



ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Facilities Department
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PROJECT: Clark Middle School Renewal – Concept Design

SUBJECT: Building Design Committee Meeting #2

TIME/DATE: 3:00 p.m. March 15, 2006

LOCATION: Clark Middle School Library, 150 Bragaw St., Anchorage

PREPARED BY: Michael Logan

ATTENDEES:

Michael Evans	Weed and Seed; AHFC Advisory Board
Patty Ginsburg	Municipal Light & Power – representing Jim Posey
Shannon Gallagher	Clark Middle School – Assistant Principal
Lorena Scalph	Clark Middle School – English/French Teacher
Scott Kluever	Clark Middle School – Science Teacher/Chair
Ghislaine Gillespie	Clark Middle School – Counseling Chair
John Gallup	Clark Middle School – Science Teacher
John Clayton	Clark Middle School – Counselor
Ramona Rivers	Clark Middle School – FCS Teacher/Electives Dept. Chair
Michael Carlson	McCool Carlson Green Architects – Principal
John Weir	McCool Carlson Green Architects – Project Architect
Garrett Burtner	McCool Carlson Green Architects – Designer
Rob Balivet	ASD Facilities – Manager Design Planning
Mary Cary	ASD Facilities – Project Manager
Michael Logan	ASD Facilities – Project Support Team

These meeting notes are ASD's interpretations of items discussed and decisions made. Any changes are to be sent to ASD in writing by March 28, 2006. After that date the minutes will stand as written.

- I) Outline and Purpose of Meeting: Following introductions, a review of the design schedule, goals and objectives, and a summary of the March 14 school tours, attendees explored possible learning pod layouts and learning signatures for the Clark Middle School Renewal.
- II) Introductions – the committee welcomed five new attendees: Michael Evans of the Weed and Seed Group in Mountain View; Patty Ginsburg of Municipal Light and

Power; Clark Middle School Assistant Principal Shannon Gallagher; Clark Middle School Counselor John Clayton; and Garrett Burtner of McCool Carlson Green Architects.

- III) Clark Middle School Renewal Goals and Objectives – attendees reviewed and endorsed the list presented at the 3-9-06 BDC Meeting.
- IV) School Tours – attendees commented on floor plans of the three middle schools visited on March 14.
 - 1. Mirror Lake Middle School received the most favorable comments, followed by Goldenview Middle School. Attendees suggested there were compromises in the Wendler design at the main entrance and in science rooms due to the need to conform to a pre-existing building footprint.
 - 2. Photos taken during the tours can be used as a resource in future meetings.
 - 3. Ramona Rivers requested a copy of the Muldoon Middle School floor plan. ASD Facilities will bring a copy to the next BDC meeting.
- V) Learning Pod Layouts – sketches of 5 different options were discussed. Research indicates groups of 100 or less are more successful for learning, Michael Carlson said. Amy Yurko’s bubble diagram of spaces and adjacencies in a typical pod was referenced as “the main building block” of the Clark program. (See attachments)
 - 1. ESL classrooms – are provided by the Ed Spec as regular 900 ft² core academic classrooms within each team. Support spaces for each pod also include four, 650 ft² classrooms. All of these spaces can be assigned flexibly among ESL, reading, Sped resources and core academic programs (except science).
 - 2. A few attendee comments touched on possible changes to the proposed Clark Ed Spec:
 - A. Teacher Planning Centers – keeping these sized for their function may help prevent their being turned into book storage or classrooms.
 - B. Circulation spaces – could include collaboration space and/or team/pod commons depending on efficiency of the building layout.
 - C. Commons – could be identified with the pod or with individual teams, and could help define team and/or pod community.
 - 3. Ease of supervision – is one of the most critical factors in pod layout. Pod diagrams 1 and 5 received little positive attention from attendees because

they were felt to be “supervision nightmares” due to blocked views of hallways.

4. Reducing hall traffic – is a way to minimize supervision and security problems. Teaming reduces traffic by cutting the distance students travel between classes.
5. Locker layout – low-height lockers that allow clear views over the top reduce supervision and security problems. Mirror Lake MS was cited as a positive example, where short rows of lockers perpendicular to yet sharing the halls reduce mixing and conflict between students at lockers and hall traffic.
6. Science as a pod hub – was requested by the science department, who endorsed Pod Diagram 4 for this feature. All three pod science classrooms could share a single prep room. In such a layout, care should be taken to minimize the distance from science to classrooms at the ends of the pod.
7. Space gained from all science rooms in a pod sharing one prep room could be put to other uses, but would not by itself contribute significantly toward the space needed for an indoor track.
8. Combining the centralized science feature of Pod Diagram 4 with features of Pod Diagrams 2 or 3 was suggested by attendees.
9. View windows – are desired in every classroom to the extent feasible. Natural light is desired in every space.

VI) The Learning Signature communicates the school’s promise – What will students learn here? It should be meaningful for all learners. Both openness to favorable influences and vulnerability characterize students of middle school age. Suggestions included:

1. Supportive, caring, connected, nurturing, community
2. “Respect yourself first,” self-esteem through individuation, honoring
3. Active, ever-changing, nerve center of a community of different groups, hub of performing arts
4. We’ve all heard terms like “melting pot” and “assimilation,” but the terms that should describe Clark are the opposite of these. Clark reflects the new America that is joined by and gets strength from diversity of language and culture. “Clark Middle School of Languages”
5. graphic: a person within a world map surrounded by a map of Alaska

6. graphic: falcon in open hand (caring) ready to launch
7. Excellence, achievement, life-long learning, taking ownership, moving out toward success in the world
8. Celebration, exploration, pioneering
9. "School with a view"

VII) Meetings and Outreach

1. The next Clark BDC meeting will be held from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM on Wednesday, March 28 at the Clark Middle School Band Room.
2. Outreach suggestions included:
 - A. Attendees can encourage others to come to BDC meetings. All BDC meetings are open to the public.
 - B. Mountain View Community Council meetings held the 2nd Monday of each month. Contact: David Alexander of Nine-Star.
 - C. Upcoming Community Health Fair
 - D. Kids' Kitchen Fair
 - E. Distribute printed materials at the Success by Six Building. Contact: the office manager.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Attachments: Pod bubble diagram by Amy Yurko; Learning Pod Diagrams

CC: Meeting Attendees
Cessilye Williams
Leslie Vandergaw
Amy Yurko
File