

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
Glover Community Learning Center
Thursday, April 7, 2005, at 6:00 P.M.

In Attendance

J. Beal	Akron Public Schools
L. Palmer	Akron Public Schools
K. Cox	Akron Public Schools
J. Dawson	Akron Public Schools
D. McBride	Akron Public Schools
S. Baxter	Akron Public Schools
J. Kinel	Akron Public Schools
L. Duncan	City of Akron
T. Tazin	City of Akron
L. Jennings	Burgess and Burgess
W. Ahern	AAG
S. Lukens	AAG
J. Cox	President, PTA
A. Hummel	V.P., PTA
M. Rudd	Secretary, PTA
A. Cogar	PTA
C. Barbee	CPT
L. Mathes	CPT
C. Brown	CPT
R. Roethel	CPT
T. Flight	CPT
K. Thomas	CPT
K. Conrad	CPT
C. Hunt	CPT
S. Withrow	CPT

Distribution

S. Lukens	AAG
W. Ahern	AAG
M. Salopek	AAG
R. King	AAG
D. Mitchell	AAG
J. Barath	AAG
J. Wheeler	AAG
K. Waller	AAG
D. James	Akron Public Schools
J. Beal	Akron Public Schools
R. Jones	Akron Public Schools
K. Balchak	Akron Public Schools
J. George	Akron Public Schools
R. Blum	Akron Public Schools
L. Duncan	City of Akron
L. Jennings	Burgess & Burgess
T. Long	City of Akron
M. Williamson	City of Akron
D. Krutz	RKPS

I Introduction

- A. Leo Jennings welcomed everyone and explained the use of the Central Community Learning Center which will be the swing space for 17 to 18 Elementary Schools. A video about the facility at 400 West Market was viewed. Items mentioned after the video by Leo were:
1. Safety and security are number one priorities.
 2. There is a new playground.
 3. There will be two (2) schools housed at one time, one per floor.
 4. Fairlawn and David Hill Elementary are the first two schools that will use the facility.
 5. Each school will have its own Art Center.
 6. Cafeteria and Media Center will be shared by the two schools.
- B. Leo then fielded the following questions:
- Q. Will meeting rooms be available for PTA meetings, for example?
- A. Yes, there are Conference Rooms at the separate office area.
- Q. Are there two (2) separate gyms?
- A. Currently, there is not a gym. There is space allocated for P.E. The construction of a gymnasium is being reviewed at this site.
- Q. Are there separate entrances for each school?
- A. No, but scheduling will solve possible congestion problems. The two schools will have staggered start, finish, and lunch times.
- Q. How long will the first schools be at the swing space?
- A. Two (2) years. It is possible that they may only spend ½ of the second year there.

II Focus Groups

- A. Leo reviewed the previous (first) Community Meeting and then explained that this meeting is a Focus Group. He asked the following questions:
- Q. How do you feel about the City of Akron?
- A-1. Having been here all my life, I like living in Central Akron. The city is changing, growing.
- A-2. Like it because it has good teachers.
- A-3. Have some problems raising kids here. Worried about safety in the neighborhood.
- Q. What about the economy in the city? Is it hard to get a job? Do we need new job skills?
- A-1. Yes, it can be hard to find work.
- A-2. Part-time work is hard to find, especially one that adjusts to a mother's schedule.
- A-3. Job security is important and it seems to be less secure – more difficult to have, even with newer job skills.

A-4. Yes, new skills are important.

Q. How good of a job are the COA schools doing?

A-1. Better than Cleveland.

A-2. I worry about inconsistency. Is there a different level of education on one side of town from the other?

A-3. Teachers are good.

A-4. Schools stay consistent, while some neighborhoods go down in quality.

Q. Are the neighborhoods a source of inconsistency?

A-1. Yes, some schools don't even have a PTA.

Q. To the teachers – Do you feel better when parents are involved and care?

A-1. From teachers, yes!

A-2. From a parent, if the schools are all equally made the same, will the parents (non-involved) remain the same?

Q. Can the design of each school match the neighborhood?

A. From Scott Lukens – Yes, basic programming will be the same, but the looks of the school and the arrangement of it can differ. Outside funding can also provide additional features or spaces.

