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The Akron Architectural Group

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AKRON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**Introductory Meeting
Crouse Elementary School
Wednesday April 20, 2005**

In Attendance

K. Waller	AAG
L. Nunnally	AAG
J. Beal	Akron Public Schools
J. George	Akron Public Schools
M. Perkins	Akron Public Schools
T. Long	City of Akron
M. Walker	Akron Public Schools
L. Jennings	Burgess and Burgess
V. Thomas	Burgess and Burgess
P. McCluskey	School Staff
C. Acklin	School Staff
C. Preston	School Staff
E. Jenkins	School Staff
T. Hudson	School Staff
D. Dettling	School Staff
B. Isaiah	School Staff
J. Silas-Butler	Crouse Caring
M. Johnson	CPT
T. Watson	CPT
M. Hill	CPT
J. Hill	CPT
J. Toles	CPT
J. Toles	CPT
N. Reed	CPT
G. Porter	CPT
S. Gordin	CPT

Distribution

AAG Project Managers	
M. Salopek	AAG
D. Mitchell	AAG
J. Beal	Akron Public Schools
R. Jones	Akron Public Schools
L. Duncan	City of Akron
T. Long	City of Akron
M. Williamson	City of Akron

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

1. J. Beal opened the meeting and introduced V. Thomas who recited a poem and opened the discussion with a series of questions for the CPT.
2. **How do you think things are going in Akron?** A team member responded that she feels rather positive the programs offered in Akron Public Schools for reading and discipline. **What about Akron as a whole – not just the schools?** Team members are also pleased with the opportunities for community members to interact with the CLC planning process. They were also pleased with the growth of Akron in the development of new libraries and affordable housing.
3. **How do you think things are going in the Akron Public Schools?** Team members were pleased that school officials are getting the message that changing communities are not effectively served by the same buildings that were constructed 50 years ago. Communications from instructors to parents about their child are appreciated as well.
4. **What are the major issues facing the city? Your neighborhood or area of the city?**
 - Dropping enrollment
 - Unemployment/underemployment
 - Charter schools
 - Crime
 - Inadequacy of educational funding
 - Pricing discrimination between communities
 - Educational challenges
5. **The Community Learning Center's [CLC's] will be available for neighborhood groups, community activities, local agencies, and other approved organizations and uses.**
 - a. **What are some of the community needs you think can be met via the CLCs?**
 - Members of the team expressed an interest in seeing affordable childcare offered at the CLCs as childcare is generally expensive and many of the affordable programs are available only to the very poorest families. Tom Long stated that child care providers could offer their services at a much lower rate if they are able to operate out of the CLCs.
 - Because of many of the challenges to good jobs, many expressed a desire in seeing job and family training opportunities offered.

- Because work schedules rarely coincide with school schedules, many parents would like to see before and after school activities programmed at the CLC.

b. What agencies would you like to see in the CLC's?

- YMCA/YWCA could operate programs here

c. What are some of the programs that can be offered there?

- Public transit exists in the area, but the community could benefit from more frequent service.
- Some members expressed a desire to see programming for grandparents raising children.
- Anger management/violence prevention programs could be helpful
- Tutoring programs would be very helpful as well
- Crouse Caring Community desires space in the new facility. David James will be following up and coordinating with them for their space needs.

d. How do you think community groups might use the schools?

- The team expressed concerns about outside persons getting into classrooms. J. Beal and K. Waller cited some of the steps that will be taken to ensure the general public is isolated to appropriate parts of the building. Additionally, cabinets and storage provisions throughout the CLC will be lockable.
- Team members felt the Boys Clubs could help boys in the area in need of male mentoring.
- Crouse Community Caring has had a difficult time utilizing facilities when school maintenance staff is needed to open the building.

e. Should businesses be allowed to use the CLC's, or only non-profit groups?

The group expressed no objection to commercial use as long as there is appropriate compensation for using the facilities.

f. How about faith-based organizations?

- There was no objection to the CLC being used by faith-based groups

g. Do you think the community is aware of this project?

- Currently, materials are being sent home with the students. Additionally, local media have been engaged. A team member stated that any effort to publicize the project must clearly communicate to people in the community that they are welcome to the meeting and their input is solicited.

6. Is there anything you would like to make sure does NOT happen in the CLC's?

- Any programs serving sexual offenders would not be welcome by the group.
- No problem with voting, but security is an issue. Additionally, accessibility for all persons would have to be in place for Crouse to become a voting location again. J. Beal and K. Waller stated that an elevator will be provided and the general public could be kept to appropriate areas of the building.

7. T. Long stated that scheduling priority belongs to the school and that the city's use for the community would be provided outside of the times belonging to the school.

8. Several ideas for commercial partnerships were mentioned such as the Zoo and Subway. It has not yet been determined how monies received from commercial entities using the CLC would be distributed.

9. Roll-Up Sleeves meeting will take place on the following Wednesday s at 5:00 p.m.

April 27

May 5

May 11

The final Community Planning meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 17 at 5:00.

10. The meeting adjourned around 7:45 p.m.

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.