

Halifax South Peninsula Elementary School

School Steering Team Minutes

Meeting #10

Date: February 22, 2018

Location: LeMarchant-St. Thomas School (Beaufort School site)

Attendees:

Name	Organization
Moira Cavanaugh	LMST (principal)
Peter Howitt	EECD
Darrell MacDonald	DTIR
Judy Obersi	LMST (SAC)
David Jakeman	LMST (SAC)
Stacey Hughes	Architecture 49
Catherine Hefler	Architecture 49
Karyn Cooling	HRSB (School Administration)
Cindy Littlefair	HRSB (elected Board member)
Earl McMullin	HRSB (Operations Services)
Marie Fagan	HRSB (Operations Services)
Krista Ranahan	DTIR
Paul LeFleche	Deputy Minister DTIR
Gareth Evans	HRM Parks and Recreation
Tim Schaus	Facilitator
Waye Mason (guest)	HRM Councillor

The purpose of this meeting was to provide the SST with information regarding the tenders and schedule as well as an overview of the design team's activities since the last meeting.

Krista Ranahan: There will be three tenders for the project.

1. The foundation package tender closes on February 28, 2018. The foundation work could start early to late March, 2018.
2. The structural steel supply and erection tender goes out February 26, 2018 and closes the on March 16, 2018.
3. The main construction tender goes out March 29, 2018 and closes the beginning of May, 2018.

Question and Response:

Question: (DJ) Will there be penalties in the contracts for missing construction deadlines?

Response: (DM) There have been “liquidated damages” clauses in contracts for some time now.

Stacey Hughes: The following modifications have been made to the floor plans and site plan:

1. Main Floor:
 - a) One additional classroom
 - b) Elevator has been moved closer to the front entrance
 - c) Seminar room is closer to the library
 - d) Main custodial room moved to the main floor
 - e) Cafeteria enlarged
 - f) Prominent visibility of the stained glass artifacts near the front entrance
2. Second Floor:
 - a) One additional classroom
 - b) PLC room added
 - c) Washrooms area redesigned – similar orientation to main floor washrooms area
 - d) Library size increased. The library is larger than the standard for a school of this size due to redesign of second floor washrooms area.
3. Third Floor:
 - a) Three additional classrooms
 - b) Reworked collaborative zone so three classrooms share
 - c) Previous exterior deck removed to allow for an addition classroom
 - d) Washrooms area redesigned
 - e) Building storage space larger than standard and more useable
4. Site Plan:
 - a) No drop-off loop
 - b) Larger plaza between the building and Watt Street
 - c) A diagonal pathway will be added from the front, right of the expanded plaza to front entrance
 - d) Eight parking spaces included in the area of the previous loop

Question and Response:

Question: (DJ) The washroom doors are locked from the inside. What accommodations will be made to help young students who may have difficulty with the locks?

Response: (MC) The principal/office will have a master key for washroom doors.

Question: (CL) Another, recent project has had challenges with the new washroom area design. Is there communication between school projects so that problems arising in one project are rectified, not just where they develop, but planned for in future school projects?

Response: (SH; DM; KR) Given that Nova Scotia is ahead of most areas in North America regarding universal washroom and change room design, the referenced project had difficulties due to an unfamiliar, out-of-province architect. All issues are being rectified there. EECD and TIR consistently learn from experiences with school boards and private sector designers on all aspects of projects, to the benefit of this and future ones.

Question: (EM) As a safety measure, could the washroom doors open into the individual washroom rather than out?

Response: (SH; DM) We will look into that possibility.

Question: (CL) What was the determining factor in eliminating the drop-off loop?

Response: (DM) There was no one factor. After observations of the drop-off procedure at the school and balancing the pros and cons of a drop-off loop it was determined that the drop-off loop would be eliminated. HRM Traffic Services will work with us to develop effective drop-off options on Watt Street and possibly LeMarchant Street.

Question: (CL) Does the site plan and work eliminate the drainage problem from before?

Response: (DM) A landscape architect and civil engineer are part of the A49 design team. There will be catch basins and careful surface drainage patterns on the property to direct water to the catch basins.

Response: (WM; DM) Regarding the water issues at the west end of the sports field and the adjacent properties along Walnut Street, the project's civil engineers believe there is underground water flowing at the bedrock level and migrating under the above ground berm installed by HRM. This water may be flowing toward the adjacent properties. The project includes a cut-off trench cut at the bedrock level to funnel water to the catch basin system.

Statement: (DJ) A few property owners backing onto the project are putting up new fences.

Response: (KR) Once we have received a list of properties, TIR's risk management staff will perform an assessment.

Question: (JO) What does the \$5000 in the construction tender for a distinctive art work involve?

Response: (SH) There is \$5000 included in the tender for a distinctive piece of art. Often students and art teacher(s) work on this. Some examples from other schools include a mosaic, painted acoustic tiles, or a screen to display student art.

Response: (DM) A mosaic produced by students and teachers provides an opportunity for the whole school community to participate. There are many pieces to a mosaic and, in previous projects, all students laid tiles, along with many teachers and community members.

Response: (KH) We can provide examples from other schools and we could identify a few places where something could be done.

Catherine Hefler: Animation giving views of the library

1. Security grill to close the library off during after school hours use
2. Two floors with the second floor area increased.
3. Quiet/noisy room on second floor
4. Both fixed and flexible seating
5. New Seminar Room location now allows direct connection to the library
6. Platforms at bottom of the stairway to provide an additional group space

Question and Response:

Question: (DJ) How much space is there for books?

Response: (CH) The final linear footage has not been calculated. There is more linear footage book space now that the library has been enlarged.

Questions: (DJ) While its low height allows primary students to easily view it, might the stained glass artifacts positioned near the front entrance be in danger of being damaged?

Response: (JO) The location is positive but we need to look at other ways to display the stained glass artifacts that would offer more protection for them.

Response: (SH) The design team will look at possible solutions.

Question: (JO) Is the principal involved in furniture decisions – particularly the multi-use cafeteria/Da Vinci Studio tables/seating?

Response: (DM) The principal is directly involved in furniture decisions.

Question: (DJ) Could some of the drawings, plans and rendering be posted on the HRSB website?

Response: (DM) These will be provided to be posted. The HRSB website will be the means to communicate with the public about the project as it moves forward.

Further consultation will be required regarding the ceiling tracks for assisted lifting in assisted care spaces. Further consultation may be required concerning colour schemes.

Darrell MacDonald: Generally, once construction begins, the school steering team ceases to meet on a regular basis. Meetings could be added, should there be specific topics requiring such. Status reports will be distributed to the SST membership periodically throughout the construction phase of the project.