



Summary notes for Elementary School 15 Educational Specifications Design Advisory Committee

Meeting 1 - Thursday, Oct. 27, 2022

Jeff Coulter, principal on special assignment and co-chair, opened the meeting, welcoming members of the Educational Specifications/Design Advisory committee of Elementary School 15 at Cordata Elementary School.

Superintendent Greg Baker addressed the group, stating it is an exciting opportunity to design and build a new school. We are fortunate to have a community that supports Bellingham Public School projects, and Elementary School 15 will have a big impact on the entire community. The goal is an emphasis on sustainability, accessibility, and safety and security, with the new school becoming a standard. Everyone introduced themselves and shared how they are connected to Bellingham Public Schools. The district believes in a strong engagement with our community, and our city partners are part of this group. This committee is the advisory group making recommendations to the superintendent.

The current thinking is to use Elementary School 15 as a swing space for Roosevelt, Carl Cozier and Columbia elementary school students when those schools are rebuilt. In the coming months, additional advisory committee groups will be formed to work with architects to design the three schools. We will need to pass another bond to build these buildings.

This committee is supported by three co-chairs, Micah Smith, Alderwood principal, Jeff Coulter, and Zach Ham, Dykeman architect. Dr. Baker thanked everyone for their time, dedication, and support.

Jeff shared Team Norms: be respectful, be stewards of the project, and be productive, to provide everyone an opportunity to share and all voices are respectfully heard.

Micah then explained that past design advisory committees used a physical binder for receiving and organizing committee materials. For this project, we will use a digital notebook in OneNote where agendas, minutes, homework, and related documents will be shared, as well as a place to gather feedback from the group.

Director of capital projects, Curtis Lawyer, explained the property for the new school is located on Cougar and Bakerview Roads. The new school will have capacity for 450 students. The building will be two stories and approximately 58,000 square feet, with a total project cost of



approximately 50 million. The school will open in the fall of 2025. Students from Roosevelt Elementary will be the first to occupy Elementary School 15 while Roosevelt is being rebuilt, followed by Carl Cozier and then Columbia Elementary students. ([Rebuild Recommendation](#))

Curtis then shared the district's standards for new elementary schools. These include certain core agreements that are part of every new elementary school the district builds. The building will include three classrooms per grade level, six additional classrooms spaces that could be used for a variety of educational purposes and a full-size gym.

Curtis introduced Zach who is a lead architect from Dykeman. Dykeman has provided outstanding work on past district projects including Whatcom Middle School, Birchwood Elementary, Lowell Elementary, Sehome High School, Alderwood Elementary and most recently Sunnyland, which opened this fall.

Zach reviewed a summary of the six working meetings the committee will participate in. The first meeting is to share the process and gather ideas from the group. We will use [The Bellingham Promise](#) as our guide as we collectively make a commitment to our students to provide outstanding spaces for teaching and learning. The goal of the design process is to provide educational goals, aesthetic requirements, and functional and space requirements. Through the design process, the committee will contribute to create an educational specification to inform the design team of what this advisory committee wants the project to be.

The committee was divided into four groups for three exercises. The first to brainstorm and share their wishes and wonders, then to list the top five characteristics of the building and site they'd like to see in the new building, and lastly, to list as many actions as possible, that students use to learn. Following each exercise, the group shared their responses.

Zach explained a homework exercise: members are to view video tours of [Stevens Creek Elementary School](#) in Lake Stevens, and [Salish Coast Elementary School](#) in Port Townsend and offer feedback. Comments may be shared on the OneNote notebook, in the Homework section of meeting one.

The next meeting will take place on at 3 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 10. The committee will tour Alderwood then Sunnyland elementary schools.

Meeting adjourned 5 p.m.