



Minutes 2012 Bond Project Advisory Team (PAT) Meeting Austin High School

MEETING #: 15

LOCATION: Austin High School Library

DATE / TIME: November 12, 2015; 4:00 PM

ATTENDEES: (those marked with a check were present)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Steve Guerrero	Principal	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lydia Zamora	Teacher
<input type="checkbox"/>	Yadira Banuelos	Class President	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nancy Bennett	Alumni
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Covey Nash	Alumni	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Octavio Cantu	ERO Architects
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Casiano Cruz	Teacher	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tim Johnson	Teacher, Science
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Alfonso Maldonado	Alumni	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Joe Nelson	Alumni
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Marsha Eckermann	Alumni	<input type="checkbox"/>	C. Guerrero	Agricultural Teacher
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Albert Wong	HISD PM	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dan Bankhead	HISD – Facilities
<input type="checkbox"/>	Noelia Longoria	School Support	<input type="checkbox"/>	Clay Clayton	HISD – Facilities
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Angelita Henry	Parent/Alumni	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Princess Jenkins	HISD – Facilities
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Tania Roman	Alumni	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Victor Trevino	Teacher
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jacque Royce	Alumni	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Chris Fields	Heery Intl. PM
<input type="checkbox"/>	Catherine Smith	Teacher	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jorge Medina	Assistant Principal
<input type="checkbox"/>	Eli Ochoa	ERO Architects	<input type="checkbox"/>	George Tracy	Alumni
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Eric Ford	HISD – Facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	Kendrick Wright	HCISD Facility
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ralph Hennie	Teacher, CTE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rebecca Kiest	HISD Comm.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tierra Harris	Parent/Alumni	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jose Saenz	Teacher
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jose Rios	ERO Architects	<input type="checkbox"/>	Brad Cheesman	DivisionOne- CMAR

PURPOSE: The purpose of the meeting was to meet with the Project Advisory Team to provide progress updates on the designs for the Project.

AGENDA:

- Review and discuss proposed reuse of some of the existing Austin High School campus buildings.
- Review and discuss the new proposed building additions.
- What to expect at the next PAT meeting.

DISCUSSION:

1. Albert Wong began the meeting by indicating that the current Austin HS campus and building floor plan designs will be a slight deviation from what the Architects have been presenting in the past. There have been more changes to the floor plan areas in the existing and new buildings to become more accommodating to the current HISD Program and to the 21st Century learning environment.
2. Octavio Cantu stated that they have continued to refine the site and floor plans and were going through the individual floors to determine where revisions were warranted and the reasons for these changes.



3. Mr. Cantu stated that, in front of Jefferson Street, the building was moved back a bit but will still have the new main entrance and maximize the number of visitor parking spaces. He stated that parent drop off/pickup will stay on Dumble St. and the bus drop off/pickup on S. Lockwood Dr.
4. Mr. Cantu stated the current site plan still maintains the existing driveway opening on S. Lockwood Dr. to the food service area for delivery trucks. In addition, much of the existing parking will remain, but shall be moved further away from the existing ball field.
5. Mr. Cantu explained the elevation changes between some areas of the building, where some existing building finished floor elevations were as much as 3 ft. above the exterior grades. These new building areas may be raised only 2 ft. above exterior grades so there isn't as great a difference in elevation, with some portions of the building dropping 2 ft. to grade because of overhead door locations. He also mentioned that they will address storm drainage in the new courtyard areas.
6. Mr. Cantu explained that they are still exploring the connection between the existing and new building areas, since these are all 3 stories in height. These covered walkway connections may be partially or fully enclosed and may not be air-conditioned.
7. Mr. Cantu noted that the original 1936 building entrance and the existing brick memorial on Dumble St. will be maintained, although this area will be used primarily for student drop off in the mornings and pickup after school, but remain secured during regular school hours.
8. The new corridor will be re-established to one side of the existing building to allow better arrangement of the length to width ratios for the resulting classrooms. That will utilize this open space to become the new corridor and part of the extended learning and student dining areas, with remote vending as well. Mr. Wong mentioned that this has occurred in other schools to encourage student interaction and allow them to eat closer to their classrooms. Mr. Cantu stated that this reduces the size of the new main Dining Commons area, but establishes more remote dining areas.
9. Mr. Cantu stated that the existing elevator (near main building) door/frame would be repainted but not replaced and the existing stairs, east of the band hall, will be cleaned up. He also mentioned that, at the auditorium end of the existing building, there is an existing corridor that ties into the 1944 building. He proposed a new set of doors with the intent that, after hours, this would become a more visible, defined entrance to the existing auditorium. There will be a series of double doors in front of the auditoriums to create a light/sound buffer lobby into the auditorium.
10. Mr. Cantu indicated that there would be a ramp and a set of stairs for the elevation change in the new building area's southeast corridor. In addition, the new choir and band areas will be reconfigured. The kitchen area will be part of the low bay areas and will, therefore, eliminate unnecessary high walls.
11. Eric Ford asked whether the green areas shown in the proposed central courtyard is grass. Mr. Cantu responded that the courtyard will be a mixture of small paved concrete gathering and grass areas.



