

West Woodland Elementary School – Classroom Addition

Seattle Public Schools

1821.00-6

Meeting Minutes

SDAT Meeting 05

Prepared by: Matthew Bissen

May 6, 2:450 PM

Attendees:

■ Farah Thaxton (FT)	WWES	■ Jill Farbarik (JB)	WWES
■ Brian Langley (BL)	WWES	■ Marie Sumpter (MS)	WWES
■ Katie Barrett (KB)	WWES	■ Paula Wittmann (PW)	WWES
■ Wynne York-Jones (WYJ)	WWES	■ Nicole Selstead (NS)	WWES
■ Ashley McClaran (AM)	WWES	■ Melissa Winchester (MW)	KIDSinc
□ Mike Skutack (MS)	SPS	■ Paul Wight (PW)	SPS
■ Michael McGavock (MM)	mcg-ARC	□ Mitch Kent (MK)	mcg-ARC
■ Matthew Bissen (MB)	mcg-ARC	■ Ben Fields (BF)	mcg-ARC
□ Deborah Northern	SPS	■ Kelly Vancil	WWES

ITEMS DISCUSSED

I. INTRODUCTION

II. ACTIVITY

- A. Reviewed overall project scope, site layout, and overall 'C' building configuration to confirm group understanding and discuss follow up thoughts.
- B. Site Design Opportunities
 1. Presented options for courtyard and south early learning play area.
 - a. Discussed reuse of existing big toy. Current big toy is great except for 'the mushroom.' Design team is to investigate the reuse/relocation of existing with a new big toy as a potential alternate.
 - b. Central entrance to the school has significant student flow. It is like a 'highway' to the play field. Design should accommodate and not impede this flow as with any other new doors/access points to the courtyard.
 - c. Buffer area of either a rain garden or the formal outdoor learning space outside the library is a good direction.
 - d. The courtyard option is too segmented and does not allow for more open/expansive play. Some smaller defined areas are beneficial but more open hard surface area is needed. Use of pavement – maps, chessboard, four square, and numbers/letters will allow for open movement and learning opportunities.
 - e. Some tether ball in the courtyard is desired if there is not enough space in the lower paved area.
 - f. Some 'nature' play areas included would be well used by the students and may be effective in keeping them out of the rain gardens. Attention needs to be taken as to not have extensive areas of dirt and wood chips near entrances to track into the school.
 - g. Avoid creating large hiding spots.
 - h. The playground should be 'like a forest – there are no givens' avoid over programming the spaces.

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2. Presented options for the west playfields.
 - a. Discussed need for parking. After thought and feedback from the last meeting the group requested the team study a 7-10 parking stall option. The stalls are to be as efficient and as small as possible along the north end of the site. Discussed the fact that for any parking provided play area will be reduced. The group understood this tradeoff and will be discussed and balanced moving forward. To accommodate parking the group preferred losing portions of the grass field in order to maintain hard play surface area.
 - b. Kickball is an important game for the school. Make sure design and location of covered play accommodates.
 - c. Covered play should be provided with at least one larger covered area not fully distributed on site.
 - d. Child pick/up and drop off for lower grades could occur at the south end of the site. Potential new tradition and node developed on site to reduce hectic and congested main entry.
- C. Building Design Opportunities
 1. Presented early ideas regarding design drivers.
 - a. Existing building context, particularly the brick patterns window/fenestration strategies.
 - b. Natural daylight, particularly to the below grade commons and gym
 - c. Bringing the intense creativity that exists into the school to be more present on site and in the community.
 2. Presented three preliminary building massing options and early vignettes. Design team will proceed to develop the 'split ridge' option in further detail. Overall the option and general aesthetic approach was well received.
 - a. Discussed the need to replicate and/or match the existing building. Intent at this point is to use a similar material pallet and interpret not replicate the existing within the new wings.
 - b. Question raised on if the north and south wing should be similar or different. Intent at this point is for the new additions to result in two architectural languages on site (existing & new) not three (existing, new south, and new north)
 - c. North facing daylight option preferred by the group.
 - d. Dormer option did not resonate with group.
 - e. The idea of making the creativity of the school more present to the community was received well, however, do not over expose. Drawing people into the school and the 'mystery' of what is going on is an experience that exists now that should not be completely lost.
 - f. The south early learning 'porch' entry is strong in all three options.
 - g. Discussed how contextual the new additions should be. No strong feeling that the addition should replicate the old.
 - h. Noted to the group the building was recently NOT designated a landmark by the city.
 3. Presented and discussed various aspects of Linear or Node learning commons models. Open discussion. Members of the group were going to have follow up discussions with other teachers in their grade bands to discuss how they would engage learning commons spaces to inform a follow up discussion at SDAT 6
 4. Presented open flexible learning commons space as link between existing and new wing.
 - a. The displaced support offices in this area will need to be accommodated in the new plan.

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- b. Group excited about this space as a low stakes performance space and group learning space which supports both students in the existing and new wing. Verified there is one in the current planning for both floors.

III. HOMEWORK

5. Reflect on content and reach out to various constituents regarding the ideas discussed.

IV. THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 4:14 PM. NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON TUESDAY, 5/21 STARTING AT 2:45 PM.