



Van Ness ES Pre-SIT Meeting Minutes

FINAL January 7, 2015

1) Attendees

- a) DCPS – Monica Liang-Aguirre, Patrick Davis, Julienne Vinson, Andrew Katz-Moses
- b) DGS-DCPEP – Hakim Chambers, Adnan Mamoon, Deanna Newman, Meagan Miller
- c) Quinn Evans Architects (QEA) – Jeff Luker, Dan Curry, Tracy Hucul
- d) DGS Communications Team – Darrell Pressley
- e) Parents and community members
 - i) Katherine Wilson (parent)
 - ii) Meredith Fascett (parent + ANC commissioner)
 - iii) John Russell (community member)
 - iv) Bobby Lundy (parent + community member)
 - v) Susan McNeill (parent + community member)
 - vi) Rebecca Sohmer (parent + community member)
 - vii) Ila Furman (parent + UNPG)
 - viii) Marisa Scalera (parent)
 - ix) Michael Mills (parent)
 - x) Bruce Darconte (NSCP President + Amidon-Bowen ES PTA)
 - xi) Nathan Alberg (community member + local architect w/KCCT)
 - xii) Michael Skena (parent)
 - xiii) Martin Welles (parent + Amidon-Bowen ES PTA)
 - xiv) Laurie Putscher (District of Columbia Housing Authority)
 - xv) Jesse Skidmore (parent + community member + member of NYNA)
 - xvi) Kelly Stormer (President of Van Ness Parent Group)

2) SIT Overview

- a) Composed of 10-15 representatives, ideally no more than 12
 - i) Since this is a new school teachers will not be able to be involved in the SIT process until the 2nd year
 - ii) Opportunities to change ed spec with SIT input to create *site-specific* ed spec
- b) SIT helps with
 - i) Schematic design
 - ii) Ed spec
- c) SIT meetings
 - i) Meant to validate the ed spec's content

3) Ed Spec Overview

- a) LEED
 - i) DCPS requires LEED Silver
 - ii) QEA aims for LEED Gold or higher
- b) 336 enrollment = 2 classes each for the following levels
 - i) Pre-K 3, Pre-K 4, 1st grade, 2nd grade, 3rd grade, 4th grade, 5th grade
- c) Special education will be integrated in the regular classes in the least restricted environment

Action Items are shown in **RED**



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d) Whatever is DCPS state-of-the-art at the time will be incorporated in the final design

4) Van Ness ES parent + community concerns

a) Outdoor space

- i) Outdoor play space needs protection from other spaces than for play
- ii) Historic preservation and co-location with DPR to be determined

b) Parking and traffic flow

i) Concerns

(1) Parking vs. open play space

- (a) Deliveries, visitors, early-arriving students, commuters looking for short-term and long-term parking space
- (b) Balance needs to be struck between school parking requirements availability of open play space
- (c) Request to look into the feasibility of underground parking
- (d) Teacher's Union agreement language

(i) 21.7.1 "Where possible, DCPS shall provide free parking to Teachers at each School"

1. Source: <http://www.wtlocal6.org/usr/Final%20WTU%20DCPS%20Tentative%20Agreement.pdf>

(2) Traffic patterns on and across the site

- (a) Loading and deliveries
- (b) Local traffic patterns – prevent through traffic
- (c) How will students safely access the DPR property adjacent to the school?
- (d) Security and safety of students
 - (i) Need for a strong visible entrance
 - (ii) Make sure the security guard has a home at the entrance
 - (iii) Manage entry/egress and egress-only points
 - (iv) Community requested that the design team map out arrival of student population

1. **Need 15-minute increments of traffic flow; QEA to provide**

(3) The Lincoln Playground Field House, on the Joy Evans Recreation Center site (555 L St. SE)

- (a) Historic Preservation Review Board application in progress
- (b) Encumbers the site unless included in the program
 - (i) DPR may be looking into using the restored building for public restrooms
 - (ii) QEA would like to use it as additional teaching space, possibly an Exploration Lab
 - (iii) **DGS will reach out to DPR to discuss future of existing building**

5) Design ideas

a) Window to have views to the exterior courtyard on every level.

b) History of the neighborhood and of the Van Ness School should be expressed in the school.

i) Incorporation of maps – history of school and neighborhood

c) Riverfront vs Waterfront

d) Van Ness ES theme

i) Considering Amidon-Bowen as a "waterfront community," the community relates Van Ness ES as a "riverfront community"

ii) Validated: <http://www.capitolriverfront.org/go/van-ness-elementary-school>

e) Attention should be paid to the Anacostia river walk which is intended to be a large integrated path through the community and to other important sites beyond, including the National Arboretum

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6) Pre-SIT recap

- a) October 2014 Van Ness ES approved for \$10 million hard costs, \$2 million soft costs
- b) November 2014 QEA awarded Van Ness ES modernization project
- c) January 7, 2014 Pre-SIT meeting scheduled to determine SIT team of 10-15 people, ideally no more than 12

7) Recurring Meetings

- a) Meeting minutes and materials will be provided 48-72 hours after each SIT meeting on DGS Van Ness Web site
- b) Next meetings
 - i) Community Meeting is January 14th
 - (1) Note: 1st Community Meeting where we will more fully address the Van Ness Design will likely be in February
 - ii) SIT Meeting will be Wednesday, January 21st at Van Ness ES from 6:00pm to 7:30pm
 - (1) Note: Preliminary schematic designs will be presented
- c) Meeting patterns
 - i) Community Meetings
 - (1) Approximation: at key project update points
 - ii) SIT Meetings
 - (1) Approximation: every 2 weeks