

School Steering Team Minutes

Meeting #4

Halifax South Peninsula School

Date: May 12, 2016

Location: LeMarchant St. Thomas School

Attendees:

Name	Organization
Catherine Hefler	Architecture 49
Craig Mosher	Architecture 49
Stacey Hughes	Architecture 49
Krista Stevens	TIR
Cindy Littlefair	HRSB (elected Board member)
Tanya Whynacht	TIR
Earl McMullin	HRSB (Operation Services)
Peter Howitt	EECD
Darrell MacDonald	TIR
David Jakeman	LMST (SAC chair)
Betty Lou Killen	HRM (Parks and Recreation)
Judy Obersi	LMST (SAC vice-chair)
Jeanne Boudreau	LMST (principal)
Gareth Evans	HRM (Parks and Recreation)
Agnes Greer	HRSB (School Administration supervisor)
Tim Schaus	Facilitator

Guests: Joachim Stroink (MLA), Wayne Mason (HRM Councillor)

A focus of this meeting can be expressed in these two quotes:

“...thinking differently about design...”

“Form follows function: It seems so obvious but is often forgotten: Teaching and learning should shape the building, not vice versa.” The Third Teacher

1. Introductions were made. New members have joined the Halifax South Peninsula School Steering team. Darrell MacDonald, Director, Educational Facilities Project Services (TIR) has taken over the project from Karina Montalvo-Lagunes due to the large number of projects on the go at DTIR at this time. Architecture 49, which has been awarded the design contract for the Halifax South Peninsula School project, was represented at the meeting by Catherine Hefler, Craig Mosher and Stacey Hughes.
2. Stacey Hughes gave a presentation on Architecture 49 focusing on who they are as a company. Two phrases Stacey used when describing their school design work were “learning centred design” and “every space is a learning space.”
3. A video was shown about new ways of teaching and learning and showing learning spaces to meet the needs of all students to maximize their own individual learning.
4. The video “Not Old School: Architecture in Support of Learning” was shown. This video supported the concepts of learning inside and outside of the classroom space and creating learning everywhere in a school building. Concepts such as “learning street” and “Da Vinci studio” were discussed as examples of learning spaces in schools.
5. A slide of the spreadsheet of the Halifax South Peninsula Elementary School Space Allocation Program – square footage of space as well as number and types of rooms was displayed. This spreadsheet is an appendix to the SST Meeting #2 minutes.
6. Slides of schematic plan ideas were presented. These slides showed ideas of positioning of the school on the building lot and ideas of general layout and orientation of school spaces (space adjacency).

Information, discussions and matters raised as points of input included:

- One design in particular was a two storey building set back from LeMarchant and Watt Streets with two arms of classrooms radiating at an angle from a central Da Vinci studio type learning space. The gym radiating off the central open space at another angle created an openness of sightlines of the open central space from both the entrance at LeMarchant and Watt Streets and from Jubilee Road. This design provided less of a front and back to the building and more of two views of the central open space of the school – with more natural light.
- Reassigning space to create different types of learning environments directly outside the classrooms (learning street). A question arose around possible noise and distraction in learning spaces outside classrooms.
- Reassigning space to create a different type of open learning space (Da Vinci Studio – a type of learning commons). A question arose around possible noise and distraction.

- Mark Young, a former police officer with extensive experience in school building safety will be consulted during the design phase.
 - Preference was expressed for playground areas to be adjacent to Watt Street.
 - Questions were raised about sufficient space for the 50 designated parking spots, sufficient space for play areas, the height of fencing of the field to keep balls in, fencing to control access to the field/school yard from Jubilee Road, the benefits of the green spaces presently between LeMarchant St Thomas and the neighbouring houses, space for lunch students in cafeteria, music room size, the Baragar software used for enrolment projections, public access to the field and space for Christmas concerts.
 - Comments included the importance of the outside look of the building to the community, cognisance of materiality in the school to consider warmth and vibrancy, possibility of washroom access to evening field users and the use of the field as part of the construction site.
7. Slides of the new Bridgetown School were shown. Of note in the school design were a “learning river” concept in corridors to create learning spaces outside classrooms and the open learning commons.
8. There was a general expression of acceptance of the design idea of 3 arms radiating from a central open space. A comment was made around the importance that the building fit well within its community. There was also an agreement that the “learning street” and “Da Vinci studio” ideas be pursued in the building design.
9. Next steps:
- Darrell MacDonald will continue working with Architecture 49 and gather input from HRSB, Le Marchant St. Thomas School and EECD program services personnel.
 - Next SST meeting: TBA