School Steering Team Minutes

Meeting #6

Halifax South Peninsula School

Date: November 8, 2016

Location: Beaufort School

Attendees:

Name	**Organization**
Judy Obersi	LMST (SAC vice-chair)
David Jakeman	LMST (SAC vice-chair)
Stacey Hughes	Architecture 49
Craig Mosher	Architecture 49
James McKee	Vollick McKee Petersmann & Associates
Darrell MacDonald	DTIR
Krista Stevens	DTIR
Gareth Evans	HRM (Parks and Recreation)
Jeanne Boudreau	LMST (principal)
Cindy Littlefair	HRSB (elected Board member)
Earl McMullin	HRSB (Operation Services)
Jill Chaulk	HRSB (Program)
Karyn Cooling	HRSB (School Administration)
Peter Howitt	EECD
Tim Schaus	Facilitator

Guests: Joachim Stroink (MLA), Tricia Barry (LMST Home and School Greenspace Committee – co-chair), Ines Rei (LMST Home and School Greenspace Committee – co-chair), Paul Lafleche (DTIR)

1. Stacey Hughes (Architecture 49) presented the current design of the Halifax South Peninsula School project.

   The current design orients the school on the building site in a similar manner to the old LeMarchant – St. Thomas building although the new building would be set back further from Watt Street. Similar to the old LeMarchant – St. Thomas building, the design of the new building shows the front entrance facing Watt Street, the parking area on the east side of the building and the playground areas on the west side. The design includes a three storey classroom wing and a two storey gymnasium.

   An open concept DaVinci studio space (integrated arts & sciences) would be located at the front entrance and would include the cafeteria and raised stage with a 2 storey library in close proximity.

   The design of the three level classroom wing shows classrooms and a resource room on each level. Every 2 or 3 classrooms have a collaborative learning zone making use of hallways designed in the learning street concept. Good visibility between classrooms and collaborative learning zones was considered in the design. A classroom-sized outdoor deck on the third floor would be an additional collaborative space.

   The design of the exterior of the building shows a windowed face to both Watt Street and Jubilee Road rather than a front and back. The design shows good viewing to the play areas from the classrooms.

   <u>Questions and Response:</u>

   Question: (Judy O) Is there any potential of outdoor seating for the cafeteria?
   Response: (Stacey H) Yes. We are looking at that.

   Question: (David J.) Teachers were concerned about the size of windows between classrooms and collaborative areas. Has there been any changes in the size of the windows from the classrooms to the collaborative spaces?
   Response: (Stacey H) Yes. The design has windows above the cubbies to increase the window space.

   Question: (Tricia B.) Is there a concern about noise levels in collaborative space?
   Response: (Stacey H) Materials can be used to mitigate this including acoustic panels and flooring material. Also teachers mentioned that a culture is required to respect sound levels.

   Question: (David J.) What is the square footage of the outdoor balcony?
   Response: (Stacey H) - about 900 square feet. Classroom size.

Suggestion: (Tricia B) - suggested that the greenspace in the front of the school incorporate a garden in front of the cafeteria.

Question: (Judy O) Is there a potential for a green roof – budget-wise? There is lots of space for it.
Response: (Darrell M) A green roof is extremely expensive and the budget is tight right now. (Stacey H.) We're looking at the cost. There are considerations regarding the weight if the school does something themselves. Also a green roof must be rated – a fire rating - and there are added costs due to that.
Suggestion: (Judy O.) – suggested that at the very least the roof be seeded.
Suggestion: (David J.) – suggested that the roof be fire rated now and look at the possibility of a green roof later.

2. A sketch-up of the exterior of the building facing Jubilee was shown. Craig Mosher spoke to the design – that the school didn't have a front and back. Rather, it had 2 faces with considerable glazing facing the field.

3. James McKee, landscape architect for the project, spoke to the site design. He has been waiting for the building design footprint to stabilize. Two considerations for the site design include underground lines and grading vertical bedrock. He mentioned that playgrounds are concentrated on the west side of the building and 2 playgrounds have been held on to through demolition. The design has a ground walkway leading up to the school from Watt Street that is fire truck access to the front of the school. The design shows a drop-off lane as part of the parking area. The new school's elevation would be about 2 feet higher than the old. There would be about a 2 foot grade change from the school up to the field.

   <u>Questions and Response:</u>

   Question: (Cindy L.) How wide is the drop-off lane?
   Response: (James M.) 20 feet wide. Just wide enough for two cars. It is not wide enough for a car to park while the driver runs inside the school, nor is it a bus loop. There is one school bus and it would drop off and pick up out on the street.

   Question: (Tricia B.) Are the trees on the east side staying?
   Response: (James M.) I try to keep trees. The asphalt is following pretty close to the existing line of asphalt – maybe 15 feet further. Some green space will be lost.

   Question: (Darrell M.) Where does the design show the front of the gym?
   Response: (James M.) - about 20 feet south of the two cherry trees.

   Question: (Judy O.) Will there be different entrances for different grades?
   Response: (Stacey H.) There are two stairwells and doors with access to the play areas. (Darrell M.) CPTED requirements for using doors other than the front door can be met by staffing.

4. A comparison between the old LeMarchant – St. Thomas building and the new design regarding the building footprints, greenspace and parking areas was made.

   Old building:

   Footprint – 2320 m^2

   Turf – 3300 m^2

   Dirt – 1290 m^2

   Asphalt – 995 m^2

   Parking area – 2005 m^2

   New Building design:

   Footprint – 2870 m^2

   Turf – 2700 m^2

   Asphalt – 2200 m^2

   Parking area – 1760 m^2

   Comments and suggestions made during discussion around the parking area and greenspace include:

   - The site is not big enough to solve all of the problems.
   - 41 parking spaces show in the design. If this number is reduced, more space is available for greenspace.
   - TIR and the HRSB stated that the number of parking places shown (41) represents the minimum number to effectively serve the needs of the school.
   - Do we need the drop-off loop? Eliminating it would create more greenspace.
   - Some people park on the street and walk their children to the school.
   - Some parents drop their child off right at the school.
   - The new building's parking area is 10% smaller than that of old LeMarchant – St. Thomas.
   - The drop-off loop is essential for student safety.
   - Parking spots are necessary for teachers, cafeteria workers, caretakers, admin staff, itinerant teachers, etc.
   - Teachers carry a lot of things back and forth to school. It would be stressful and unsafe for them to park on the road daily and cart these things to and from school. A safe, close parking space very important for teachers.
   - Student use of the field will greatly increase the amount of play area for students. This creates additional supervision requirements.
   - Is the area north of the two cherry trees available as a play area? The issue would be supervision. The more individual areas opened for play, the more supervision required. There are no windows from the building to that see that area.

5. Stacey Hughes spoke to the green aspects of the building design. She mentioned the considerable window area for natural light, LEED Gold windows, the orientation of the building, the water cistern to collect non-potable water for school use and the low VOC materials to be used.

6. Darrell MacDonald mentioned that the building design is set. There is work to be done regarding the site design and greenspace. Arrangements were begun to organize a meeting with the Home and School Greenspace Committee co-chairs, the SAC chairs, Jeanne Boudreau, James McKee, Gareth Evans, Darrell MacDonald and Stacey Hughes for input regarding greenspace at the school.