

SDAT Meeting #5 - Meeting Minutes

Project	Kimball Elementary School
NAC No.	121-19024
Owner Project No.	N/A
Meeting Date	December 05, 2019
Meeting Time	3:00pm - 5:00pm
Meeting Location	Library
In Attendance	<p>*striketrough means did not attend</p> <p>(MG) Melissa Gray, Kimball</p> <p>Alaron Lewis, Kimball</p> <p>Alexander Black, Kimball</p> <p>Amanda Hubbard, Kimball</p> <p>Aubrey Chu, Kimball</p> <p>Erin McLaughlin, Kimball</p> <p>James Milne, Kimball</p> <p>Katie Hara, Kimball</p> <p>Kathleen (KT) Raschko, Kimball</p> <p>Michael Henderson, Kimball</p> <p>Miriam Smith, Kimball</p> <p>Morgan Hougland Kimball</p> <p>Nicole Trudeau, Kimball</p> <p>Tanya Bagley, Kimball</p> <p>Carter Kemp, Kimball</p> <p>Youssour Djama, Kimball</p> <p>Zeinab Ahmed, Kimball</p> <p>Chandra Reinke, Kimball</p> <p>Brittany Williams, Kimball</p> <p>Qi Qun Ma, Kimball</p> <p>Deborah Northern, SPS</p> <p>Michael Skutack, SPS</p> <p>(PW) Paul Wight, SPS</p> <p>(BLai) Bingham Lai, NAC</p> <p>(BS) Boris Srdar, NAC</p> <p>(BLove) Brian Love, NAC</p> <p>Kevin Flanagan, NAC</p> <p>Kristen Petersen-Motan, NAC</p> <p>(VM) Vincent Montesano, NAC</p> <p>(AR) Arnulfo Ramirez, NAC</p>

- **Introduction**

- BLove provided an update of the SDAT process and a recap of what was accomplished during the last SDAT meeting and the progress of the conceptual design. Results of the classroom design exercise from SDAT meeting #3 would be incorporated into today's presentation.

- **Site Observation – View Potentials**

- BLai presented observations from a visit of the roof on Nov 21. The purpose of the visit was to evaluate view potentials of the future school. The condition during the site visit was foggy limiting views in the distance.
 - a) Views to the west – territorial view of a residential zone with mostly 1-2 story single family residences; busy traffic on 23rd Ave S.
 - b) Views to the northwest - territorial view of a residential zone with mostly 1-2 story single family residences; potential views of Lake Washington towards the northeast (to be confirmed on a clear day).
 - c) Views to the east – views of the tree groves (even for a 3-story building); at the opening where the stair is there are views of the lake and the east side.
 - d) Views to the southeast – most open territorial view of the lake and the east side. The south and southeast facades will receive the most southern sun exposure.

- **SDAT #4 Concept Design Recap**

- NAC provided a recap of the two concept designs (Bridge Scheme and Wrap Scheme) presented at the last workshop:
- Below are SDAT's comments on the Bridge Scheme.
 - Pros:
 - **Library** as a bridge is a cool space with great views.
 - More **open space** than the other scheme.
 - More visible **entry** with good pedestrian access.
 - Cons:
 - Admin seems isolated.
 - Parking underneath a building can be challenging.
 - Program spaces feel segregated and less connected.
 - Views from the upper terrace might be blocked by the gymnasium/common.
- Below are SDAT's comments on the Wrap Scheme.
 - Pros:
 - Great **views** to the east and connection to the tree groves.
 - Admin, library, music and art are **centralized**.



- The common and gymnasium are **close to the open area**.
- The **curved form** is appealing.

Cons:

- Pedestrian access from NW corner not ideal.
- Access between classrooms and open area is problematic.
- The Spec-Ed program spaces need to be more integrated.
- The arrangement of common/gym might not be ideal.

- **Review of Refined Concept Design Schemes**

- NAC briefly introduced three design schemes – Wrap (revised from the previous scheme); Two Towers and Compact. The SDAT team members were then split into 3 groups to review and comment on the schemes. The team was reconvened at the end to have a group discussion.

- Below are SDAT's comments on **Concept Design #1 – Wrap** (revised scheme)

Small-Group Discussion - Pros:

- More than 3 classrooms to a pod area will create larger student gatherings in shared learning spaces
- Still focuses on wrapping around tree grove
- Connection of gym and commons is great
- Parking is smaller, but still ok
- Good connection of classroom halls onto classroom areas

Small-Group Discussion - Cons:

- Needs emphasis on courtyard between classrooms
- Library has odd shape
- Common issue of crossing cafeteria to get to gym will create lunch interruption and traffic jams
- Acute angles of art rooms might be a problem
- 4th and 5th grade classrooms need to have designated shared learning spaces
- Entrance was better located at center near the tree groves, admin should move closer to center

Group Discussion:

- Positive reactions to the building's relationship to the trees.
- Concerns about the usefulness of the acute angles produced by the geometry. A few comments on preferring the previous, "swoopy" version.
- Classroom arrangement on this scheme seems to have more flexibility in terms of classroom assignments and groupings.
- Most seemed ok with the idea of a smaller parking lot at the upper terrace as shown on this scheme.
- Would like to see some library space onto the upper levels (distributed).
- Still concerns about the usefulness of the courtyard between the classroom pods.



