

**Wallingford Community Council**  
**April 5, 2006**  
**Meeting Summary**

On Apr. 5 members of the design team attended the Wallingford Community Council meeting to discuss the HIMS design process. Terry Acena, Katie Cryan, Greg Flood, Don Gillmore, Becky Goertzel, Leila Kipp, Julia Leonas, Larry Matsuda, Dale Menchofer, Alex Rolluda, and Michael Romero attended the evening meeting at the Good Shepherd Center.

Here's a summary of what happened at the meeting:

- Don Gillmore talked about the levy history and the history of Hamilton in the neighborhood.
- Terry Acena and Katie Cryan described the students and the programs, and discussed the urgency of Hamilton's needs for a new school facility.
- Alex and Michael talked about the school design process and presented a generic diagram of how the school can fit into the existing building and site\*.

The Wallingford community is very interested in the future of its schools, and several community members at the meeting have been following the proposed renovation of Hamilton for more than ten years. As such, the session was lively with lots of discussion, questions, and answers – all the members of the team did a great job talking about what the school is and what it can be in the future.

Some of the significant items of discussion included:

- Discussion of overall school size, classroom size, and how to maintain Hamilton's small school approach.
- Discussion of traffic impacts of busing, and a request for the district to make every effort to stage and load buses to minimize impact on the neighborhood.
- Discussion of the steps that have led to wanting to remodel Hamilton for HIMS, rather than moving to Lincoln. This was a particularly lively topic, including suggestions that the district consider reopening Lincoln as a high school, and that the SDT needs to be clear that HIMS wants to remodel the existing building rather than moving to Lincoln.

A really positive outcome of the discussion is that there's clearly a lot of support for the school from the neighborhood, and everyone wants to see HIMS in a great facility.

We'll be reviewing the proposed renovation with the School Board at their Operations Committee meeting at 4:00 PM at the Stanford Center on April 18<sup>th</sup>.

Our next SDT meeting is Monday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, at 2:30 at the HIMS library. We'll be trying to blend the ideas the groups have generated, using a proposed design by Alex as a starting point for discussion.

\*A note about the plan that was presented: In order to explain school concepts, Alex created a plan showing a central three-story commons, classrooms on the second and third story, administrative and shared spaces (library, performing arts, kitchen) on the first floor, a new gym at the back of the building, bus loading on the street, and an open play space on the structure above the parking lot (see attached) – ideas were taken from all of the designs, but kept very generic. We wanted to provide something that was simple and easy to read, and that showed how we're fitting the entire school into the existing structure with a new gym. We also wanted to avoid making promises that would lock us into a specific design, to allow us to continue to evolve the team's ideas. We'll all be spending a lot of time developing the design – Alex's sketches are just a starting point to begin the discussions. Please let me know if you have any questions.