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The Akron Architectural Group

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AKRON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Community Planning Meeting #2
Jennings Middle Community Learning Center
Thursday, January 29, 2004

In Attendance

C. Diehl AAG
D. Spehar AAG
J. Beal Akron Public Schools
J. Taylor Akron Public Schools
F. Cheatem Akron Public Schools
J. Bell Akron Public Schools
C. Bannerman Akron Public Schools
P. Long Akron Public Schools
P. Lewis Akron Public Schools
C. Genemans Akron Public Schools
J. Cook Akron Public Schools
S. Hall Akron Public Schools
D. Horrigan City of Akron (City Council)
J. Egan City of Akron
R. Donatelli City of Akron
T. Cargo International Institute
S. Stock CPT
E. Cameron CPT

Distribution

AAG Project Managers
M. Salopek AAG
D. Mitchell AAG
D. Loomis Akron Public Schools
J. Beal Akron Public Schools
J. Taylor Akron Public Schools
L. Duncan City of Akron
T. Long City of Akron
M. Williamson City of Akron
D. Krutz RKPS
L. Jennings Burges and Burges

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

- The Alliance field trip was discussed. The following likes, dislikes, and recommendations for Jennings were made based on observations from the field trip.
 - Distance learning room was good.
 - § Concern about location of computer Lab. Jennings current lab doubles as distant learning and is in the media center. Should be adjacent.
 - § Jennings computer lab is too tight — 20 workstations /6 laptops. Requires a separate teaching space.
 - Everyone agreed that the spaces in Alliance were vanilla. Need to be more playful with color.
 - The Gymnasium was a good size to be split. Currently Jennings has 2 (1 big and 1 small).
 - Furniture must be sized for children.
 - § Chairs connected, or not?
 - § Need flexibility for different size children.
 - Interior finishes materials.
 - § Wood?
 - § Color and warmth needed.
 - The layout of spaces (classrooms, administration, common spaces) was discussed.
 - § 6 teachers for 8th
 - § 2 - 6 grade teams — 4 teachers each
 - § 2 — 7th grade teams — 4 teachers each
 - § Music Rooms should be remote for sound isolation.
 - § Big Music Rooms get noisy. Provide sound baffles and space for competitions 100 kids +.
 - § Music
 - Orchestra practice on stage isn't good: conflict with stage and drama.
 - Currently 3 music rooms.
 - Band room tiered.
 - 3-1/2 music teachers who spend mornings at elementary schools.
 - 7th and 8th grade music scheduled back to back in afternoons.
 - Auditoria
 - Plywood floor on stage is not good.
 - Kitchen
 - Jennings has a full cooking kitchen not warming like Alliance.
 - Security at Door
 - The Alliance entrance layout is good. Everyone liked filtering visitors through Administration.
 - Jennings currently has separate entrances for each grade.
 - Offices
 - Width of hallways in suite should be ample.
 - In each wing — good?
 - Jennings has 1-1/2 counselors that should be centralized.
- The site plan was discussed. Sketches were generated based the following comments.
 - Children come to the school from all directions. There is no primary access point to the site.
 - Community garden opportunity. Possibly on roof of split-level building.
 - Like the look of pitched roof buildings. The OSFC prefers pitched roofs.
 - Like the courtyard concept.

- Main entry location:
 - § Should address Tallmadge and create a presence without being too grand. Provide exterior covered area for children waiting to be picked-up.
 - § Consider separate entries for 6th, 7th, and 8th grades?
- Primary vehicular access should be from Tallmadge.
- There are safety issues with sidewalks on Dayton Avenue. This needs to be addressed by adding space between the walk and road.
- Can detail elements or historic parts/pieces from the existing building be used in new construction? J. Beal to photo document potential items.
- It was noted that Akron's student population was 62k in the late 60s compared to 29K in 2004. The overall development of Jennings and all schools should provide future flexibility should the population increase.
- Provide school bus drop-off area.
- All agreed that the new building should ride the ridge and be placed in the center of the site. D. Spehar noted that the placement of the building should address the following:
 - § Ample space between the new and existing buildings for security, access and constructability.
 - § Cut/fill of earth should be balanced as much as possible to minimize sitework cost.
 - § Provide enough green space adjacent to Patterson Park for shared community ball fields.
- Patterson Park uses the existing football/soccer field more than APS and the track is not used much. R. Donatelli stated that a study could be done to possibly swap the football field with a softball field in Patterson Park. This would better use the available land behind the new building and create a strong community link to the park.
- J. Taylor suggested that the existing Gymnasium/Cafeteria/Auditorium addition could be maintained after the existing school is demolished. This could be converted into a Community Center accessed by the school and community on Jennings campus.

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.