

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT Design Committee Mtg #5
EAST ANCHORAGE HIGH SCHOOL RENEWAL **Phase #1**



Purpose: PHASE 1 PLANNING

- *Introductions*
- *Review of Planning Process to Date*
- *Schematic Design*

Date: August 3, 2000: 9:30 a.m.
Orchestra Room - East High School

INTRODUCTION

Jerry Winchester, Winchester Alaska Architects welcomed everyone present and thanked them for their participation in the Building Design Committee

Meeting/Discussion

(Note: questions from the design team are generally in Italics)

Jerry provided a brief overview of a conference on high school planning he recently attended in Washington. During the conference he toured Edmonds High School which was an award winning structure. Interesting things in the incorporated into the design of the school that are applicable. He wanted to point out some areas where we are making excellent strides in Anchorage with the recent renovation planning. One of those areas was the way we are dealing with the science classrooms. The question is should they all be the same size or different sizes. The Edmonds school made all their science classrooms 1250 square feet and discovered that this does not work well for the heavy science. At East we decided to use 1500 square feet for the chemistry classrooms and use 1250 SF for the remaining.

Jerry then reviewed the minutes of last meeting to summarize what was decided at that meeting.

We reviewed the overall project schedule. T the project team will incorporate today's comments into the schematic design after this meeting. The schematic design will go to the Anchorage School District Board on Tuesday or Wednesday next week—August 7th or 8th. The School Board will review the documents from August 9 through August 28 and act on the package on the 28th. It is good for East parents and staff to attend the board meetings to support the projects given the effort and input that went into them. Also the Anchorage Assembly recently assumed responsibility for school design and will be approving the design. East will be one of the first schools to go to the assembly for design approval. East is scheduled to go before the Anchorage Municipal Assembly on August 29th. Approval may be that same evening. Again, it is important to have school parents, students, etc., to comment on the design at the assembly meeting. At this time, we don't know what form of the presentation will be made to the Assembly.

Review of Master Plan

The master plan is a picture of what the school will look at in the future after all changes are made. The Phase I site work shown in two areas. The building work is shown in grayed areas on the drawing we will show today. The plan has been reviewed and OK'd by the Fire Marshall and MOA Traffic Engineering. The site work consists of a Baseball/softball field on the east side of site; improved parking, traffic control, on/off site driveways and pick up areas.

Building – As noted before the work to be completed in the building is grayed on the drawings. We will define where things go and how your input has influenced design. We have redrawn the Media Center/Library to make sure all the books are accommodated in the student center. All but about 10 tables from the existing library will fit. You could probably add more tables around the perimeter. Very little construction work will be done to accommodate the Media Center/Library in the Student Center. We will put on doors, add computers and counters needed for to make the media center function in the new location. We don't want to put in too much effort since it will be moved again.

Moving to the Food Service area in the new cafeteria/commons area. A new food service area has been laid out. The team really worked on it. We checked all the food service areas in the district, talked with the head nutritionist (Betsy) and the East food service personnel. The team is leaning toward the West High food service fast food model. It is a workable layout that everyone is happy with. All in all the new food service area has 16 service lines in the main area and two kiosks with 2 food service lines each, for a total of 20 potential food service lines. Food service personnel provided input and began to locate various items to meet the demand they are familiar with.

To support the food service area we added a corridor, compactor and trash area, all of which will eventually become the main area for the whole building. This provides a central area for all building waste disposal—it is by the kitchen allowing the cafeteria and BPO to share.

Could the kiosks in the cafeteria commons be used by student organizations? Yes, the kiosks could be used by student organizations at night during events. Breakfast could be served like Bartlett High School which has a "dollar drop" for breakfast wherein all the items (juice, bagels, etc.,) cost \$1. Will the kiosks be fixed or moveable? The Kiosk's will be fixed. They can be used for all events—will have a display refrigerator and hand-wash sink. You could roll out carts of pizza for events or lunch service.

The Student store will be located in the Cafeteria/Commons associated with The Activities Principal, a reception area, the Athletic Director, secretary and conference room/small group room. Other possibilities include a copier room.

Moving on to classrooms—the Physics classroom has moved into an interior classroom. The Deaf/Hard of Hearing program still needs to be located since it will be relocated in Phase I. It will be located in an existing classroom. The Weight and Exercise rooms are now shown above the Cafeteria/Commons. Two new science classrooms (1500 square foot) are shown where photography and food service were formerly located.

