

School Design Team Meeting Minutes

Garfield High School

Meeting No. 2 / March 27, 2003 / 3:30 p.m. / Lincoln High School, Room 410

1. Introductory Comments

Members of the School Design Team introduced themselves to the larger group.

David Engle led an exercise with the SDT members, discussing how interior spaces contributed to learning and how exterior spaces might draw them into a building. The following is a summary of items mentioned by the SDT members in reporting back their conversations at their tables.

EXTERIOR SPACES

- Interesting curves
- Lots of windows
- Facility broken into
- Nonconformity of spaces

INTERIOR SPACES

- Natural light
- Lots of lighting
- Comfortable chairs
- Grand spaces
- High ceilings
- Courtyards
- Plantings
- Organic architecture
- Blends of spaces into environments
- Choice of materials, colors
- Intimate settings
- Labs
- Large rooms
- Rooms in variety of sizes
- Open spaces
- Order spaces for small groups
- Attractiveness
- Feeling of warmth

In response to questions of why to go through this activity, the following was mentioned:

- 1) Develop common interests of facility characteristics.
- 2) Identify consensus.
- 3) Develop common ground.
- 4) Understand what draws us in.
- 5) What nurtures our spirit when inside.

David noted that the SDT will not always come to an agreement, but if they maintain focus on the program as they make decisions, this will be the guiding heart of the building. Also, knowing what the primary transaction of the building is for should guide decision-making and

consensus building. Creating an environment to personalize educational environments for students is also important.

Tom Bates of Burr Lawrence Rising + Bates was introduced to the team. Tom reviewed the company's design goals as they related to Garfield High School, summarizing as follows:

- Use space to support transformation
- Embrace cultural diversity
- Highlight history and tradition
- Develop a social heart
- Preserve key parts of the building

In regards to a question about the status of the Landmark process, Don Gillmore noted that historic nomination by the District is to occur in approximately a month to determine designation of the facility. The District self-nominates their projects in order to avoid delays and stoppages of work if projects were nominated by community members later in the cycle of the project.

Tom Bates presented slides of spaces from a database of pictures highlighting the following:

- Daylighting/commons areas
- Circulation
- Large group learning
- Small group learning
- Individual learning
- Seminar presentation
- Open concept learning
- Science lab
- Integrated technology
- Vocational ed
- Fine arts
- Music
- Library
- Performing arts
- Physical fitness

Tom noted in response to a question that the design would include spacious areas because of the existing volume of the original 1922 building; however, the corridors would need to be redesigned.

Comment: Recommend that band room includes exterior windows.

Response: Tom noted that these decisions would be a part of the collaboration with the School Design Team and the architects.

2. Data Review

David Engle noted that the SDT needs to give themselves permission to be learners right now as opposed to advocates. David noted the books for the SDT to either take a copy or check out the book to read. The SDT was requested to read the first three chapters of "The Art of Renovation" for the next meeting. Also, digital cameras were distributed for the SDT to gather images to post on the Web site.

David presented a graphic showing the ranking of the attributes based upon current reality versus ideal condition, noting the need to close the gaps between the ideal and reality. Aesthetics was ranked the lowest of the seven attributes. Community connection and safety were ranked highest by the School Design Team.

- Q. Were the results widespread amongst the tables, or did they vary from table to table?
A. David answered that there were effectively three groupings of responses but that all groups agreed on community and safety rankings.
- Q. What is the definition of community connection?
A. David noted that the definition is loosely defined and can include the degree of involvement the community has in the school and depends upon the interpretation of who is the community.

3. Activity Assignment

David asked the SDT to consider the following questions for the next meeting:

- 1) Who are we and what do we do?
- 2) Who benefits from the way that we do things?
- 3) Why do we do it in this way?
- 4) How does our building inform us?
- 5) Do buildings communicate their function from the outside?
- 6) Could you identify the purpose of the building from the inside?

3. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 5:30 p.m.

4. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on April 24, 2003 at 2:30 p.m. at Garfield 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 April 10th; otherwise the Minutes will stand as written.

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