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AKRON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**Community Planning Meeting #2
Findley Community Learning Center
Tuesday, January 6, 2004 @ 5:30 p.m.**

In Attendance

S. Lukens.....	AAG
C. Schreckenberger.....	AAG
R. Habel	AAG
D. Loomis	APS
C. Smith.....	APS
H. Hennes.....	APS
J. Robb	APS
N. Parish.....	APS
D. Butz.....	APS
C. Nelson.....	APS
S. Forbes	APS
D. Taylor	WAKR
L. Duncan	City of Akron
T. Long	City of Akron
C. Kline.....	CPT
M. Nardell	CPT
N. Way.....	CPT
K. Bishop	CPT
T. Keith	CPT
C. Collins	CPT
K. Wolf.....	CPT
T. Pogwizd.....	CPT
S. Sarli.....	CPT
C. Pinto.....	CPT
H. Tomic	CPT
J. Berman	CPT
C. Coleman.....	CPT
J. Shea	CPT
M. Blakemore	CPT
B. Hanlon.....	CPT
B. Valentine	CPT
D. Parker	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
J. Berman	Concordia
B. Hill	Concordia

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

- J. Wheeler introduced himself as did all those in attendance. D. Mitchell and J. Wheeler reviewed the meeting agenda.
- Enrollment projections were reviewed. It was stated that there are currently approximately 400 students at Findley. D. Loomis indicated that the original projected student count for this school was 350 students and that is based upon Year 2000, state GIS information. She expects new information hopefully by this Friday, January 9, 2004. Those counts relate to many factors. Redistricting of some students and special ed. students may occur. This may adjust the final figures. She asked that the group give her time because the State is reassessing figures for Akron, Cleveland, Canton, and Youngstown.
- D. Loomis stated that there will be a bus tour to Alliance City Schools for an example of a large elementary school recently completed under current OSFC standards. This will be a good introduction for all interested parties to view classroom sizes, building layout, amenities, etc.
- D. Mitchell reviewed the assessment of the existing buildings and explained the two-thirds guideline for replacement or renovation of the existing buildings. Findley is currently assessed as borderline, although certain portions of the building are wood frame construction. D. Loomis noted that currently, OSFC will not fund renovation of any wood frame structures and that this, along with other factors, replacement cost being the main one, is the reason Findley is slated for replacement. This discussion led to a review of the current building. The gym is used after school hours. Sometimes, after-school activities are in conflict and need to be scheduled. The importance of adding one more multipurpose or large space was stressed. J. Wheeler and D. Mitchell asked all present what sort of other programs are currently being held in the school and around the community that could be held, if space were available, in the new school. Character Counts and other school-based programs such as Akron University tutoring programs, community meetings, adult training, and presentations were listed as potential uses. Also described were new spaces to be designed into the new buildings such as the Cafetorium which has a stage, the Learning Resource Center, a separate Gymnasium, and the potential for large Classrooms such as combined Art and Music with a possible divider down the middle.
- Principal D. Butz stated that if the Cafetorium and the Gym spaces are provided, he believes ninety percent of the conflicts will be eliminated.

- J. Wheeler asked whether or not there is a need for classrooms for specific community use groups such as single parents. A teacher voiced concern about a classroom being used as community space and stated that as long as there is secure storage, the classrooms used for community space(s) after-hours would be acceptable. J. Wheeler also mentioned that the reason the questions were being asked is to determine what spaces are required for the community, where certain things are to be located in conjunction with one another, and how the building is secured and used after-hours.
- T. Keith of North Hill Community Center and C. Coleman of NANC asked how the community partnering opportunities happen and when is a proper time to bring them up. The answer provided was now. D. Mitchell stated that it is the main objective of these meetings that ideas, issues, and areas of study should be discussed so that the proper involvement of the new Community Learning Center can properly engage the site and surrounding community.
- T. Keith reviewed a number of community needs that have been discussed for many years for the area in and around the site. These include respite care, fitness facilities, meeting rooms, party rooms, computer and learning centers, continuing education centers, neighborhood community centers, and AMHA current and continued use of adjacent sites. T. Keith showed plans of previous site studies in an around the Findley triangle, specifically community center adaptive reuse of the Dollar General Store. T. Long and D. Loomis encouraged some of the same people attending the meeting to share their information next Thursday at the Jennings meeting at 5:30 p.m. There are many partnering opportunities to be discussed between AMHA, City Hospital, Campus Vision, The University of Akron, and others in and around the North Hill area.
- M. Blakemore of AMHA noted that the AMHA is currently looking to continue investment in the area and they have been waiting on the Findley vision to take shape. They will then be better able to understand what role AMHA will have in the area. Currently, AMHA has approximately \$5M to \$6M available to rework the existing AMHA facilities in the area. T. Long asked if this number is definite. R. Habel mentioned the possibility of master planning the entire area with the school and the school component and looking toward a larger vision of not just the immediate site, but the community at large. M. Blakemore mentioned the ability to tie to other components currently in the City to re-invigorate this area, such as the Memorial Pkwy Park and trial and proposed housing development. It was stated that opportunities for a campus-like atmosphere is a real possibility. T. Long added the importance of finding financing options and discussing those in upcoming meetings.
- D. Mitchell asked if the known local components can be tapped for investment. T. Keith mentioned ongoing discussions the North Hill Community Center has had with Summit County Port Authority as a financial investor, CSB, Akron General Medical Center, and other health and service providers interested in the area. It was suggested that a separate meeting might be held between the community end users and the stakeholders. In addition to this meeting, those attending that type of meeting should plan to continue to attend the Findley Community Learning Center meetings. T. Parker of Divine Apostolic Church discussed the Church's thoughts about a community center. They are interested in continuing discussions at both meetings.
- There was a video presentation with the result being a belief that the first and ending portions were valuable, but the intermediate portion should be shortened or removed. AAG will make these changes for future presentations.
- Photographic examples were shown. D. Loomis commented on a number of the existing schools in the Canton area of the slide show of Worley Elementary and the reuse of existing building

