

PK-5 School Modernization Committee -Architect Discussion Session

7/17/2023, 5:00 – 6:30

Committee Members Present: Lauren Andrews, Maureen Griffin, Walter Kruzel, Leslie Lawlor (Sec.), Vicky MacLeod, Kelsey McGuire-Bruce, Nicole Ricci, Aimee (Sobinski) Jones, Jessica Soule, Shannon Steere, Jacquelyn Sawn, Jennifer Wheeler

Committee Members Absent: Moregan Beaulieu, Danielle Chabot, Emily Hulevitch, Kurt Stroiney

Liaisons Present: Scott Ryder (BOE), Andy Longey (EPS), John Dague (EPS), Fred Gerber (ToE), Gina Cekala (TC)

Liaisons Absent: Janet Cushman (BOE), Tina LeBlanc (BOE), Christopher Drezek (EPS), Ken Nelson (TC), Bob Cressotti (TC)

Committee Guests:

Russel and Dawson: Thomas Manning and Utkarsh Patil

Topics:

1. Project update
2. Design team discussion:
 - **What educational concepts should we consider in the planning process?**
 - o Traditional Learning Environment
 - Instructor centered
 - o Student-Centered Learning Environment
 - Provides for engagement, interaction, teamwork, and concurrent interdisciplinary themes
 - Collaborative and independent learning
 - Use of technology
 - Project based learning
 - o Blended learning Environment – focus on Student-Centered model, with the ability to add in Teacher Centered instruction as needed
 - Increased integration of computer-mediated instruction
 - **What elements are most important to the classroom learning environment?**
 - o Examples
 - Flexible seating/groupings – desks and/or tables, moveable couches/soft seating, modular furniture (*especially in the 5th grade rooms to aid with transition to JFK), different areas in classrooms to work
 - Storage - easily accessible storage options for student and teacher supplies, built-in storage, off the floor, closets with doors that close so the “clutter” is not seen in visible spaces (*storage is worth losing sq. footage in the classroom)
 - Classroom libraries – must be easily accessible to students
 - Specials – in their own classrooms (not on a cart), multiple gymnasiums/larger area with partitions (*size will be based on the demographic study/enrollment numbers)
 - **What are your priority improvements or enhancements to improve the building-wide environment?**

- Building Examples
 - Aesthetic/function/finishes – writable surfaces, sinks in all classrooms with hot and cold water (for handwashing and science curriculum), tile flooring and carpeting in classrooms (carpet is quieter and students are able to sit on the floor/tile are for messy projects)
 - Lighting – ability to dim lighting
 - Power – need a lot more outlets, phones in classrooms with access to an outside line
 - Storage – shared storage spaces typically become a dumping ground for materials not being utilized in the classrooms and end up being a waste of useable space
 - Educational technologies – flexibility to use as needed
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- Collaboration or multiuse spaces
 - Small/large group instructional spaces
 - Outdoor instructional spaces
- Community spaces - large workroom for staff, additional conference rooms and flexible spaces to anticipate future needs, more calming spaces, seclusions spaces, SEL areas, PTO workroom with storage/closet
- Access – classroom doors that lock from the inside, Main Office/Nurse’s Office accessible to families without entering the main building, parent waiting room outside of the office, vestibule between entrance doors, double door entry
- Flow
 - Bus – separate area for buses and drop off/pick up, adequate flow to minimize the time waiting in line and avoid backup, larger parking lots with enough spaces for staff and families,
 - Building – classroom doors with access to outside, spread Specials throughout the building to eliminate bottlenecks, reduce transition time and lessen impact on classroom instruction, School Security Office, centralize mailboxes and information to be posted for staff to easily access,
 - Recess
- **Any other elements the design team should consider in the design of a consolidated school?**
 - Bathrooms in classrooms in younger grades
 - Consistent air/heat quality
 - Multi-floor building (2-3)
 - Do we need a stage? What Technology should be included in assembly spaces?