Bellingham Public Schools
 September 22, 2020

Attendees:

Bellingham Public Schools:		
Dr. Greg Baker	Jessica Sankey	Lisa Gilchrist
Curtis Lawyer – (Chair of DAC)	Kurt Gazow	Cindy Pearson
Jackie Brawley	Mike Copeland	Charisse Berner
Bob Kuehl	Simone Sangster	Amanda Ingram
Jay Jordan	Julie Denton	Kathryn Weilage
Jeff Tetrick	Deanna Bannerman	Isabel Meaker
Lauri McBeath-Davies		
Other Participants:		
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 chair Curtis Lawyer, capital projects director, welcomed committee members back.
2. Lori Walker of The Walker Group Northwest reviewed the meeting’s agenda, project goals and vision, and the design precepts agreed upon at the beginning of the design process to frame the discussion.
3. Jeff McClure of RMC Architects reviewed the chosen site location and preliminary massing studies from the previous Design Advisory Committee (DAC) meetings. He then presented the further developed building designs (option 1 and option 2) through images of the preliminary 3D model, and the intended construction type, Cross-Laminated Timber (CLT). Discussion outcomes:
 - CLT is currently about 4% less expensive than the typical concrete and steel structure. The fact the CLT is so much lighter means that the foundation system is less costly.
 - This building is intended to be a 50-year building though most last longer.
 - A rooftop deck has been determined to be prohibitively expensive for this project as it would include extending stair and elevator access an additional level without any programmable space.
 - The landscaping and hardscaping will soften the building’s appearance through curves.
4. Lori Walker of the Walker Group Northwest reviewed the projects space planning goals and approach.
5. Anne Cunningham of the Walker Group Northwest presented the conceptual layouts including design opportunities throughout the building. Discussion outcomes:
 - Board meetings will be held in the conference center.
 - Computer trainings will occur in the conference center.
 - Future expansion allows for two to three additional 20-foot bays to be built onto the east face of the building.



6. Jason Williard of RMC Architects presented the sustainability strategy organized through the key categories of Sustainability, Energy, Health, Wellness and Stewardship. The committee then went into break out groups to discuss what is most important to them in terms of sustainability. The groups offered the following feedback:
 - Wellness is important and we really put very little resources towards that at present.
 - We value sustainable and locally sourced products and materials.
 - Bring nature in through landscaping, access to green spaces and gardens.
 - Make recycling easy, accessible, and encouraged
 - Meet and exceed sustainability requirements.
 - Advertise sustainability in the building – make educational messaging forefront to the community
 - Occupant controlled windows in Covid era could be desired.
 - Great ventilation is important.
 - Balance light, air, and shade at windows.
 - Passive shading, heating and cooling design.
 - Gardens – rooftop garden? Barkley garden? Entry garden?
 - Solar is costly but very interested in being solar ready for future investment.
 - Efficient building envelope and ventilation – exceed the minimum R-Value.
 - Support health and wellness.
 - Solar panels – is the cost worth the value?
 - Ventilation - reduce energy use
 - Local material sourcing
 - Stimulate education of wellness through biophilic design
 - Health and air quality will be important with the smoke outside and the COVID inside.
 - Manage indoor temperature
 - Fitness Room and bike storage are important for employee wellness and environmental sustainability
 - Making biking accessible means one less car in the parking lot
 - Easy trail access
 - Showers and lockers make biking more realistic for employees
 - Source local, sustainable materials
 - Excited about all the strategies
 - Important to be a model for sustainability in the community
 - Energy savings and local/sustainable materials for both economic and ecological advantages
 - Natural ventilation and biophilic design are somewhat unknown ideas to the group
 - How would this be different than other types of design?
 - Would like to learn more about this.
7. Other feedback from chat:
 - It will be important to keep child care licensing in mind, inclusive of at-grade egress and automobile barriers protecting outdoor play area (which could be dual function of “retaining wall.”
 - Special Education has a lot of filing cabinets and staff so wondering where all that will go.
 - Glass dividers are great for noise issues while also giving a more open look and feel. Something to consider.
 - There is an ongoing concern with why this building is going to house a preschool. If it truly is just a daycare/preschool setting for the children of staff members, ok. But if there is any chance it



could transition into a developmental preschool for high-needs students, this may not be an appropriate setting for those kids.

- I appreciate the focus on employee fitness from this team. Important to keep it front and center and to communicate that this space is available for all staff-- just like, ideally, all staff are welcome to use middle and high school space for exercise.
 - Electric bikes are on the rise and should be noted for the bike storage to have charging ability in that space.
 - We already have a green cleaning program.
8. Committee chair Curtis Lawyer gave closing remarks and thanked the committee for being apart of the design process.