

Project: 4j River Road School (1337)
Date: 4/24/15
From: Scott Clarke
Subject: Design Team Meeting 4/23/15

Attendance

Marcy Hellman
Joel Lavin
Ben Brantley
Curt Wilson
Scott Clarke
David Johnson
Alexis Screen
Curt Wilson
Jon Lauch
Beth Gerot
Karen Ramirez
Jon Lauch
John Stapleton
Chen Ji
Eileen Nittler
Greg Van Vlack
John Moriarity

Meeting Notes

- Curt Wilson talked about the agenda for the day, and noted that just one additional Design Committee meeting is scheduled, to take place May 21st at 3:00. May agenda items include discussion about art within the new building, exploration of the inclusion of historical information, the building as though of as a learning tool, and other topics that will be established in coming weeks.
- Curt reminded the group that construction activity will start this summer at the west end of the site, and that area will remain inaccessible until the new building is complete. This will affect the existing garden. See discussion of the garden below.
- Curt described the revised configuration of the area between the north edge of the school and Hilliard Lane. In response to input from neighbors, discussion with the city and county, and 4J preference, the configuration now includes a 6' landscape buffer at the street, then an 8' sidewalk (multi-use path) to the south of the buffer, and then landscaping from the sidewalk to the building (approximately 14'). Curt showed a section describing the configuration, along with a rendering that illustrated how the building and landscape will appear when viewed from the northwest.
- Beth Gerot commented that rock could be incorporated to diversify the landscape area, and that something like a sculpture would be a positive addition to the area along the street near the building

entrance. Various participants expressed the desire for blossoming plants and native species. Jon Lauch noted that Rhododendrons and Azaleas are flowering shrubs that are compatible with 4J's landscape maintenance operations.

- Curt presented a new rendering showing the revised stair configuration adjacent to the lobby and media center. This new arrangement features a lower concrete plinth than earlier versions, and includes wood elements that serve as cushions that suggest places for students to sit. The group supported the configuration, but expressed concern for acoustic control in this part of the building. Jon Lauch noted that acoustic panels could be added to the upper portion of the space's west wall.
- Curt presented an axonometric view of the community room, explaining the placement of casework, the configuration of the adjacent closet, and other features. Joel talked about the importance of this space. He foresees its use as a classroom for parents, including activities like cooking classes. He also said that a refrigerator was required for a variety of reasons, including the storage of donated perishable items made available to school families. The group established that the casework shown to the east of the countertop should be replaced with a space for a refrigerator. The remaining casework in the room is anticipated to be well utilized. Joel expressed appreciation of the large glass wall at the east side of the room, noting that transparency to the adjacent lobby is important. Tackable surfaces are desired on the walls.
- Joel talked about the importance of the closet that is accessed from the community room. While primarily slated for the storage of clothing, storage of many other kinds of items is anticipated. The group established that a door from the closet to the hallway, near the west end of the room, should be added. Curt noted that storage racks for the space can be provided as part of the furniture package, but that casework elements will be studied as potentially improving the utility of the space. Joel noted that Alicia Longoria can be consulted concerning the use of the closet and community room.
- Scott talked about a number of spaces within the administrative suite. He presented drawings that illustrated the intention for the records room, and asked if it was sufficient in size. Joel responded that, although enrolment is predicted to increase, records are increasingly digital, to allocate more space for paper records does not seem appropriate. Scott showed a hallway elevation that included the proposed mail cubbies and open shelving to be located outside of the small group room. The group agreed that the illustrated configuration was acceptable. The adjacent glazing for the conference room and principal's office was also discussed and determined to be acceptable. Scott asked Joel if he needed a full height bookcase within his office, and Joel responded that he did not. He asked about the potential for storage under the exterior window wall. PIVOT will study the potential for providing this. Joel indicated that the revised position of the principal's office door was an improvement over earlier drawings. Scott showed an elevation of the lactation room casework, which includes space for an under-counter refrigerator. He also showed the revised version of the health room, which has been modified to accommodate mechanical needs and the space for the security gate within the lobby. The group agreed that the revised configuration worked, including the window between the health room and the reception area. Scott asked if the counter area shown adjacent to the copier within the reception area should be allocated for support of the copier (as opposed to work space for the workstation). The group indicated that this would be a good idea, and that a low wall between the copier and work station would be appreciated.
- Jon Lauch talked about the proposed interim system for bus pick-up and drop-off during construction. The busses will pull up to the curb at the south edge of Hilliard Lane, freeing the existing parking lot for parent pick up. Bus circulation will be revised so that they approach the school from the west.
- John Moriarity talked about the need to move the existing garden before construction efforts begin at the west side of the school. Jon Lauch asked if the property owners to the east of the site might be willing to host the garden until completion of the new facility. Eileen and Greg thought that the neighbor would be willing, and will see that the neighbors are asked if this is a possibility. John Moriarity said that the garden is an important component of the existing curriculum, and will be in use until the last day of school. John Stapleton said that the area can remain accessible until that time. John Moriarity noted that the scheduling of relocating the garden will be difficult, and that the organization of the effort needs to happen right away.