



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

**MEETING #:** 17

**LOCATION:** Austin High School Library

**DATE / TIME:** January 14, 2016; 4:00 PM

**ATTENDEES:** (those marked with a check were present)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Steve Guerrero	Principal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Luis Landa	Asst. Principal
<input type="checkbox"/>	Yadira Banuelos	Class President	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tierra Harris	Alumni
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Covey Nash	Alumni	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Octavio Cantu	ERO Architects
<input type="checkbox"/>	Casiano Cruz	Teacher	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tim Johnson	Teacher, Science
<input 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 type="checkbox"/>	Jacque Royce	Alumni	<input type="checkbox"/>	Chris Fields	Heery Intl.PM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Catherine Smith	Teacher	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Estephanie Zapata	Student
<input type="checkbox"/>	Eli Ochoa	ERO Architects	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	George Tracy	Alumni
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Eric Ford	HISD – Facilities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Edward Gutierrez	Student
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ralph Hennie	Teacher, CTE	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rebecca Kiest	HISD Comm.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Georgianne Sigler	Alumni	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Nancy Bennett	Alumni
<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 renovated Austin High School campus buildings.
- Review and discuss the new proposed building additions.
- What to expect at the next PAT meeting.

**DISCUSSION:**

1. Octavio Cantu began the meeting by stating that, during the last Austin HS PAT meeting, he presented some proposed exterior images for the new main entrance in the new Addition and there was much discussion about what those elevations represented. For this meeting, ERO is using the same building massing but has revised the building elevations for further review and discussion purposes.
2. Mr. Cantu indicated that the PAT will now have two additional options to consider. The first option presented was the original one shown at the last Austin HS PAT Meeting, with a transition of a similar

brick veneer onto the new Addition's exterior walls along Jefferson St. The second option presented was a complete separation, with different exterior building materials between the existing building and the new addition. The third option was a redesigned main entrance similar to the second option, but continuing with a transition of materials into the new Addition from the existing building's facade.

3. Mr. Cantu stated that the floor plans have minor modifications, primarily to the two towers. There were also some revisions to the science labs and classroom areas. He added that the previously shown angled walls created impracticalities in the design configuration of the classrooms. Joe Nelson asked about the previous angled corridors and Mr. Cantu responded that the corridors were straightened out to create similar lab casework throughout these lab areas instead of having all different configurations. He also explained that this allowed stacking of the plumbing chases for economic purposes.
4. Mr. Cantu indicated that the science labs used to be located on both sides of the corridor, but now they are grouped on one side of the corridor only. Marsha Eckermann asked if these lab areas opened onto the corridors and Mr. Cantu responded that they are now more transparent with glazing in the corridor walls; teachers can actually hold class in these extended learning areas and be observed. Princess Jenkins explained that the students will be utilizing those spaces, since they learn in different ways. If the teachers want to take the students outside of the classroom without losing focus of a lesson, they can do so with these extended learning areas.
5. Covey Nash asked about the existing building's floor-to-floor difference and Mr. Cantu answered that it was 13'-3". Mr. Nash asked about any visual cues for the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor and Mr. Cantu responded that there were proposed balconies that would overlook the dining areas below.
6. Joe Nelson asked if lockers were being installed in the classrooms or the corridors and Mr. Cantu answered that lockers were no longer being used, other than in the Athletics areas. HISD's Princess Jenkins and Eric Ford added that many schools were moving into more digital learning environments and students didn't change classrooms as often during each day.
7. Ms. Eckermann asked that, if students don't have books, would they have to use a laptop. Mr. Ford answered affirmatively that every HISD high school student would be issued a laptop. Tania Roman added that they were one of the first HISD schools where students received laptops and found books online to do their work.
8. Mr. Cantu stated that they would continue to develop the program spaces and areas with more input from additional meetings with representatives from the different Austin HS curriculum departments.
9. Ms. Eckermann asked if there were any more exterior renderings of the new building Additions. Mr. Cantu responded that there was plenty of input on the exterior images presented during the last PAT meeting. The massing of the building will remain relatively the same, but some of the exterior elevations have been redesigned.
10. Mr. Cantu showed the same elevation that was presented and discussed at the last PAT meeting, but this option was shown with different exterior building materials. Tanya Roman replied that it looked different from the one presented at the last meeting. Mr. Cantu answered that there are some wall areas that are now clad with thin brick veneer to transition from the adjacent existing building areas.
11. Mr. Cantu explained that Option Two's roof changed at the new main entrance make it more apparent where the school's main entrance was located. He pointed out that the existing building to remain has brick and the new adjacent area will transition with similar looking brick veneer.
12. One of the PAT members inquired about the new connections between the existing 1936 Buildings and the new Additions. Mr. Cantu replied that there are bridges between the buildings on all three floors.
13. Covey Nash stated that the Third Option shown appeared to transition better with other elements from the existing school and Ms. Eckermann asked if that was brick or paint. Mr. Cantu answered that it was brick to transition from the existing building to new addition and indicated a preference for this option.

