



Van Ness ES SIT Meeting Minutes

FINAL January 21, 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 selection

- a) Composition of 10-12 representatives will be selected
- b) Chaired by the Van Ness ES School Principal (or designated individual)

3) QEA concept design presentation

- a) DPR
 - i) Could build one level of a 2-story addition now that we have the potential to use part of DPR land for parking
- b) Cost
 - i) No significant difference in cost between Option A's new addition and Option B's building above existing structure
- c) DCPS
 - i) Ed spec comments
 - (1) K-2 are 22 students, 3-5 are 25 students = 350 enrollment in current version of ed spec
 - (2) 230 students in the Van Ness boundary currently (DCPS)
- d) Resource rooms
 - i) Could be used for special education, reading groups, enrichment programs (DCPS)
- e) Option A and Option B compared
 - i) Option A

Action Items are shown in **RED**



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- (1) A new addition along L Street on the northern side of the property
 - (2) Likes
 - (a) Common area
 - (b) Engaging the community on both sides
 - (i) Meeting space is an "envelope" that draws you in on new addition's 1st floor
 - (c) Strong connection to community from all sides
 - (d) Elevated building on the north side provides a new threshold/entry for the school throughout the courtyard
 - (e) Courtyard shape for privacy
 - (3) Dislikes
 - (a) Space under the new addition seems uninviting
 - (i) Concerns about possible wind tunnel effect
 - (ii) Looks like bad 1970's design
 - (b) The layout of the floors has a reduced number of offices and resource rooms
 - (4) Suggestions
 - (a) Build one floor instead of 2 floors in the new addition
- ii) Option B
- (1) An addition along M Street on top of the existing Assembly spaces on the southern side of the property
 - (2) Likes
 - (a) Opportunity for
 - (i) Outdoor/indoor space
 1. Need ADA playground equipment (DCPS)
 - (ii) Media center opportunity to connect to rooftop garden
 - (iii) Could add a rooftop garden to celebrate this feature on M Street "storefront"
 - (iv) Could add a 3rd floor on top of existing structure, this floor holding Specials and 2nd floor could have more classroom space
 - (v) Common areas with 2 levels added
 - (vi) Anacostia/Potomac river design theme in the Specials wing shaped like Buzzard Point
 - (b) Strong division between public and private
 - (c) Large volume and height for Specials
 - (3) Dislikes
 - (a) Could block the sun from the south if floors are installed on top of existing structure
 - (4) Suggestions
 - (a) Add 3rd floor to Option B for future fit-out
 - (i) Allows for more flexibility of space and utilization of "commons"
 - (ii) Look into an additional floor that is 1/2 or 1/3 the size of the 2nd floor of the addition
 - (b) Provide enough capacity in the footing and structure to allow for a 3rd floor to be added in the future
 - (c) Provide a more flexible gallery in the 2nd floor Specials wing
 - (d) Move the Art room to the center to highlight display of student work
 - (e) Add a green roof to the roof of the addition with access from the 3rd floor
 - (f) Provide some flexibility with more common spaces
- iii) Additional suggestions and comments on the design

Action Items are shown in **RED**



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- (1) A canopy along the west face of the building facing the court yard and leading from L Street to the first floor lobby to provide an alternative entry sequence
 - (2) Provide a single loaded corridor along the courtyard side on all floors
 - (a) The single loaded corridor works on the first floor due to the large size of the early childhood classrooms on this floor. However the 2nd and 3rd floor house smaller programmed spaces making the single loaded corridor highly inefficient
 - (3) Provide proper acoustics in the auditorium, gym and cafeteria
 - (4) Suggestion to move the single loaded corridor to the 5th street side
 - (5) Request to look into not having the parking access on L Street
 - (a) Provides a safe way for students to access DPR property
 - (6) QEA to develop arrival sequence
 - (7) Provide playground equipment
 - (8) Request to make 5th Street one way during school hours
 - (9) Suggestion to make gathering on M Street unfavorable
- 4) Ed spec review
- a) Increasing the student population to 350 so we can have a permanent librarian
 - i) The ed spec raised the population to 354 in Draft 4
 - b) Provide additional classroom for Foreign Language
 - i) Foreign Language doesn't need a separate room and can be taught in the classroom
 - c) Provide flexibility to have more Pre-K and K classrooms
 - i) Draft 4 of the ed spec added a toilet room to one of the 1st grade classrooms to allow for this flexibility
 - d) A robust high volume high density Wi-Fi will be provided (see Ballou HS and Dunbar HS as examples)
 - e) Request that the building be designed for future upgrades to technology and other building systems
 - f) SIT team to provide DGS with additional comments on Draft 4 of the ed spec
- 5) 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
 - (1) Community work session proposed for next Wednesday, January 28th
 - (a) 3 to 4 groups will be formed and tasked with a design issue in the building to help contribute to the theming of the school
 - (i) QEA to provide a summary of the event to the Principal by Friday so fliers are made and distributed
 - (2) Meeting in February
 - (a) Note: 1st Community Meeting where we will more fully address the Van Ness ES Design will likely be in February
 - ii) SIT
 - (1) Wednesday, February 4th at Van Ness ES from 6:00pm to 7:30pm
 - (a) Note: Preliminary schematic designs will be presented