

SDAT Meeting #4 - Meeting Minutes

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Project | Kimball Elementary School |
| NAC No. | 121-19024 |
| Owner Project No. | N/A |
| Meeting Date | November 14, 2019 |
| Meeting Time | 5:00am - 7:00pm |
| Meeting Location | Library |
| In Attendance | *strikethrough means did not attend (MG) Melissa Gray, Kimball Alaron Lewis, Kimball Alexander Black, Kimball Amanda Hubbard, Kimball Aubrey Chu, Kimball Erin McLaughlin, Kimball James Milne, Kimball Katie Hara, Kimball Kathleen (KT) Raschko, Kimball Michael Henderson, Kimball Miriam Smith, Kimball Morgan Hougland Kimball Nicole Trudeau, Kimball Tanya Bagley, Kimball Carter Kemp, Kimball Youssour Djama, Kimball Zeinab Ahmed, Kimball Chandra Reinke, Kimball Brittany Williams, Kimball Qi Qun Ma, Kimball Deborah Northern, SPS Michael Skutack, SPS (PW) Paul Wight, SPS (BLai) Bingham Lai, NAC (BS) Boris Srdar, NAC (BLove) Brian Love, NAC Kevin Flanagan, NAC Kristen Petersen-Motan, NAC (VM) Vincent Montesano, NAC (AR) Arnulfo Ramirez, NAC |

- **Introduction**

- BLove provided an update of the SDAT process and a recap of what was accomplished during the last SDAT meeting. The results of the Building Block exercise was incorporated in today's presentation. The results of the Classroom Design exercise would be incorporated into a future SDAT meeting.

- **Creating a Sense of Space**

- BLove and BLai presented what the design team considered as key elements to create a sense of space for the new Kimball school. Images from projects designed by NAC and other architects were used to illustrate these key elements.
 - a) Welcoming / Sense of Arrival – how to provide a sense of arrival through the entry experience. The entrance should be designed to be welcoming and provides gathering space for parents during drop-off and pick-up.
 - b) Transparency and Accountability – how to provide transparency between program spaces and make the school safer and more connected.
 - c) Community / Connection / Inclusion – how to use materials to create warmth and a sense of place; visuals to connect to the history of the neighborhood; spaces of various scales to meet students' needs and meeting spaces to connect to the community.

- **Site Constraints**

- VM presented the site constraints and challenges:
 - a) Topography – slopes between (3) terraces and around the perimeter
 - b) Tree Protection - 42 exceptional trees on site; some of them provide slope stability in Environmental Critical Areas
 - c) Buildable Areas
 - 1. Upper Terrace : 71,536 SF
 - 2. Mid-Terrace 48,562 SF
 - 3. Lower Terrace: 19,112 SF
 - d) Site Access – vehicular access, stairs and ramps for ADA access

- **NAC Design Charrettes and SDAT Block Studies**

- NAC had been exploring design concepts in the last (2) months. These concepts could be grouped into (3) categories as followed. For each group of schemes, BLove and BLai presented design concepts developed by NAC, followed by corresponding schemes from previous block studies by teachers/students as comparisons, and one design concept from each category to illustrate the pros and cons.
 - a) Top of the Hill
 - 1. Pros: Eastern part of the site kept open



- 2. Cons: Uses half of the play field area
- b) Tree Groves as Focal Point
 - 1. Pros: Intimate moments with the tree groves
 - 2. Cons: Long circulation paths
- c) Classroom with a View
 - 1. Pros: Good views for classrooms on the lower terraces
 - 2. Cons: Tight spacing at lower terrace

- **Site Inspiration**

- The site has a lot of unique features that provides inspirations to the design. The goal is to turn site constraints into opportunities.
 - a) Views – the current school turns its back towards the view. There're opportunities to create views of different scales – from open and panoramic to small and intimate.
 - b) Civic Presence – the current school is inward-looking and does not have a street presence along 23th. The new school will likely to go higher to preserve open space and provides opportunities to better engage the street and the neighborhood.
 - c) Heart of the Site / Nature – the trees on the site are special. The new building can capture this essence by framing views to these trees or moving through these trees (e.g. with the use of a bridge).

