

**West Seattle Elementary
SCHOOL DESIGN ADVISORY TEAM
Workshop #1 Orientation**

Date: 09/25/2019

Attendees: Pam McCowan-Conyers Principal
Sahnica Washington Assistant Principal
Kyle Tunstall Teacher
Amber Simonton Teacher
Phil Sweetland Volunteer
Hannah Ory Teacher
Geneva DeBlasio Student
Nick Canavas Neighborcare
Abdi Ali Social Worker
Lisa Enriquez Bilingual IA
Warqo Ganno Parent
Awet Kashay Parent
Saeda Hirsi Parent
Shanika Russell Admin
Paul Wight Project Manager, SPS Capital Projects
Laura Maman Principal, Miller Hayashi Architects
Amanda Anderson Professional Staff, Miller Hayashi Architects

INTRODUCTION

Paul Wight welcomed the group and thanked the SDAT members for participating. Laura Maman introduced Miller Hayashi Architects. SDAT members had a chance to introduce themselves.

Laura described the SDAT Process and provided information on the project background. Funding for the project comes from BEX V Capital Levy. The project is funded to provide a new classroom addition, safety improvements for entrances and limited work within the existing building. The additional classrooms allow for removal of the portables.

Laura described overall project schedule: WSE moves out in June 2021. WSE will be housed at an interim site (Schmitz Park) for school year 21/22. The expanded school reopens in Fall 2022.

Principal Conyers described the WSE mission and vision: This is a community school. WSE engages students both inside and outside the classroom seeking to empower all students to value diversity and pursue their passion and reach their potential. They are moving toward a STEAM focus. They have great family involvement and want to better support families. WSE values listening to student's voices; it means a lot to have an inclusive mindset as a community school.

SDAT ASPIRATIONS

Miller Hayashi led a group exercise using notecards to gather aspirations from individual SDAT members:

Programs

- Whole family involvement
- Community School
- Generational School
- Parent Tea
- PAWS Parties
- Husky Club
- Family Field Trips
- Grade levels grouped together
- Small Group/one-on-one zone in classrooms
- STEAM Focus + Sustainable
- Integrating across subjects
- Different teaching styles
- Larger flexible spaces
- Library focus on reading and media space
- Improved sight lines for supervision

Site

- Welcoming entrance
- Safe pick-up / drop-off areas
- Students and families walk to school
- ADA parking location
- Larger play structures
- Separate age-specific play structures
- Playground noise near classrooms
- School garden
- Perimeter fences
- Sustainable and educational site features
- After hours use

Foundations of Equity

- Consistent access to resources and technology
- In-school Health Care
- Food pantry
- Counseling and Social Work
- Engaged families
- Community Support

Universal Attributes

- Inviting
- Secure and Safe
- Acoustics (particularly in the cafeteria)
- Daylight
- Temperature
- Clean air and water

WALKING TOUR

The group took a short walking tour of the school and grounds. Comments during the walk covered topics including:

- need for more welcoming entry
- need to clarify office signage
- distance of handicap parking from main entry
- need improve acoustics in cafeteria
- need for security at playground: prefer fenced all around with secure gates
- suggestion to minimize interior fencing, secure with perimeter fence
- playground could benefit from more covered space, suggestion of covered climbing equipment

- idea of addition placed to create an open air courtyard near the existing school garden
- idea of play areas for different grade levels, separated area for younger students
- more than one play structure
- appearance of the new addition compared to appearance of the existing building

GROUP DISCUSSION

School Community

What are key attributes of the community that the school serves?

- WSE has a consistent staff and many long-term teachers
- WSE is a generational school that creates long lasting connections with families
- WSE prioritizes community partners that focus on WSE
- Husky Clubs: basketball, soccer, chess; ongoing for 10 years; after school programs
- Parent Teas
- Regular field trips, often with families attending
- Celebrations: PAWS parties; attendance campaigns; multi-cultural night
- WSE offers a comprehensive/whole family experience, a community school
- WSE integrates across subjects
- WSE offers in school health care: comprehensive services support long term success

Educators and Learners

From an educator's and student's point of view, what works well in this building? What can be improved for the future?

- WSE lacks classroom pods with shared group space
- Principal's office could be tied to break out space, multi-purpose, conference space
- Small group spaces for student groups or counseling space
- Focus is on 'push-in' not 'pull out' so classroom space to work one-on-one or in small groups is important.
- Added shared office spaces and planning for less teacher 'shuffling' and moving of offices
- Conference spaces for admin are needed
- Space to post notices to families that's visible to parents
- WSE lacks a secure entrance
- WSE needs improved signage to main office at entrance
- Student leadership club representative reported that student priorities include: improved play structures, more variety on play ground, there's usually a long line for a turn to use the equipment; also students are distracted by playground noise so they keep the windows closed but wish the windows could be open.

Neighborhood

How does the school interact with the neighborhood? What strengths can we build on for the future?

- Neighborcare has 6 year relationship with WSE. Staff has become integrated with school staff
- SHA helps with communications and has helped to promote regular attendance
- West Seattle Food Bank: provides boxes weekly for food pantry
- Fauntleroy Church (UCC) has provided support
- Site concerns include frequent vandalism and inappropriate use of the driveway
- There is concern from neighbors when parents park on street for pick-up and drop-off
- This year there are 5-6 short buses and one full size bus
- Principal Conyers placed a work order for a driveway gate to limit after hours use of bus lane

List of attachments: Slide Show #1 Presentation

END OF MINUTES

The foregoing minutes represent the architect's understanding of discussions held and decisions reached in the meeting and constitute the formal record of this meeting. Meeting participants with amendments to these minutes should provide comments to the architect within five working days of the transmittal date.