There is a physical separation but the new addition can stand on its own and show the history of Austin High School's past and present facilities.

14. Mr. Nelson asked if there was still a new entrance to the auditorium. Mr. Cantu replied yes and indicated that they have improved the entrance's appearance and visibility.
15. Mr. Nash stated that there was a lack of graphic continuity, but Mr. Cantu responded that they were still evaluating these exterior images and schemes.
16. Mr. Nelson asked about the addition's new Administration area and if there were windows shown in the exterior walls. Mr. Cantu confirmed that these are windows, with the Principal's office located in the corner nearest the new main entrance. George Tracy stated that these windows face north and will never get direct sunlight. He also suggested lowering the roof canopy to allow more visibility of the Stephen F. Austin signage from Jefferson St.
17. Luis Landa asked if the main office was located in the Administration area and Mr. Cantu confirmed this. Another PAT member asked about the options in terms of detailing similar to the original building and Mr. Cantu replied that the window sizes are different than the ones presented previously. There are now pairs of windows shown instead of large single windows. The pairs of windows mimic the existing building's windows. There are also window sills and a soldier course on top of these windows. Ms. Eckermann asked if the window sills would simulate stone and Mr. Cantu answered that this particular detail is very similar to the existing building's really nice decorative work. In between the window areas, there will be opportunities to experiment with the brick patterns. Ms. Eckermann added that this concept's brick detailing reminded her of the existing building's Dumble St. main entrance. The other entrance options were not as appealing.
18. George Tracy asked if more thought and design effort could go into these new entrance areas and if some more classical design ideas could be mimicked with the existing building's exterior appearance. Ms. Eckermann stated that she was not suggesting that the Architects copy the existing building's exterior appearance, but to use more materials such as stone or red brick, for example. She understood what the Architects were trying to accomplish with these ideas about transitioning from the existing to new construction, but the Black Box portion of the new addition reminded her of the exterior of a theater, instead of an administration area. She would like it to be more engaging. Mr. Cantu responded that the blackened area was the entrance to the auditorium. Mr. Tracy also commented that the new Gymnasium and the building areas to the south looked too different from each other.
19. Mr. Tracy asked if the brick could also be applied on the dark façade area and if this was due to a budget concern. When asked how far they could extend the thin brick veneer, Mr. Cantu answered that they can wrap it around the building. Then, Mr. Cantu asked if they would like a wainscot to separate this brick transition from the other materials, but Mr. Tracy responded that they should use the brick veneer on the entire facade. He preferred a more contemporary approach to the addition's façade.
20. Mr. Cantu confirmed that brick veneer was also being used on the side of the auditorium, where a new main entrance was also proposed and would look at these components again to incorporate some of the materials that were discussed. He agreed that there was a lot of PAT feedback that they would evaluate and attempt to use in their main entrance design.
21. Mr. Tracy asked about ERO's design schedule and Mr. Cantu answered that they will continue to work on the changes. The floor plans were almost complete, but they will continue to clean up and improve these as well as work on the interior and exterior elevations.
22. Mr. Tracy inquired about how ERO Architects were doing with their designs for Austin High School, construction cost-wise, and Albert Wong responded that the Design Team appeared to be within an acceptable percentage of the available budget where they are able to proceed forward with the Project.



23. Ms. Eckermann asked about the school's Mustang logo. Mr. Cantu stated that it was not the updated logo on their current design documents. Apparently, the school logo is undergoing some new changes to its appearance.
24. According to Mr. Tracy, the Architects have begun working on the exterior design of the new building addition, but seemed to have stalled. Once the design theme is established, the overall concept for the building exteriors will become more cohesive. Mr. Tracy added that the current presented options looked like the old Foley's entrance. He didn't want the new additions to exactly match the existing building, but to, at least, capture some of these existing details.
25. Mr. Cantu responded that they were thinking of creating a simulated brick appearance on the Gymnasium exterior walls with a metal form liner that looks like the brick, but not necessarily the color and type. Mr. Tracy countered with the statement that there were too many different pieces and that the Architects were too enamored with the proposed metal panels. He further stated that the Architects should more fully develop the transition from the existing building's exterior appearance to the new addition and also extend this look on the other exterior walls of the new additions. Mr. Cantu responded that they will present more elevation studies and options at the next meeting for the PAT to consider.
26. Mr. Wong mentioned that Eli Ochoa had previously presented some initial overall site design considerations when exploring the idea of noisy and quiet areas on the campus site and used this criteria to identify areas that were considered more industrial or more residential in appearance. Mr. Cantu added that this determination was the driving force for the current overall campus design, while acknowledging the comments regarding the new main entrance's need to be more grand and evident to visitors and the general public. Tania Roman stated the proposed school program and floor plans looked fine, but the main issues seemed to be the proposed building façades and exterior ideas. The existing and new buildings should transition better and merge together.

**QUESTIONS/ANSWERS:**

1. No additional questions were asked or responded to.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

- 1.1 None

**NEXT PAT MEETING:** February 18, 2016; 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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