

520 South Main Street  
Suite 2531  
Akron, OH 44311  
PH 330.572.2100  
FX 330.572.2102

# The Akron Architectural Group

Braun & Steidl Architects ■ GPD Group ■ Hasenstab Architects, Inc. ■ Moody Nolan, Inc. ■ TC Architects, Incorporated ■ URS  
**AKRON PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**Community Meeting #2**  
**POR Phase**  
**Betty Jane Community Learning Center**  
**Tuesday, March 22, 2005 @ 6:00 P.M.**

---

## In Attendance

J. George .....	Akron Public Schools
J. Beal .....	Akron Public Schools
M.J. Hoffman .....	Akron Public Schools
J. Reyes .....	Akron Public Schools
K. Gundry .....	Akron Public Schools
C. Dorner .....	Akron Public Schools
T. Kossuth .....	Akron Public Schools
P. George .....	Akron Public Schools
Martha Vechery .....	Akron Public Schools
Steve Dowgies .....	Akron Public Schools
Shelly Manos .....	Akron Public Schools
Kathy Beal .....	Akron Public Schools
Janet Mardis .....	Akron Public Schools
Becky Sims .....	Akron Public Schools
Michelle Fela .....	Akron Public Schools
T. Long .....	City of Akron
T. Albanese .....	Akron City Council
Melissa Donges .....	CPT
Lisa Watkins .....	CPT
Kathy Krul .....	CPT
Marcia Allman .....	CPT
Lucy Deazze .....	CPT
Pamela Row .....	CPT
Tom Noel .....	CPT
Bernadette Noel .....	CPT
Mike Myre .....	CPT
Joan Kosir .....	CPT
Sandy Marzano .....	CPT
Jean and Mike Roger .....	CPT
Tamera Sheriael .....	CPT
Betty Hershman .....	CPT
Kris Warren .....	CPT
Leo Jennings, III .....	Burgess & Burgess
S. Lukens .....	AAG
E. Beach .....	AAG
Dana Mitchell .....	AAG

## Distribution

M. Salopek .....	AAG
D. Mitchell .....	AAG
D. James .....	Akron Public Schools
J. Beal .....	Akron Public Schools

K. Ingraham .....	Akron Public Schools
F. Herr.....	Akron Public Schools
L. Duncan .....	City of Akron
T. Long.....	City of Akron
M. Williamson .....	City of Akron
D. Krutz.....	RKPS
L. Jennings, III .....	Burgess & Burgess

---

The following is a review of the items discussed at the meeting:

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. Jim Beal, APS
  - 1. Recap first Community meeting.
  - 2. Revisited Canton School bus trip.
  
- B. Leo Jennings
  - 1. Purpose of focus group discussion is to gauge public opinion.

II. COMMUNITY QUESTIONS / RESPONSES

The following questions are questions presented to the group. Below are numbered responses:

- A. Question: How is Akron doing?
  - 1. They think new schools will help keep people in community.
  - 2. There will be possible City layoffs if state funding cut.
  - 3. It is hard to find work; businesses are closing.
  - 4. Jobs are going overseas / out of state.
  - 5. Teaching jobs are hard to find because; staff funding being reduced, and declining enrollment.
  
- B. Question: How are the Akron schools doing?
  - 1. Good schools, good staff.
  - 2. Low student/teacher ratio makes for better education.
  - 3. Betty Jane does a good job.
  - 4. Discipline needs changed, "kids running the streets".
  - 5. A lot of parent involvement at ES level, parent involvement drops at MS level.
  - 6. Inadequate indoor play space facilities to "let kids let of steam" leads to discipline issues.
  
- C. Question: Do we need a new Betty Jane Elementary School?
  - 1. Most answered yes.
  
- D. Question: What happens to existing Betty Jane Elementary School when a new building is built?
  - 1. Betty Jane kids will stay at the existing school until new school is built.
  - 2. The Design/Document Phase will last 14-16 months; 12-16 months for construction.
  - 3. The existing school becomes a swing space for other schools in this cluster.
  - 4. Two separate entrances and playgrounds is a very likely solution.
  
- E. Question: What will happen to the Annex?
  - 1. Will have to be relocated to offsite facility.
  
- F. Question: How will students get to the Swing Space?
  - 1. Busing will be offered.
  - 2. Parents can bring their children to school.
  
- G. Question: How long will there be a dual campus?
  - 1. At least through the second segment.

- H. Question: How will traffic be handled with two schools on the site concurrently?
  - 1. The architects will try to design circulation to best meet circulation demand.
  - 2. The starting/closing times for the two schools will be staggered by ½ hour.
- I. Question: How will buildings be maintained?
  - 1. There is a Maintenance Fund as part of agreement to set aside \$1.5 mil/year in escrow account.

