

# School Design Team Meeting Minutes

## Garfield High School

**Meeting No. 1 / March 13, 2003 / 2:45 p.m. / Garfield High School Conference Room**

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### 1. Introductory Comments

David Engle of Seattle Public Schools opened the meeting and welcomed attendees. Principal Susan Dersé welcomed and introduced the parents and community members. Susan spoke about the vision and purpose of the assessment, which make up the agenda for today's meeting.

Highlights of the presentation of the school vision are as follows:

Every single student has high academic achievement through:

- Collaboration
- Skills building
- Gap elimination
- Personalized learning environment
- Parenting
- With equity, everybody getting better
- Narrowing the achievement gap
- Eliminating predictability

Don Gillmore, the District's Program Manager for the project, gave a brief presentation on the SDT process and the need for commitment to meetings during the predesign and design phase.

David Engle reviewed work on the design process from the previous meeting, which examined the various working styles of team members and looked at student life, past and present.

The following is a highlight of comments made from small-group discussions.

Comment: Regarding learner-centered environment, what does "student learning at the heart" mean and what does that look like?

Response: David noted that an analogy could be a shopping mall, in which the central transaction is well defined by the form and function of the facility.

Comment: "Student focus" has many facets concerning what motivates a student versus what the educator wants to teach, getting work skills to be productive, from the student, parent, community involvement, and diversity of community input.

Response: David noted that the design implications are such that it will require involvement of all of the community.

## **2. Assessment of Practices**

David requested that the small groups evaluate the current practices against the "Seven Themes of High-achieving Schools." After group members evaluated the seven themes, each group gave a report. See attachments for a summary of each group's evaluation.

David commended the group for hard work and honesty. He noted that the results will be tabulated and forwarded to the committee. Based upon the assessment, the project team will look at the results for the development of the facility.

David noted that he desires the School Design Team to start thinking about what a school should look like, developing a vision for the program but also considering the bricks and mortar of the facility. He suggested that members use a digital camera to take pictures of people in settings learning together. These settings are not necessarily school settings but any environment in which learning is taking place. David invited people to e-mail JPEG files to him to create a collection to share at a future meeting.

Susan Dersé introduced the following team members:

- David Engle, transformation leader, who is funded by a District grant.
- Larry Matsuda, former principal and current Seattle University professor, who will be assisting Susan
- Don Gillmore, District Facilities Program Manager for the Building Excellence II work at Garfield High School
- Nan Stavshoj, District Facilities Director
- Ralph Rohwer, Project Manager with Heery International, the Construction Manager

## **3. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 5:00 p.m.

## **4. Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on March 27, 2003 at 3:15 p.m. at Lincoln High School.

The preceding Minutes are the Construction Manager's interpretation of the items discussed and decisions reached at the above referenced meeting. Any persons desiring to add to or otherwise change the Minutes are asked to put their comments in writing to the Construction Manager not later than March 27th; otherwise the Minutes will stand as written.

The preceding Minutes were prepared by Ralph Rohwer, Project Manager.