B. Leo reviewed demographics of the Glover neighborhood. Some of them were:

1. Racially mixed.
2. 28% had no high school degree.
3. 30% had some college.
4. Equal mix of people in service, sales, management, blue collar, and professional work.
5. 63% are families.
6. 45% have young children.
7. 30% have both parents working.
8. 34% household makes under \$20,000/yr.
9. 60% Owner occupied homes.
10. 59% have lived in same home for 10 years or more.

C. Leo asked what could be implemented at the new CLC to make the neighborhood better.

1. GED training for adults.
2. Childcare
 - a. There are a great deal of latch-key children who go home to empty homes.
 - b. Parents cannot afford after school programs at various institutions.

D. Loraine Duncan spoke about the facility as a Community Education Center and asked what other programs could be held to help the neighborhood.

1. Gymnastics for children.
2. Evening gym for older people (an over 30 basket league).

E. Loraine explained that for after hour use, the school's programming has a higher priority than the COA programs.

1. She stressed that the community needs to put forth their ideas for programs.

2. She used Mason Elementary as an example where women will be teaching the 'lost art' of knitting and crocheting to young people.
 3. More extensive cooking and sewing classes was mentioned by a parent.
 4. John Dawson stated that Child Guidance programs will be held.
 5. Community Theater where children can participate.
 6. Adult literacy.
 7. Adult tutoring of children.
 8. Childcare while adults are in programs.
 9. Summer programs; some that are fun, not just educational.
- F. Leo fielded a few more questions.
- Q. Should businesses be able to use the CLC spaces?
 - A. Several answered, yes.
 - Q. What about faith base organizations?
 - A. No comments.
 - Q. Is the community aware of these meetings?
 - A-1. No.
 - A-2. Many parents are not even aware of the timing of the new CLC.
- G. Loraine addressed questions about affordability regarding programs.
1. She stated that it depends on funding, which varies from year to year. Currently the COA and APS have several programs in place.
 2. Leo addressed after school care and how it can be bid and awarded to a consultant.
 3. Leo explained that they will be compiling a prospectus of various businesses and organizations that might utilize the CLC.
 - a. A joint committee from the COA and the APS Board will review and make decisions on what outside organizations and businesses use the facility.
- H. Security was a common theme that was discussed several times.
1. In response to a parent, Leo had Scott Lukens speak on the controlled entry to the schools.
 - a. The layout will allow a lock-out of the staff area from the rest of the school (in regard to daytime meetings).
 - b. A staff person controls the entrance by use of a Salley Port vestibule where one enters one pair of locked doors, but must wait for a second pair to be released to enter the building.
 - c. Cameras will monitor all other locked egress doors.
 2. John Dawson liked the security camera set up at Allen Elementary School in Canton.
 - a. He suggested that parents go on the next trip to this school to see their security setup.
 3. Leo stressed that the CLC will not be a place where people are allowed to 'hang out'. You will have to be participating in a scheduled program to be allowed in the facility.
 4. In response to the possibility of sex offenders being in the facility for programs, Leo offered that the environment created by the people using the CLC would be one of responsible adults who would be looking out for children's safety. It would not be a

place where one comes for criminal activity due to the number of people on site that would not stand for such things to take place.

5. In response to whether or not playgrounds can be internal to the facility or fenced in with locked gates, the response was that they need to remain accessible outside as part of the community.

III Closing

- A. Jim Beal explained that he is collecting written questions. They will be answered at the next meeting. If not able to attend, one should be sure to list enough information so Jim can contact them with an answer.
- B. The RUS (Roll Up Sleeves) meetings are the next series of meetings for Glover. There will be three with the first one next Thursday, April 15, 2005, at 2:45 p.m. (right after school).
 1. Scott Lukens explained that this meeting will deal with programming of the CLC spaces.
 2. The second RUS meeting will focus on site layout.
- C. There will be another field trip to Canton's Allen Elementary School on Saturday, April 16, 2005, Maps were provided. There will not be a bus service. You should arrive at the school (in Canton) at 9:00 a.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.

Prepared by: William E. Ahern, AAG