12. Marsha Echemann asked if the only way to get to the courtyard was from the two sets of existing side doors in the 1936 building and the new Dining Commons. Mr. Cantu responded affirmatively and indicated that the visual arts learning centers may also open up into this courtyard area as well. Ms. Echemann asked if a new exit through the existing central main entrance arched area could be established that would provide a more direct access to this courtyard. She remarked that it will open up the traffic circulation flow to the courtyard and accommodate other non-school events, making it a community gathering space. Also, circulation from the auditorium into the courtyard and new Dining Commons would be easier and faster. Mr. Cantu replied that removing some of the existing windows and creating a new exit is possible. He clarified that, every time a building exit is established, the City of Houston Building Codes requires an associated vestibule area. Because the new courtyard will be approx. 3 ft. below the existing building's finished floor elevation, new steps and a handicapped ramp will have to be added, too, thus increasing Project costs.
13. Victor Trevino asked about the new parcel of land across the street and Mr. Cantu responded that the survey has not been completed yet.
14. Joe Nelson asked about the CTE programs, including Agriculture. Mr. Cantu replied that there is a welding shop, veterinary tech lab, 2 engineering labs, and a diesel engine room. These are shown in the Green areas of the floor plan. The Dark Green areas are the band, practice and vocal rooms. The practice rooms can be shared.
15. Ms. Echemann asked about a room with mirrors on the wall for Dance or Fitness classes. Mr. Cantu replied that this was not in the HISD Ed. Specs. Program. Mr. Cantu explained that display areas will be added underneath the stairs.
16. Mr. Cantu explained that, in regards to the current HISD 2012 Bond Program, they have to be very conservative, design-wise, due to the current building construction costs. The Construction Manager at Risk must be involved to provide feedback for some of the design ideas and associated costs. In addition, the Draft Ed. Specs. Program is intended to guide them in the right direction.
17. Mr. Cantu explained that the second floor plan of the existing building's renovations will be similar to the first floor, with the same orientation and classroom sizes. The Go Center will be on the second floor, which is the Counselor's area. The AP offices are on both sides of the second and third floors of the building.
18. The existing Simulator Room located on the third floor (Ameritime CTE) is part of Operations but Mr. Cantu is uncertain which program this room falls under; CTE will provide that program information. Ameritime will need to be confirmed if the Simulator Room shall remain located on the third floor or can be moved.
19. The current design has an enclosed area for the Learning Commons, where traditional book shelves may be located. There is also an Extended Learning Area outside of this space where students can interact, as well as a teaching stairs area, too. According to Mr. Cantu, the learning space used to be a more quiet area, but that is not usually the case, anymore. Mr. Trevino asked if there was a concern that students might use the teaching stairs as regular stairs, since these areas don't have handrails. Mr. Cantu replied there might be some concern but these areas are not intended to be used in that manner. There is, typically, a regular set of stairs adjacent to it for going up and down these areas. Mr. Nash



asked if there were open catwalks and Mr. Cantu responded that this is still under design consideration. This area will have a roof to keep students dry.

20. Mr. Cantu explained that the current CTE rooms, as they exist on the south end of the third floor, may have to be relocated. The previous existing available space seem suitable for these type of classrooms. If the existing stairs were removed and an elevator is not needed in this area, the students can continue through an Extended Learning Commons area before they get to these classrooms. The circle shown on the floor plans are new stairs to access these classrooms. Currently, there is a wheelchair lift, but a variance may be submitted to remove this. The elevation change is about 42", so a 42 ft. long ramp would be required. The third floor is similar to the second floor below.
21. Mr. Cantu asked if there were different existing maritime programs and, if so, were they spread around the campus. Principal Steve Guerrero responded that there are currently two different pathways: logistics and business-marketing. This is a magnet school for those pathways and the school is trying to fuse these themes into its maritime programs. However, it makes sense to have these shops on the first floor to interact with the engineering programs.
22. Mr. Cantu briefly described the information on the other presentation sheets with enlargements of the new proposed administration area, and the existing the Athletic Fieldhouse and ROTC buildings.
23. Mr. Cantu indicated that, if there are a lot of trophies, they probably won't be able to accommodate all of these, but the school could accommodate a certain number of trophies.
24. Mr. Cantu explained that an outdoor dining space might be considered as an additional area but cannot be added to the current allocated square footage assigned in the Ed. Specs. Program.
25. Principal Guerrero asked if there was an ISS (In School Suspension) Room and Mr. Cantu replied that an ISS Room was not identified in the Ed. Specs. Program.
26. Mr. Cantu explained that the Science Labs were distributed into the two new building areas because they usually require a lot of plumbing. The Learning Centers and CTE's (Career & Technology Education) are dispersed throughout the existing building.
27. Mr. Cantu explained that the lower basement level housed the existing swimming pool pumps and boilers and is not a very usable space.

QUESTIONS/ANSWERS:

There were no additional unanswered questions.

ACTION ITEMS:

- 1.1 None



NEXT PAT MEETING: December 10, 2015; Austin HS Library

Please review the meeting minutes and submit any changes or corrections to the author. After five (5) calendar days, the minutes will be assumed to be accurate.

Sincerely,

Albert L. Wong, AIA

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