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The Akron Architectural Group

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AKRON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Community Planning Meeting #3
Voris Community Learning Center
Wednesday, February 4, 2004 @ 5:30 p.m.

In Attendance

K. Waller AAG
J. Novak AAG
D. Loomis Akron Public Schools
F. Herr Akron Public Schools
J. Beal Akron Public Schools
R. Mikula..... Akron Public Schools
G. Wolfe..... Akron Public Schools
L. Goumas..... Akron Public Schools
L. Ereth..... Akron Public Schools
J. Bucy..... Akron Public Schools
A. Lanham CPT
M. Tokie..... CPT
M. Sokolich..... CPT
B. Shields CPT
G. Rohrbough..... CPT
S. Carr CPT
L. Bish CPT
M. Marz..... CPT
W. Miller..... CPT
S. Taylor CPT
J. Davidson..... CPT
J. Smart CPT
M. Cole CPT
A. Crouse..... CPT
S. Taylor CPT

Distribution:

AAG Project Managers
M. Salopek..... AAG
D. Mitchell..... AAG
D. Loomis Akron Public Schools
J. Beal Akron Public Schools

K. Ingram.....	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:

ALLIANCE TOUR COMMENTS

1. Instructors prefer lockers with a door over the open face cubbies which were used in Rock Hill Elementary. The group felt that lockers in the hall way facilitate a more orderly classroom environment by 1)eliminating storage of personal belongings in the classroom and 2) isolating to the corridor the socializing that usually takes place at the lockers.
2. The administrative area adjacent to the main entrance seemed institutional and uninviting . The principal s office, along with a few other rooms, felt distant from the secretarial/reception area as they are located down a curved passage and have no visual connection to the reception/secretarial area.
3. Painted CMU block alone is not very interesting. Team members suggested the use of glazed CMU to bring more interest to the interior environment. One example mentioned was the band of ceramic tile that was decorated by students at Alliance Middle School.
4. Tackboard and chalkboard/markerboard space in Rock Hill is not sufficient. Instructors wanted to ensure there will be adequate opportunity to use wall mounted writing and tackable areas.
5. Putting partitions around the toilet in the Kindergarten Rooms will allow simultaneous use of the toilet and sink.
6. Instructors prefer having one Teacher s Lounge instead of multiple lounges throughout the building. They do not wish to be segregated from one another during their non-curricular time.
7. The new facility should allow abundant natural lighting.
8. Doors to classrooms should have adjacent sidelights.
9. A preference for sloped or barreled roofs instead of flat roofs was expressed because they drain water more effectively.
10. Many staff members felt that adequate storage for physical education equipment and student dining furnishings was not provided in Rock Hill Elementary.
11. Voris staff liked the use of group handwash sinks which can be visibly monitored from the corridor.

12. All present felt the combination lunch table/bench/testing table was a very useful solution for dining and assembly areas.
13. Storage of chairs under the stage was brought up. Several responses were voiced stating that a storage area such as this would result in several additional fire safety and construction requirements in order to meet code.

OVERVIEW OF P.O.R. STATUS

14. Staff members expressed a desire to have a room designated for computer instruction. However, it was mentioned that there is no dedicated computer instruction staff in place. Additionally, providing the approximately 1,000 square feet needed for a computer room would require removing square footage from other parts of the building. Because of the number of specialists and staff associated with supplemental curricular programs coming to the school, several other parts of the building will be need to house their activities and related materials.
15. Some would like to see more flexibility brought to the classroom areas by providing movable partitions between some of the rooms.
16. R. Mikula stated that minimizing the number of rooms shared will maximize the building s usefulness.
17. The building and the spaces therein should not be built to persons currently in position. Rather they should be designed around the long term use of the space.
18. Room names as identified on the drawings will have to be consistent with OSFC categorizations. However, the actual use of the space will largely be determined the school staff.

SCHEMATIC SITE PLAN OPTIONS REVIEW

19. Three schemes were presented. The following concerns/comments were voiced:
 - How does parking for special events work?
 - Prevent through traffic between Firestone Blvd. and Glenmount Ave.
 - Adequate drives/parking for picking-up/drop-off as nearly 70 parents drive to the school each day. This will be exacerbated by the presence of another school on the site.
 - Will the school s address change?
 - Prevent shared access between buses and other vehicles
 - Glenmount Ave. is more heavily traveled then Firestone Blvd and the preference is to orient the school with the front toward Glenmount Ave.
20. The group expressed an overall approval for Scheme C which positions the building toward the west facing Glenmount Ave. The parking to the south of the building acts as a buffer between the school and the commercial activity on Waterloo Road. Additionally, much of the green space is left in tact and provides adequate area for a future partner.

SCHEDULE FOR UPCOMING MEETINGS

21. The next Roll-Up Sleeves Planning Meeting will take place on Wednesday, February 11 at 6:00 p.m. following the tour of Worley Elementary School in Canton. The fourth P.O.R. Planning meeting will be held the following Wednesday, February 18 at 5:30 p.m.