stones and pieces of the existing buildings into the new buildings. Examples of layouts of the cafeteria, stage, and gym were shown. D. Mitchell gave an example of Worley Elementary's connection of, cafetorium, stage, and gymnasium and also described other projects he has worked on that have a stage at one end, a cafetorium and gym with partitions that open so that very large community meetings and programs can occur.

- There was a discussion of the POR. J. Wheeler distributed to those not in attendance at the first meeting the Educational Specifications Summary of the Akron Public Schools as well as the bracketing information. He noted that both the Summary and the POR should be reviewed in depth by all in attendance and that a majority, up to fifty percent of the discussion in the third meeting will be to generate, discuss, and understand the program of requirements. Reviewing the Summary as well as the Bracketing Form shows the differences between what OSFC is requiring for this 350-student elementary and what Akron Public Schools has used as a basis to expand and provide additional APS-specific requirements to the elementary building.
- Currently, Findley has four Kindergartens with seventeen students in each, four First Grades, four Second Grades with fifteen to twenty-two students, three Third Grades, three Fourth Grades, and five and one half Special Education.
- A Findley teacher noted that a Pre-School at or adjacent to the site is very desirable and asked if this is a viable option for this area.
- There was a question about the Copy Room size. Is there room for two copiers? D. Mitchell answered that it depends on the size of the copiers, but that a normal single commercial copier is what is programmed for the current Copy Room.
- There was a question about Faculty Showers. This is part of Gym requirements. A number of teachers suggested that the showers could be supplemented or replaced with a washer and dryer as that is a more immediate need for the elementary.
- There was a question about the size of the restrooms and whether large versus individual room restrooms can be reviewed. D. Mitchell indicated that individual restrooms within rooms or clusters of rooms is not currently endorsed by the OSFC. Single, small restrooms are provided in all the Pre-K/Kindergarten rooms. D. Loomis added that reviewing and visiting some of the schools will allow the teachers to be able to see a number of different layouts, i.e., bathrooms around a center cluster and bathrooms on multiple floors. This will alleviate many of the concerns and the time it takes in the current building to move an entire class through the restroom facilities.
- There was a general discussion about instructional spaces. All these spaces will be 900 square feet and will have windows.
- J. Wheeler presented an aerial photograph of the surrounding area and an enlargement of the triangular area around the Findley school. T. Long mentioned a number of issues that have been discussed in the past for this triangle, i.e., the location of Wall Street, the importance of existing utilities for the AMHA housing as well as Dollar General, and the ownership and potential purchasing by a future buyer of the corner Dollar General and old Lawson's store.
- J. Wheeler reviewed some of the site constraints and the need to review in upcoming meetings the preliminary site planning that has occurred. Locating the building to the west or the narrow end of Cuyahoga Street and Tallmadge Avenue, the proximity to the street, the temporary lack of a playground, parking or both, during a fifteen-month construction process. If located to the east, the current building, practical building size, Wall Street issues, and the potential connections to

current and future AMHA and Dollar General property may lend itself to a more campus atmosphere and interconnectivity between future uses in these areas.

Saturday, January 24, 2004 was established as the date for the bus tour to Alliance. The bus will leave from the Administration Building at approximately 9:00 a.m. and return after 12:00 noon.

POR Meeting No. 3 was scheduled for Tuesday, January 27, 2004 at 5:30 p.m. The Tuesday, January 20, 2004 meeting has been postponed so that the site visit and bus tour can occur. This will help to facilitate more fruitful discussions at the January 27, 2004 meeting. D. Mitchell note that existing time frames require us to complete this POR process by late February.

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.