At the last meeting out the Science breakout group discussed the pros and cons of several arrangements for science classrooms. The design team presented the two new chemistry classrooms with both arrangements to allow everyone to see them. The team provides a layout representing the more difficult classrooms to accommodate. IS9 and Biology both require many of the same features but chemistry will be the most difficult to accommodate. In the overall East master plan 8-10 of this style classroom—at 1500 square feet will be required and only 4-5 science rooms that are between 1100 to 1200 square feet.

The team and East administration will need to look at where Carl Perkins [Technology] will move and where and how much to do to accommodate Bill Ennis. Physics takes lots of space and storage and it will use tables for maximum flexibility. We are still working with Bill Ennis on the Physics lab details.

In the first pass at design and layout of the new academic wing we have all the classrooms in place. We need to discuss two areas. The first the extended learning center or large group space. We have four options to review. The options were explained and all concerned the westernmost end of the academic area near the bridge between the former cafeteria and the Benson Building. The team reminded the group that the bridge would be rebuilt to accommodate a ADA compliant ramp. We will be adding a new elevator--freight size rather than small/standard size elevator.

The extended learning center is modeled after the new Dimond high school. It includes circulation space, learning space and can allow presentations and large group instruction. It is connected to and open to the corridor. Approximately 2.5 classrooms of students would fit in the area. It will include computers, technology and storage. The teaching staff area located adjacent to this area and includes a work area, small workroom, and staff toilet. A pedestal can be placed in the extended learning center to elevate the presenter. It may have a higher ceiling than the remainder of the area. The group selected a option for this extended learning center that would provide for easy supervision, minimum of natural light (for presentations) and good circulation.

Technical instruction moved to where it is more accessible to science students, and other students. One pair of classrooms with a folding wall. Not given but one area where classrooms could be combined, more project area classroom. Messy project—space provided.

Do the doors need to be in the front of the room? They can be moved around. Move technology to put technology in room without windows, which is good for viewing computer screens however, may require special ventilation because of heat created by computers.

Is there any reason that the doors are not staggered? The doors can be staggered, however we staggered them for several reasons. First, it maximizes locker space. Secondly, it creates nodes of space in an otherwise long corridor and thirdly, to creates architectural spaces to allow light into corridor. The halls are 8 feet wide. Another good reason for not staggering the doors it to allow for teachers can interact with one another during passing--a node of activity. Halls can feel like a tunnel without something to break it up. Consider them an architectural item that provides collaboration space and interaction space for staff.

On the bottom floor near the proposed BPO location the hallway is 12 feet wide. It is currently used for some projects including physics labs and racing of cars built in science classes. One of our options is to pull some width for this hallway to provide additional book/supply storage down there. It appears to be one of the things that is missing in the school. The storage would be shallow enough to see the contents. We have even thought of developing a system of crates, properly labeled, to help deal with the current system of cardboard boxes. There are no fire marshal issues with the storage options.

How area we doing with custodial office and custodial storage? We have one on the first floor. No additional spaces have been added and none have been eliminated except for what was in the kitchen which is being redesigned along with the kitchen. Team wants to know if we are using space that is required. BPO is using boiler rooms currently for some maintenance storage. The fan room where elevator is going is currently used by maintenance, which might have some building code issues. We will work to create legal storage with other things and provide extra for the BPO. The

staff currently grabs what they can for athletic equipment storage. The design team will meet with Dale to make sure BPO space is all accounted for.

The new south entrance will be created with some temporary doors to isolate the Phase I area. When media center is opened some of the entrances can be opened/locked to isolate the space.

The new west entrance will have a little bit of vestibule. It will be a 2-story space popped out to make a new school/entrance with architectural elements. It will be a real significant change and will allow visitors to know where to find the entrance of the building. *What are we doing about signage? Ways to make it easier for people to find their way around?* Signage will be part of each element of Phase I. It needs to be done to show where people need to go for different things. Staff noted that in the current building people are mad (if they are coming to school on a pupil discipline issue) and then can't find their meeting location and they get madder by the time they get to the area to deal with staff.

Can you renumber the building? We certainly can and this will be determined in design development. We can determine how to number the building in the long term. Academics areas 5, 4, 3, 2 1--what is the best way to number the room will be discussed with staff and parents. *It would be great to renumber the building. As an incoming freshman it is difficult to find here things are. In most new schools just classrooms and spaces used for instruction are numbered.*

One thing that you really need to take in to consideration is the 10-mil tax cap. The speaker felt that the remaining phases will not be done if the tax cap passes. The design team noted that Phase I will making school operational and more efficient. If it has to stand along without additional phases, it can work from the beginning. The only downside is that the Library will be in a temporary location for a longer period. However, the library is going back to where it was located when the school opened.

The committee reviewed several classroom options for extended learning center in the new academic wing. Issues of circulation, discipline, class control, lighting and technology were discussed in length.

