

School Steering Team Minutes

Meeting #5

Halifax South Peninsula School

Date: June 21, 2016

Location: LeMarchant St. Thomas School

Attendees:

Name	Organization
Catherine Hefler	Architecture 49
Craig Mosher	Architecture 49
Stacey Hughes	Architecture 49
Christine Bales	Architecture 49
Krista Stevens	TIR
Cindy Littlefair	HRSB (elected Board member)
Tanya Whynacht	TIR
Earl McMullin	HRSB (Operation Services)
Marie Fagan	HRSB (Operation Services)
Peter Howitt	EECD
Darrell MacDonald	TIR
David Jakeman	LMST (SAC chair)
Mark Young	EECD
Judy Obersi	LMST (SAC vice-chair)
Jeanne Boudreau	LMST (principal)
Gareth Evans	HRM (Parks and Recreation)
Joanne Williams	HRSB (EXCEL)
Tim Schaus	Facilitator

Guests: Joachim Stroink (MLA), Mark Eisnor (Dumac), Chris Landry (Dumac)

1. Craig Mosher from Architecture 49 introduced the evolution of the Halifax South peninsula School project design. With multiple goals of maximizing flexible learning space, maximizing student play area and setting the building back from property lines, a number of designs and orientations on the building lot were considered. The design which reduced the building footprint and best meets the goals was presented as an L-shaped design set back from Watt Street with the school entrance facing LeMarchant Street. The design includes a three storey classroom wing and a two story gymnasium wing. The hub of the school at the front entrance would be a 2/3 storey, open concept, with DaVinci studio (integrated arts & sciences), cafeteria and library spaces.
2. Stacey Hughes from Architecture 49 presented ideas on the creation of collaborative learning zones within the school and the flexible use of space in the central hub. Darrell MacDonald pointed out that there was much consultation with educators from the school (the Principal and Vice-Principal), the HRSB and EECD. All agreed that it is developmentally appropriate to proceed with the proposed approach of maximizing the supervisory aspects on the main floor, and introducing gradually more open, collaborative space as grade levels increase on the 2nd and 3rd floors. This provides significant amounts of flexibility and options for teachers and students and is in line with the educational delivery directions of the Province and the HRSB.
3. Topics of questions, comments and discussion included:
 - **Footprint of the building, play areas and parking lot**
The increased area for play that the 3 storey option provided was seen as very positive. David Jakeman asked for a comparison of the total area for play in the new layout with the amount existing between the two sites. The design team will provide.
 - **Security features of the front entrance**
Stacey Hughes described that access control to the building will be by directing people into the Administration area before being allowed into the rest of the school.
 - **After hours public access to the gymnasium through a parking lot entrance**
Stacey Hughes showed how a vestibule to the parking lot has been added adjacent to the Gymnasium entrance and the Lobby, facilitating after school hours use by the community, while allowing the school spaces to be secured.
 - **Security of the Jubilee Rd. side of the building**
Mark Young outlined his concerns about the location of a hard surfaced play area behind the school, adjacent to the parking lot. Although it has benefits for community use, it increases the risk of non-desired use and vandalism due to the fact that it is not readily visible.

- **Student play area and play structures**

Darrell MacDonald explained that the design team has reviewed the existing play structures with the HRM.

- o The structure nearest to Watt St. will remain in place and be fenced off from the construction activity but accessible from Watt St. for the community.
- o The northernmost structure will be expensive to relocate during the construction phase of the project and will not be of value for re-use for the new school.
- o The wood structure on the Annex site cannot be re-used.
- o The "spider web" structure on the Annex site will be reviewed to determine how it is anchored to the ground and whether or not it can be relocated to the new school site.

- **Cafeteria seating and multi-use cafeteria furniture**

Darrell MacDonald noted that the design team is reviewing an innovative cafeteria table that transforms into bench seating. This would fit well for presentations or assemblies. It does not appear to be cost prohibitive but the design team is reviewing the quality aspects of the products. Images of this product type can be found at the following URL:

https://www.google.ca/search?hl=en&authuser=0&site=img&tbm=isch&source=hp&biw=1484&bih=735&q=convertible+bench+unit&oq=convertible+bench+unit&gs_l=img.3...4297.9075.0.9253.24.15.1.7.4.0.133.1355.12j3.15.0....0...1ac.1.64.img..1.19.1297...0j0i30j0i5i30j0i24j0i10i24j0i8i30.X1px5BEmWTE

- **Shadowing from trees and building**

Stacey Hughes noted that a sun angle/shadow study has not been completed. Darrell MacDonald suggested that the trees along the east side of the site, are quite large and mitigate any shadow effects a new building might have.

- **Light in corridors**

The group all agreed that the 3 storey classroom wing will benefit from having daylight penetrate into the corridors. A49 will design to optimize the amount of daylight in these spaces, especially where they include open, collaborative functions.

- **Access from music room to a multi-purpose room/stage area**

It was explained that there will be direct access from the Music Room to the raised learning space/stage.

- **Parking lot**

Jeanne Boudreau explained that a reduction of the number of parking spaces from the programmed amount would be detrimental. David Jakeman suggested that the teacher parking be across the street at the Annex to free up more play space for

students. Stacey Hughes suggested that parking be doubled up in some spaces to maintain the number of parking spots while decreasing the parking area.

4. Christine Bales from Architecture 49 introduced LEED (Leadership and Energy in Environmental Design). The building's design will target the Gold level in this third-party certification process. A video of a "green school" in Bali was used to anchor a brain-storming session focusing on energy, water and community perspectives – both inside and outside the building.
5. Plans were made to organize a site meeting with the landscape architect. The date was not yet determined.