- Admin location feels more removed than in the previous version.
- Below are SDAT's comments on **Concept Design #2 – Two Towers** (new scheme)
Small-Group Discussion - Pros:
 - Generally, people appreciated that the classrooms were taking advantage of the views.
 - There were positive reactions to the distributed library and the views through the gap in the trees. One suggested improvement to the library was to provide a more direct connection/alignment with the commons.
 - KT did not have an issue with the music room being on the second level. Though, would like a more direct path to the stage which could be achieved with a closer stair.
 - Great central public spaces. There could be some improvement of the feeling of the learning commons as well as the number and location of conference rooms. People like the idea of having two conference rooms per grade level as it was in Mary Lyons.
 - Positive feedback on the open, larger gathering space outside of the commons adjacent to the grove of trees.
 - Better exits for gym.
 - Good space from corner at 23rd and HanfordSmall-Group Discussion - Cons:
 - There were a few concerns regarding the separation of the classroom pods.
 - Need more access points to the gym allowing entry from different areas of the school.
 - There was a common concern on having kids pass through the commons to access the gym and play area (when coming from the north pod) as it would create a high concentration of kids and potential bottleneck during lunches. One suggestion was to provide an additional stair or move the middle stair further south so kids can come to the ground level on the south side of the commons.
 - The current location of the stage blocks the connection to the play area and there were some concerns about having the stage open and accessible to kids in order to allow light through glass at the back of the stage.
 - Need ability to enter gym without crossing the commons/cafeteria.
 - Classrooms near residential areas.Group Discussion:
 - It would be nice to have restrooms by the gym accessible from the play area.
 - All restrooms should be gender neutral.
 - Having major circulation routes pass through commons poses a challenge on all three schemes.
 - Keep transparency of classroom in mind for parents.
- Below are SDAT's comments on **Concept Design #3 – Compact** (new scheme)
Small-Group Discussion - Pros:



- Nice and compact
- Great opportunity for a middle/center library
- Good building set-back and service drop-off is tucked near hill
- Commons has great view
- Potential for more inter-connectivity
- Admin is centrally located

Small-Group Discussion - Cons:

- Service drop off takes up a lot of space
- Potential noise problem for library
- View of roof for library
- Too much asphalt

Group Discussion:

- Positive response to the "closeness" of the classroom pods
- Concern about the noise transfer from the commons to the library.
- No real concern about having the family room located on the commons rather than at the secure vestibule.
- In terms of site design, a suggested improvement was to reduce the amount of paving on site.

- **Review of Classroom Concept**

- NAC presented goals and concepts regarding the classroom. Photos of classroom layout at Mary Lyon Elementary School, which was well received by the teachers, were shown to remind the group the characters of its design. This was followed by a comparison of the classroom layouts of the two schools and a presentation of examples of classroom design from other projects. The discussion was concluded with a group review of two possible classroom layouts – 3-classroom pod and 6-classroom pod.

Goals:

To provide classrooms that are inclusive, flexible and functional.

- Inclusive
 - Equitable learning environment that works for all students
 - Strategic plan: All students read well by 3rd grade
- Flexible
 - Connection between educational spaces
 - Sharing between teachers
- Functional
 - Teaching walls and tackable surfaces
 - Storage and bookshelves
 - Utilities

Comparison of Kimball and Mary Lyon Elementary Schools:



- Kimball has an open classroom concept and the circulation and access to the classrooms are within the classrooms. In contrast, Mary Lyon has well-defined circulation between classrooms and the shared learning space.

Examples of Classroom Layouts:

- Large glazed wall including sliding doors to classrooms
- Rolling barn doors between classrooms
- Two adjacent classrooms with folding doors at the corner where the classrooms meet the shared learning area.
- Overhead garage doors to classroom
- Walls with glazing at the upper portion and casework at the lower portion

Comments on Classroom Layouts:

- SDAT group discussed importance of need for students, teachers, and parents for a level of transparency.
- General consensus that it is more important for the classrooms to connect with each other (e.g. moveable walls between classrooms) more so than opening to the shared space.
- Flexibility is key.
- People like the image of the rolling barn door style of connection. It allows them to pin things on the doors, pocket doors, and relite windows.
- Issue with shared wall is that sometimes it might feel to one or both teachers that the shared wall belongs to neither one of them.
- How can we make the pods more visible and accessible to parents who are visiting? What do parents see and feel when they walk through the school? The group doesn't want to replicate the closed feeling at Arbor Heights Elementary School.
- For the layout with 3-classroom pods, it was suggested that the shared learning areas could be widen by pushing some classrooms further out.
- Access to a kitchen for classes would be a bonus.

- **Other Business**

- NAC will have a discussion session that will be opened to all staff and teachers to review the latest design. It's tentatively scheduled to be in the afternoon of Dec 11st.

- **Next Meeting**

- 5:00pm-7:00pm, December 19th, 2019 at school library

Prepared by Bingham Lai

cc: Paul Wight, Mike Skutack, Tina Christiansen

