

Northgate Elementary School Design Advisory Team – Meeting #2 - School Tours

Meeting Date: 11/6/19

In Attendance:

Eric Becker, Seattle Public Schools	Tatiana Apostolou
Vince Gonzales, Seattle Public Schools	Ariella, Northgate ES Student
Kristi Jones, Seattle Public Schools	Sy, Northgate ES Student
Any Kopiloff	Jayla, Northgate ES Student
Feben Ghirmatzion	Patrick Reynolds
Guillermo Carvajal	Michelle Thompson
Jessica Ziparo	Kate Eads
Laura Root	Dedy Fautleroy, Northgate ES Principal
Linda Sinni	Kevin Flanagan, NAC Architecture
MaryAnn Johnson	Matt Rumbaugh, NAC Architecture
Melie Ros	Amy Jain, NAC Architecture
Sarah McFarland	Boris Srdar, NAC Architecture
Sheryl Lynn Grater	Giselle Altea, NAC Architecture
Nicole L Sud	Emily Spillar, NAC Architecture

Discussion Items:

This document is an attempt to capture highlights from the conversations that took place during the tours undertaken by the School Design Advisory Team on November 6. Some comments were also taken from notes sent to NAC by team members after the tours. Items may represent the opinions of individuals or of groups of team members, and do not necessarily indicate consensus.

Olympic Hills

- Meeting room near entry was originally meant for professional development and meetings but is now being changed into a family resource room
- Library
 - Nice daylight but no cozy space, or place to be comfortable reading
 - tall & grand space.
- Much discussion about the cabinets in the pod hallways for storing extra supplies. Some people liked these cabinets; others would have preferred a storage room. Concern that there was not enough storage space in the classrooms.
- Colored window panels in hallways and library create nice patterns of light
- Cafeteria

- Love the fans
- Students favorite things:
 - Playground, art room with lots of cabinets, cafeteria
- Stage Music room
 - Not big enough, no space for instruments
 - Dark, no character or 'sparkle'
- Second music room has been taken over by Boys and Girls club
- PTA/ community kitchenette is used by Boys & Girls club

Tambark Creek

- Already almost at capacity
- Acoustics in main hall are poor – quite noisy
 - Learning stair can't really be used by a group if other classes are passing through – too loud
- Sloped ceilings in classrooms are really nice
- Love the window seat /nooks in the classrooms
- Great informal seating/ nooks below the stairs in the classroom pods
- Rolling grass mounds outside the ground floor classroom windows really help minimize the visual impact of the adjacent parking lot.
- Love the sliding doors between the classrooms
- Several people commented that the school felt more kid-friendly and connected than Olympic Hills
 - Fewer 'dead ends'
 - Variety of space and character
 - Vertical connection of pods
- Size of cafeteria requires 6 lunch periods a day

Steven's Creek Elementary

- Love the windows to the mechanical room and other peeks into the 'guts of the school'
- Learning stair is often used for evening parent meetings
- Love the river bed and natural features in the playground and outdoor areas. Encourage exploration.
- Love the viewing deck over the dry creek bed
- The child size door at the entry of the Early Learning Center was wonderful
- Love the words embedded in the flooring and paving
- Nice use of decorative wall coverings that also help to deaden sound

General Conversation & Comments

Building Interior

- Would be great to have a sink and counter in each Learning Commons
- Northgate has a place to store items that families to bring in to share – like clothes, food, vegetables, school supplies
 - Would like to have a dedicated space for this in the new building – storage could be incorporated as part of family resource room.
- Importance of eating together in Northgate culture. Need a kitchen and ‘mess room’ for class projects, parent projects and family events. Need nearby family bathrooms, with changing tables.
- Northgate does do plays and musical events – need to be able to leave things on the stage that don’t have to be moved every day for music class to take place
- Handwashing sink in the cafeteria would be good
- Need corner guards!
- Library signage should be included in the construction project
- Kindergarten teachers at Northgate have mini-fridges in their classrooms – would love to have more of a kitchenette
- Northgate librarian does meditation and mindfulness sessions before each library class
 - Would love library to be more connected to nature – a view of greenery would be conducive to the meditation sessions
 - Library is a calm down space.
- Need to think about how all the transparency will affect a kid who is having a bad day.
 - How does a kid get to the office for help without ‘being on display’ as they go down the hall?
 - Would like to have a place where children can wait for family members to pick them up in comfort and relative privacy.
- Study nooks, reading spaces and quiet corners are important. Allow children to find a favorite space. Create a more ‘homey’, less institutional environment.
- Desire to create shared spaces that allow kids to interact with siblings in other grades. Adds consistency to a child’s day and reinforces the value of relationships.
- Tunable lighting in the classrooms and the library is desirable. Promotes healthy circadian rhythms, and allows teachers to adapt their environment to their class’s changing needs.
- Importance of Acoustics and sound management. Since Northgate families speak several languages, it is important that everyone can hear each other and any translators.
- Provide a variety of materials and textures

Exterior

- Covered play shed needs to have some lower basketball hoops for younger kids
- Having the outdoor play area near the commons is great for family events
- Would like to have a garden area with permanent raised beds with irrigation and nearby storage
- A mailbox in front of the school would be very helpful for families. There is no longer a mailbox for secure outgoing mail in the neighborhood.
 - Put it in a place where people could pull up to it.
 - An equity issue.
- Safe student drop-off with good lines of sight to the front door / student entry is important. Allows caregivers with mobility issues or busy schedules to feel the same security as parents that walk the kids to the building.
- Staff like the idea of a covered play area that is attached to the school rather than detached.
 - They did not like the one at Tambark creek. Did like the one at Steven's Creek.
- Rainy day recess space needs to be open and engaging
- Natural features for exploration in the playground, would be great.
- Variety of textures in planting materials and exterior surfaces is great.
- Love the whimsical details at some of the schools visited
 - Animal prints, musical notes, words embedded in pavement; the 'stream' in the floor at Stevens creek, the engraved paneling in the hallways
- Need access to a restroom from the outdoor play areas.

Other

- NHL (National Hockey league – which is building a training facility at the mall site) is looking to build a relationship with the school. Think about incorporating/ celebrating hockey in the gym, playground and other areas in the school.