- **Concept Design Review**

- The SDAT team members were split into 2 groups and commented on (2) design schemes - Bridge Scheme presented by BLove and Wrap Scheme by VM. The Bridge Scheme has a 2-story classroom wing on the upper terrace and commons/gym on the lower terrace with a bridge connecting the two terraces. The Wrap Scheme has a 3-story classroom wing on the upper terrace and commons/gym wrapping around the tree groves.
- Below are SDAT's comments on the Bridge Scheme.
Pros:
 - Preserves space
 - Bridge idea sounds like an amazing space
 - Community room near entrance
 - North / south facing classrooms
 - Bright space for library reading spaces
 - Art by nature of tree groves could be an amazing space for students
 - Neighbors at 23rd Ave will be happier with 2 floors



- Good service vehicle access
- 2 floors will reduce vertical transition time between activities
- Classroom layout has better shared space distribution
- More corner presence and a more visible entry.

Cons:

- There might be a need for (6) Grade 5 and Grade 4 classrooms
- Gym blocks views for classrooms
- Connection of admin entrance could be more direct to bridge
- Music rooms above childcare could be an acoustical problem
- Special Ed classrooms should be integrated into class pods
- Administrative area too detached from core
- Gender neutral restrooms
- Clear ADA path for after school events is needed
- Bus drop off too far from administrative area
- Commons should be more central
- Views are not as prominent
- Commons could be used as community room
- Long service road uses a lot of the play area
- Might be dark below gym

- Below are SDAT's comments on the Wrap Scheme.

Pros:

- Entry from the NW is good
- It takes advantage of the views to the east
- It has an open feel.
- Connection to the tree groves which can be further enhanced with outdoor spaces for gathering (e.g. lunches) and learning (e.g. observation deck)
- Admin, library, music and art are in the middle of the school
- The common is at a central location and in close proximity to the open area
- Gym access to the play area
- The curved form is appealing

Cons:

- Does not respond well to pedestrians approaching from the NW corner
- Access between classrooms and open area is problematic (especially during lunch hours)
- The arrangement of stage/common/gym, though commonly seen, might not be ideal (logistically and acoustically)
- The Spec-Ed program spaces need to be more integrated with the classrooms.
- Most of the group does not have issues with the 3-story building but it would be great to provide some views through the building from 23rd towards the east



- Tree groves become hiding spaces
- No sightline of drop-off area from admin

- **Recap**

- The SDAT team re-convened to recap their thoughts on the two schemes as a group. The priorities for the group were views, integration of Special Ed into class pods and a central administrative area.

- Below are SDAT's comments on the Bridge Scheme.

Pros:

- 2 Floors reduce transition time
- Equal approach to community at southeast
- Multiple Outdoor spaces
- Good Pedestrian Access
- More open Space
- Bridge will have a great views

Cons:

- Bad drop off
- Less connected program
- No classroom views to east
- Access road uses a lot of playfield space
- Not enough parking
- Circulation of school is not as intuitive
- Very square – blocky bad, swoopy good
- Program seems segregated

- Below are SDAT's comments on the Wrap Scheme.

Pros:

- Classroom layout (pods) need work
- Great classroom views to east
- Open entrance at center courtyard
- Multiple outdoor spaces
- Library admin at center reduces path
- Both groups generally liked the curve nature of the scheme
- Better parking than the other scheme

Cons:

- Connected gym / commons will create acoustical problems
- Having to go through commons to go to playfield / class
- 3 floors at 23rd Ave



- **Other Business**

- SDAT decided that another outreach meeting with parents, teachers and the community was necessary. NAC is to coordinate with the School District to set up this meeting.
- SDAT was concerned that there might not be enough time between the last two SDAT meetings for NAC to respond to comments from SDAT. NAC is propose alternate meeting dates.

- **Next Meeting**

- 3:00pm-5:00pm, December 5th, 2019 at school library

Prepared by Bingham Lai
cc: Paul Wight, Mike Skutack, Tina Christiansen

\\nac\100\it\nac-forms\2016-form-updates\don potts\new forms\general\meetingagenda.docx

