

# The Akron Architectural Group

Braun & Steidl Architects ■ GPD Group ■ Hasenstab Architects, Inc. ■ Robert P. Madison International, Inc. ■  
TC Architects, Inc. ■ Fanning Howey Associates, Inc.

## AKRON PUBLIC SCHOOLS Community Meeting #1 McEbright Community Learning Center November 29, 2007

### In Attendance

D. Brown.....	Akron Public Schools
D. James.....	Akron Public Schools
T. Long.....	City of Akron
S. Buschko.....	City of Akron
M. Salopek.....	GPD
E. Beach.....	Hasenstab Architects

Tom Long, David Brown (Principal of McEbright), David James, Mark Salopek, Steve Buschko and Eric Beach introduced themselves.

The goals for this meeting included providing basic information, outlining plans and the new McEbright Community Learning Center (CLC), obtaining community input, answering questions and concerns, and recruiting a community planning team.

The Program Summary and Review of Partnerships were presented by Mark Salopek and David James discussed key components of community learning centers:

- Safe and secure learning environment for students and teachers.
- Facility availability for variety of uses by community during evenings and weekends, summers, and school hours as appropriate.

Tom Long explained the history of the City of Akron's support and planning of Community Learning Centers. Mr. Long described the community use spaces located in Community Learning Centers.

Steve Buschko discussed facility use rules and regulations. He noted that the CLC is first and foremost a school.

The first Community Meeting and future Roll-Up-Your-Sleeves Meetings (RUS) with the community planning team will facilitate the completion of the Program of Requirements (POR) for the new school. A final community planning meeting will be held on January 15, 2008 and 6:00 p.m. at McEbright. One of the future RUS meetings will be held at David Hill so that planning team members can tour that facility to see what can be expected for McEbright.

Eric Beach discussed the project planning milestones, reviewed the different project phases, and identified the programming through bid package as taking approximately 17 months and groundbreaking through commencement of construction as approximately 18 months. As we begin in December of 2007, if we do not change anything, the new McEbright should be available in the fall of 2010. The design team and the Owner team are always working to complete the design component as quickly as possible.

Student capacity and programming were reviewed:

- McEbright is currently scheduled for 350 students.
- The current building size is 39,429 square feet.
- The proposed building size is 48,755 square feet.
- The students will swing into the Old Mason until the new Community Learning Center is completed.

Eric Beach reviewed the 350 student POR model, identified the Locally Funded Initiative (LFI) of 9,120 square feet, and reviewed the graphic representation of the classrooms and the POR as examples of the programming process to occur in future RUS meetings.

Site standards, playgrounds, green play surfaces, hard play surfaces, bus loading, parent drop-off, staff parking, convenient visitor entrance, and a recognizable front door were discussed. Eric reviewed sample rooms and classroom features, technology, music and art rooms, media centers, and assembly spaces.

A question and answer session followed the slide presentation including the following:

- Staff questioned the location of lockers within classrooms. Eric Beach explained that lockers in classrooms prevented students from wandering the halls when out of the classroom. Staff expresses a strong preference for lockers located in corridors.
- Staff expressed a concern that the design team would not implement staff suggestions. Eric Beach and Mark Salopek committed themselves to be good listeners and to try to accommodate staff needs within the limitations of the project budget and program.
- A resident asked a question about bussing at the new CLC and to the swing space. David James confirmed that students will be bussed to the swing space.
- The physical education instructor asked if the new CLC would have a wood gym floor. Eric Beach responded that the elementary standard was Vinyl Composition Tile (VCT) on concrete. The physical education instructor indicated a strong preference for wood over resilient sleepers to limit student injuries.
- Eric Beach described how features that exceeded the standard design could be included as "Alternates", at the time of Bid, and if pricing was acceptable to the District, added features would become part of the project.
- Staff asked if doors between classrooms were possible, Eric Beach responded yes. Eric noted that corridor entrance doors to classrooms were usually grouped together in twos so additional doors were usually not required.
- Special Education staff asked about those spaces. Eric Beach noted they included in-room bathrooms for low-incidence students. High-incidence classrooms were not different from typical classrooms and are "mainstreamed" into the classroom wings. Staff asked about "Sensory Deprivation" spaces for "SED" students. Eric Beach requested the staff person contact their APS Special Education Coordinator for district policies.
- The air handling systems and the noise level at the Voris gym were discussed. This issue will be addressed during the design phase for McEbright. A mechanical unit will not be located in the gymnasium.
- Also discussed: Building security system, storage for each floor, and the elevator. The CPT will visit other schools to obtain a better understanding of their programs
- There was a general discussion about after school programs for the school, such as the Butch Reynolds after-care that holds children after school until their parents are able to come for them.
- There was a question about restrooms. Large restrooms for the students will be located on both floors with sinks visible from the corridors. There are staff toilets located at each floor usually located adjacent to teacher preparation spaces that serve as lounges.
- Staff noted that the University of Akron provides student tutors for this school.

The next meeting has been scheduled by the Principal, for December 17, at McEbright, at 2:45 p.m. The tour of David Hill has been scheduled for December 19, at 3:00 p.m. at David Hill.

The meeting ended at approximately 7:30 p.m. with the program leaders thanking everyone for attending.

Prepared by: Eric Beach, HAI

cc: Paul Flesher, Gary Renya, Mark Moore, Tom Long, Laraine Duncan (City of Akron) (APS to distribute meeting minutes to Principal and attendees.)