

## School Design Advisory Team - Meeting #1

**Project:** Northgate Elementary School  
**Project No.:** 121-1903  
**Meeting Date:** October 29, 2019  
**In Attendance:** Eric Becker, Seattle Public Schools  
Vince Gonzales, Seattle Public Schools  
~~\*strike through~~ Any Kopiloff  
~~means did not~~ Feben Ghirmatzion  
~~attend~~ Guillermo Carvajal  
Jessica Ziparo  
Laura Root  
Linda Sinni  
MaryAnn Johnson  
Melie Ros  
Sarah McFarland  
Sheryl Lynn Grater  
Nicole L Sud  
Tatiana Apostolou  
Dedy Fautleroy, Northgate ES Principal  
Kevin Flanagan, NAC Architecture  
Matt Rumbaugh, NAC Architecture  
Amy Jain, NAC Architecture  
Boris Srdar, NAC Architecture  
Giselle Altea, NAC Architecture  
Emily Spillar, NAC Architecture

### Discussion Items

#### 1.0 Intro

NAC introduced the project and provided an overview of the following topics:

- What is an SDAT?
  - A group of people from the school and community who care about the future of NGES.
  - A diverse representative team of forward thinking, involved, connected, communicators.
- What does an SDAT do?
  - Helps guide the design process towards development of a new school facility that is inspired by the culture and educational needs of NGES now and in the future. Develops recommendations for school specific modifications to the current SPS standard Educational Specifications.
- SDAT impact -The development of the new school will proceed according to the phases described below. The SDAT will have the most impact during the initial phases.
  1. Learning about Northgate culture
  2. Building and Site Design
  3. Academic Space Design
  4. Technical Development
  5. Construction



- SDAT Schedule
  1. Meeting #1: Tuesday, October 29
  2. Meeting #2: Tours: Wednesday, November 6 (8:30-3:30)
    - Olympic Hills Elementary, Seattle
    - Tambark Creek Elementary, Bothell
    - Stevens Creek Elementary, Lake Stevens
  3. Meeting #3: Tuesday, November 12 (4pm-6pm)
  4. Meeting #4 Week of December 2, TBD
  5. Meeting #5: Week of December 16, TBD
- What is an Ed Spec (Educational Specification)?
  - Describes the Goals and Vision.
  - Defines the spaces needed in the school.
  - Defines functional relationships of spaces.
  - Provides a detailed description of the needs and features of each space.
  - Identifies the desired features for the new school.
- Developing the Ed Spec (Spaces included in the 650 Student Model)
  - 29 General Classrooms
  - 2 Self-contained Special Ed Classrooms
  - Learning Commons
  - Small Group Collaboration Rooms
  - Music Room
  - Art Room
  - Library
  - Gymnasium
  - Dining Commons with Stage
  - Administrative Suite
  - Staff Lounge and Workrooms
  - Childcare Suite

## **2.0 Cultural Strengths of Northgate Elementary**

Members of the SDAT team were asked to share their experiences and ideas about Northgate:

- Great sense of community:
  - Everyone is welcoming
  - "Building belongs to you"
  - People come together
  - Staff and community are great at communicating and reaching out to families – even with language differences.
- Great staff:
  - Teamwork
  - Confident teachers and Admin
  - Commitment to work with Mary's Place.
  - Sense of calm, not a lot of 'noise', 'yea we got this', 'everything will be ok' optimistic outlook.
  - Interdependence
  - Teachers see students as "all of their kids", they are all together.



- School has been good at celebrating cultures:
  - Multiple languages
  - School shows, Cultural Night, Day of the dead celebration
  - sharing in the classroom.
  - Kids talk about their families and “who their people are”
- Accepting of differences
  - A safe place to share
  - Multiple languages
  - Kids are open to sharing their own culture/history.
  - A place kids can dream big
  - Kid’s respect each other and their differences. They take notice and support each other.
- Great Kids:
  - Kids do not lead with adversities
  - Love, warmth and care defines them.
  - Kids have ‘guts’
  - Interdependence: Big kids take care of the littles.
- Equity: The fact that visitors cannot tell which kids are homeless is a testament to the school. There is not a culture of blame. Kids do not use labels with each other. They are all part of the same group.
- Only bilingual school in the north end of Seattle.
  - Northgate is a Bilingual Orientation Center

### **3.0 Unique Needs**

SDAT members were asked to describe some of the unique needs of Northgate students and community. The following are highlights from the conversation:

- Need the school to be a home away from home. What is this? A sense of calmness can be good.
- For homeless families: School supplies closet, computer room for parents, place for parents to hang out. (Examples: First Place School – Central District, BF Day School)
- A building/room to have a potluck. A safe place to keep food. They currently have wonderful potlucks but no space.
- Want a school that does not look like a ‘prison’.
- Need gathering spaces that are not a hallway.
- A space to accommodate kids to be in many different places. Multi-functional.
- Acoustics need to be considered: building is currently very noisy
- Sensory Needs: space needs to work without sensory overload.
- Flexible signage: rotating signs for each language.
- A piece of the different cultures reflected in the school.
- Bathroom Design:
  - Gender neutral bathroom. Pay attention to layout. Currently, bathrooms are interfering with learning. Changing tables.
- Big windows, lots of light, bright, big.
- Play Area: not damp or cold. Want to be outside but not outside.



- Meeting places at the library: private spaces, shared reading rooms.
- Teacher's needs: Big oven, communal kitchen for events and parties, a garden / green roof terrace (to teach them a healthy diet), gardening for the colder months, garden storage, more staff bathrooms (currently only have 3 toilets).
- Kids that need therapy need a consistent, inviting space with their own toys, their own space, a chill space, sensory room.
- SEL (Social Emotional Learners): Need separation from the main school. Do not want to traumatize other kids. Need immediate outdoor access. Sensory rooms with crash pads, trampoline, swing.
- Open spaces: Sunken area where people can gather. Upper floors that look down into other floors. Oval building where people can walk around. Currently, they are space deprived. Using hallways as meeting areas. Staff lounge is very crowded and is stressful for teachers.
- Outdoor areas: Drop off/pick up always stressful. A safer solution for families.
- Green spaces: Lots of trees, access to green space. Nature is part of the school.
- Bike Storage: Currently no options for storage.
- Overpass: To get kids over the influx of traffic on 1<sup>st</sup> avenue.
- Parking Lots: Currently use the church across the street but this is not safe.

#### **4.0 Questions**

- What does equity look like?
- What will the new Northgate look like?
- Is there a forum for parents, teachers and the community to send ideas, suggestions and concerns? Kevin F. suggested creating an email portal through NAC architecture. Some emails will require translation.
- Can there be an information table about the new school during Parent's Night?
- How can we involve the kids in the conversation about the new school?

If there are any corrections to these minutes, please notify the Architect within (7) days of receipt.  
Prepared by AJ.

