

School Design Team Meeting Minutes

Cleveland High School

Meeting No. 35 / June 24, 2004 / 5:00 p.m. / CHS Room #118

1. General Comments

The purpose of the meeting was to review the current proposals for concrete masonry block (CMU) colors for the additions to the Cleveland High School project.

3. Introductions (Gary Baldasari, Seattle Public Schools)

Gary Baldasari introduced the staff of Seattle Public Schools, Heery International, and the architects to those in attendance. Gary then discussed the purpose of the meeting and described the District's concern over lack of attendance of the local community on the Cleveland High School project. This evening's event is to provide another opportunity to obtain community feedback and move forward with the exterior design.

Gary emphasized that the District is pleased with the massing of the buildings, the interior space layouts, and the site planning. Tonight's meeting is to discuss the color of the exterior materials only.

4. Exterior Materials Presentations (Butch Reifert, Mahlum)

Butch Reifert of Mahlum Architects started the presentation by describing the three different approaches that can be taken in working with a landmark building like Cleveland:

1. Copy the original: The additions would copy the existing building. This is a very expensive direction to go, since many of the materials of the original building lack artisans today.
2. Do something similar: The additions can be designed to recall the architecture of the original. This strategy can sometimes compete with the existing landmark.
3. Contemporary yet respect original: The additions can complement the original landmark and help set it off more to increase one's appreciation of the original. This is the approach chosen for CHS.

Butch presented three schemes, each with a different color of block. The Landmarks Preservation Board would like to see materials that contrast the original and would set off the 1927 building in a complementary way. We have selected block materials that are locally available that have some relation to the colors found on the original school. Butch presented the brick blend that we have located locally that is a very good match to the existing school.

The schemes can be divided in two categories, darker colors and lighter colors. To date, the architects have leaned toward a lighter color to help brighten up a darker color scheme in the existing campus.

Following are general comments made during the design presentation:

1. The lighter colored buildings reference some of the older buildings in Georgetown and are thus not out of place.
2. If "tagging walls" are provided (walls that provide acceptable surfaces for graffiti or other forms of expression) these should not face the neighborhood.

3. Which exterior materials may be affected if budget corrections that may become necessary? The design team believes the current materials will fall within the budget.

5. Review of Physical Samples on-Site

Three block-wall dry stacks were available for review at the south side of the parking lot. Additionally, a sample of a fourth block color was available, but the block supplier could not get enough block in time to dry stack. These colors, from darkest to lightest, were:

1. "Khaki"
2. "Safeco Field" (custom color – khaki block made with white cement with some red pumice aggregate)
3. A single sample of standard ground face CMU with white cement included in the mix
4. "Castle White" – a light buff color

Attendees then reviewed the block samples. Samples 1 and 4 were immediately eliminated. Attendees liked the Safeco Field block; however, we were informed that per the supplier, we could not use block with the added red aggregate. Butch stated that the original design intent was to select a color that related to the existing terra cotta. A sample of each block was examined next to recently cleaned terra cotta, after which attendees unanimously agreed that Sample 3 is the best choice. Further, it was proposed that accent colors on the new building, particularly around the windows, should reference the brick veneer on the existing building.

6. Attendee Comments

Allison Sing asked about the red brick color and its placement on the additions. Butch explained that the brick relates back to the landmark and is used to help reinforce the outdoor spaces. She wondered if such a dark material presented safety concerns. Butch responded that the courtyards will be well lit, so this should not be a concern.

Lynn Tucker asked, after the brick is cleaned, when will the District clean the brick again? Gary stated that funding resources and maintenance are constant issues and take a lot of work to balance budget and need.

Allison wished to emphasize that we cannot skimp on quality, since we are building a structure to serve future generations.

Lee Reynolds stated that the school would be best served to have a security system with cameras. Brent Compton and Butch stated that there currently are cameras on site, and that they will be located per district security personnel input.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:00 p.m.

The preceding Minutes are the Construction Manager's interpretation of the items discussed and decisions reached at the above referenced meeting. Any persons desiring to add to or otherwise change the Minutes are asked to put their comments in writing to the Construction Manager not later than **July 31, 2004**; otherwise, the Minutes will stand as written.

The preceding Minutes were prepared by David Wilson, Project Manager, Heery International.