In the end, the committee preferred the option with the area in the southwest corner of the academic area because dealt with all the issues noted above in a positive manner.

We discussed the office areas and discussed use of the space for itinerant workers. *Can we move the security to another area at the intersection of the hallway?* It was placed where it is (northeast corner across from former cafeteria) because it is a better space in the long-term. When the student parking is on the east side of the building it will allow security to view the parking lot. Some schools have considered public health office or a police office in school. For example, the public library and a police deputy and Red Rocks Community College are housed in Conifer High School in Colorado. It is definitely something to think about.

We need to consider the Block Vision Impaired (BVI) program and make sure we have a place for brailing and the use of part of the classroom for storage. In fact, the Special Education folks need to talk to the design team to make sure these specialties are considered in both classrooms and office space. The design team is planning to create space for these functions in central locations and connect in future phases. Rick Onarado is only in the building 3 days per week but he'll need to view the plan and provide information.

How many it offices are needed for small offices or itinerate areas? The current master plan has 5 special education offices and 14 small group rooms.

This first phase needs to make a significant difference so the design team hit heavy things first—new classrooms, cafeteria/commons and site work. The subsequent phases pick up all the renovation stuff to bring up to 21st century.

The Activities principal deals with lots of money—how will she deal with all that? We have provided a separate office, counter space and desk in the work area. There is actually a 144 square foot locked door office in the area to count money, etc.

The cafeteria has 84 tables and will provide 680 seats—about 1/3 of the student body. *How many sit down now?* The numbers are not known, however it is more in the winter and less in the fall and spring. The new cafeteria/commons will provide space for people to hang out. It will provide lots of service lines for students to get food and go somewhere else. We will talk about this again when we get to equipment budgeting etc., and think about how they are being used. *Keep in mind that lots of folks wonder around the halls during lunch—they eat and walk. Few sit down for lunch. It will be a whole different deal with the redesign.*

Spatial relationships in cafeterias are different today. The original school had 2 cafeterias—one for high school and one for middle school in addition to a study hall. This is a different character all together for today's cafeteria design.

The cafeteria/commons floor designers will evaluate soft versus hard material for the floor. We will do an acoustical analysis of the room, follow up with some level of reverberation. We will develop a room that can be used for music and other activities with some sound dampening. We envision acoustical panels and a mix of hard/soft surfaces.

Will the track have the latest surface to prevent injuries? We are doing lots of Value Engineering on the track to make sure we have the best possible design. It is currently a concrete track, with a concrete beam and a single rail. It is really durable and rubberized for injury prevention. The space will have a really open feel. The corners on the lower level will be open to the top—creating space to congregate without corners. Important building concepts since students/groups tend to congregate in corners. We created a commons without corners. The concern was expressed that in a room without corners the students will hang out at the exits.

Weight room and exercise room. East corners in the commons will be open to the running track above to create light and space when you go through. Concrete stained. 700 psi concrete—really tough—topping to feel like limestone. Stain all the way into the concrete—color always there. New Edmonds high school used throughout. Lighter colors, multiple colors work well with it. It may not all be there. Colors/options to be presented to everyone in design development phase.

Just some brief comments on the budget—the project needs to be around \$6.4 million dollars. We did do some things—value engineering the concrete rail, etc., and that save money and make the building work better. Our current cost estimate is \$6.5 million dollars. Before submitted for schematic design the estimate will go through some checks. Keep in mind that even at \$6.5 million it contains a \$600,000 contingency. The design team is comfortable that we are on track with the budget. Team has worked hard to make this work.

Where is the 2% art? The mandated art for the building is —1% budget for the whole project and will be determined during design development.

Design Committee Meeting Schedule

Additional meetings of the Building Design Committee will be scheduled once we have ASD Board and Municipal Assembly approvals. The following meetings are approval steps in the process. It is important to let colleagues and other East High parents know about them.

Wednesday, August 9th or 17th -- Urban Design Commission

Wednesday, August 14th -- Urban Design Commission

Wednesday, August 14th through 17th, 8-11 a.m. and 12—3 p.m. -- High School Registration – information will be available for parents and students during registration. Project team and Building Committee members can staff the display.

Wednesday, August 9th or 17th -- Urban Design Commission

Wednesday, August 29th, 8:30 a.m. – Present Schematic Design to East Staff

End of August – Planning and Zoning Commission – Note this presentation will be based on the whole master plan. Big parking lot will be gone and the whole plan will be presented at once and will not have to be repeated at every phase.

Signs will be going up in the next few weeks indicating that bonds are at work and planned construction is underway.

End of Meeting Notes Workshop #5

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