### III. AGENDA ITEM 4

- A. Question: Will the new building make a difference to the neighborhood?
  - 1. It will encourage people want to stay in community.
  - 2. The new building will help property values.
- B. The demographics in neighborhood were reviewed.
  - 1. 77% of families – both parents work.
  - 2. Therefore child care is a big issue for community use.
- C. Question: How do you like your current neighborhood?
  - 1. Crime is down.
  - 2. Homes are well maintained.
  - 3. Safe, quite.
  - 4. Small community, many people have been “born and raised” here.
  - 5. Ellet is a big sports community.
  - 6. OSFC is currently examining demographics; every three years.
  - 7. Redistricting will probably not happen at Betty Jane.
- D. Question: What is missing in the community?
  - 1. More space for kids.
  - 2. More athletic fields.
- E. It was stated that the new Community Learning Centers (CLC) are intended to be open in the evenings, on weekends and in the summer. There may be a fee to use the CLC for certain events.

### IV. NEW CLC USERS DISCUSSION

- A. Question: How do you see CLC’s being utilized?
  - 1. Which areas do you anticipate as most likely to be open to public?
    - a) Library/Media center
    - b) Gym
    - c) Dining Hall
- B. Question: What are the community needs?
  - 1. Senior programs.
  - 2. Continue voting.
  - 3. Child care; before and after care. (Early morning to 8-9 at night.)
  - 4. Summer camp; sports, science.
  - 5. Summer programs; non-traditional.
  - 6. Enrichment programs.
  - 7. Preschool program in same building as the proposed elementary school would be good for community needs.
- C. Question: Name additional recreational uses that would be good for the community
  - 1. After school tutoring programs (Sylvan model).
  - 2. Babysitting training through local Hospital.
  - 3. Can a classroom be subdivided for community use?

- a) Potentially, but the program currently includes two parent/volunteer rooms at 200 sf.
  - 4. Bicycle safety programs.
  - 5. Gymnasium programs.
    - a) Non-organized sports needed – open gym time for kids to “run and play”.
    - b) Activity as the focus, not team centered.
  - 6. Community Groups:
    - a) Girl/boy scouts (camp).
    - b) Self defense program.
    - c) Safety town – Fire Dept.
    - d) “Fire House” – fire safety.
    - e) Boys and girls club, urban league, AMHA (Findley Academy, Summit Academy).
  - 7. For profit / non-profit uses:
    - a) Children’s hospital.
    - b) Tax preparation classes / instructions.
    - c) Adult education.
    - d) Faith based uses.
- D. A question was asked from the floor concerning how security issues would be addressed at the proposed new facility:
- 1. Community Use rooms can be located near the main entry.
  - 2. Wings with limited access can be locked down.
  - 3. A night-time community office will be staffed for supervision.
  - 4. The building will be designed to not let kids climb the building (non-climbable masonry).
  - 5. Numerous site lighting and security cameras will be provided.
  - 6. Voting is an activity that occurs during school time; this needs to be separated; may or may not happen, depends on school district.
  - 7. The new facility can be located near the main road for increased visibility.
- E. A Teacher commented that the OSFC in-classroom storage may be inadequate.

V. WHAT **DON'T** YOU WANT IN THE PROPOSED CLC?

- A. Not a place to “hang out”.
- B. Unsupervised and unorganized programs.

VI. BUILDING ACCESSIBILITY WAS DISCUSSED:

- A. The new facility will be ADA accessible including:
  - 1. Toilets.
  - 2. Stage.
  - 3. All rooms and spaces.
  - 4. Ramps as required.
  - 5. An elevator will be provided for multi-story buildings.

VII. EMERGENCY USES WERE DISCUSSED:

- A. The new facility will include:
  - 1. A back up generator – for limited use.
  - 2. The Kitchen cooler/freezer on emergency power.
  - 3. Shelter areas for tornadoes, etc.

#### VIII. HOW CAN PEOPLE KNOW ABOUT THIS CLC PROCESS?

- A. Ward meetings.
- B. Channel 15.
- C. AARP.
- D. PTA newsletter.
- E. Posted at community center.
- F. Mailings.
- G. Website.
- H. Grocery store posters and other public places.
- I. Channel 23 News.
- J. Beacon Journal.

#### VIII. FUTURE LEVEES

- A. Next levee will be operating levee.
- B. Issue passed with City Income Tax, to provide community learning centers. Therefore, the proposed building must be accessible for the public.

#### IX. SUGGESTIONS?

- A. Involve the kids: Allow the children to submit their design ideas for the proposed school.
- B. Can a new pool facility be provided for each neighborhood, possibly at the high school level?

#### X. NEXT MEETING

The next Community meeting is a “Roll-up Sleeve” focus group, scheduled for April 5, 2005 around 2:45 pm at the school.

The preceding is AAG’s interpretation of the meeting. Any changes, additions, or clarifications should be forwarded to our office as soon as possible. Unless these changes are furnished within ten (10) working days, it will be understood that all parties are in agreement with the preceding statements.

Prepared by: Eric K. Beach, AAG

EKB/tak/bjc