



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

MEETING #: 9

LOCATION: Austin High School

DATE / TIME: May 14, 2015

ATTENDEES: (those marked with a check were present)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Jorge Arredondo	Principal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lydia Zamora	Teacher
<input type="checkbox"/>	Yadira Banuelos	Class President	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Nancy Bennett	Alumni
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Covey Nash	Alumni	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Octavio	ERO Architects
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Casiano Cruz	Teacher	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Tim Johnson	Teacher, Science
<input type="checkbox"/>	Karen Degollado	Student	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Joe Nelson	Alumni
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Marsha Eckerman	Alumni	<input type="checkbox"/>	C. Guerrero	Agricultural Teacher
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Albert Wong	HISD Project Manager	<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 type="checkbox"/>	Princess Jenkins	HISD – Facilities
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Tania Roman	Student	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Nestor Martinez	Project Manager
<input type="checkbox"/>	Jacque Royce		<input type="checkbox"/>	Sue Robertson	HISD – Facilities
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Catherine Smith	Teacher	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jorge Medina	Assistant Principal
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Eli Ochoa	ERO Architects	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Steve Guerrero	Principal
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Georgianne Sigler	Alumni	<input type="checkbox"/>	Kendrick Wright	HCISD FacilityDesign

PURPOSE: The purpose of the meeting was to meet with the Project Advisory Team and HISD Bond office project team to provide an update on progress to date.

AGENDA:

- Introduce Attendees
- Action Item Follow Up
- Review, discuss and edit room descriptions
- What to expect at the next PAT meeting

DISCUSSION:

1. ERO Architects Principal, Eli Ochoa, began by providing an overview of the ideas and input given at the Austin HS Design Charrette. The Design Team begins with concepts and these grow into ideas that are modified. Ultimately, ERO’s goal is to complete the product that everyone had an opportunity to provide input on, from a design and functional point of view.



2. Mr. Ochoa took those ideas from the Design Charrette and developed them to the next level. A cost model has been developed and, within the next two weeks, ERO will be developing new estimates on the current plans so the cost model is constantly updated. HISD has a finite budget that they were assigned for this project. What is presented now may change, but ERO will present those changes to everyone for collaboration. Steve Guerrero stated that all changes have cost implications.
3. Mr. Ochoa stated that the 1936 & 1966 buildings that were discussed at the Design Charrette are considered to be in good condition and will be reused in order to stay within the available construction budget. The square footage in the existing 1936 & 1966 buildings will be considered renovation areas and calculated differently than the new construction costs for new additions.
4. Mr. Ochoa stated that they were looking at significant renovation in these existing buildings to remain, with these areas used primarily as reconfigured classrooms. ERO is envisioning that some corridor walls and lockers will be taken out. The walls will become more transparent and will open up the corridors. The full spectrum lighting in the classrooms is not seen from the corridor and the design team is looking into getting that natural light into these corridor areas.
5. Mr. Ochoa discussed the Administration Area and the Learning Commons, also referred to as the Library. In the 21st Century Design, the Learning Commons is transformed to become more interactive and will be dispersed throughout the campus facility.
6. Mr. Ochoa continued with review of a two story volume that is intended to be the Dining Commons (Cafeteria). The second floor is proposed to have bridges that will lead to small learning areas where students can interact and will make it easier for the Administration to monitor the students.
7. Mr. Ochoa stated that as we continue with the design, we will start showing 3D hand sketches to show what ERO is envisioning for this campus.
8. Mr. Ochoa will need input from the PAT members in regards to the current dressing rooms. The Design Team can either centrally locate them or move them to another location. If these are kept where they are currently placed, the Design Team can keep the buses on Lockwood or pull them off the street to a slip lane where they can unload in front of the Administration area and Learning Commons. This will allow the students to gather in one area before their first classes. The Courtyard and Dining Commons will be the central HUB of a lot of student interaction.
9. The design team would like to re-orientate the Sky Bridge's existing access stairs and make them more convenient, especially when there is a lot of vehicular traffic on S. Lockwood Drive. Lydia Zamora asked if the bridge would be rotated as previously discussed. Mr. Ochoa and Mr. Cantu stated that the options would be to either add risers or move the entrance to the parking lot. The Design Team will do whatever is most cost effective and functional. Mr. Ochoa stated that there is the possibility of a pedestrian street light on S. Lockwood Dr., with a pedestrian walk way, but will not know for sure until they meet with the Traffic Engineer.
10. In response to a question from Nestor Martinez about a presented illustration, Eli Ochoa stated that everything in multicolor was proposed to be demolished. Everything to the west of the 1966 building will be removed and not be part of the final design, with the exception of the JROTC and Field House; these will remain and be renovated.



11. Eli Ochoa stated that the two new gymnasiums will be set back from S. Lockwood Dr. This will make it convenient to take the Sky Bridge to the gyms from the existing parking lot. The Dining Commons can become a lobby to the gymnasiums. It can be a controlled space, through a series of doors and gates that can be locked, keeping the rest of the campus secure.
12. Albert Wong asked if the Dining Commons was intended to feed all of the students at one time and Mr. Ochoa replied "No". The Dining Commons is designed to be a fun place to be in. The outside courtyard area will have places for students to sit down, including large steps and ramps to make it handicapped accessible, and be shaded to make it inviting for students.
13. Mr. Ochoa stated that, from a planning perspective, the way the campus is laid out works well. The classrooms are located closer to the surrounding community's residential area where it is quieter.
14. Mr. Ochoa requested input from the PAT in regards to the Band Hall and where the band students will be practicing. Tania Roman stated that the band only needs the fields to practice on during football season. By the time football season is over, they can use the parking lot if they need to practice. Eli Ochoa stated that the band hall would be kept in the area discussed to help get the band students in and out of the area when they are traveling. Lydia Zamora stated that the soccer fields, which can hopefully be added into the Program, could be an area where the band can practice on until soccer season begins. Soccer would then take priority and the band would move elsewhere.
15. Mr. Ochoa stated that the Design Team is limited in what they can do with the electrical easement located under the parking lot. The Design Team cannot put a building on that area, due to this existing easement.
16. Mr. Wong stated that, across S. Lockwood, there are currently 8.56 acres that can be used as part of this campus. However, it's difficult to access because it's across the street from the main campus. ERO's Octavio Cantu stated that the area across S. Lockwood might be used for storm water detention; it is unclear at the moment. It could also be used for relocating the Agricultural Building.
17. Ms. Zamora asked if the locker rooms are doubling as regular gym class lockers rooms and athletic locker rooms. Mr. Ochoa stated that the locker rooms are shown as indicated in the program. Currently, these are all boys' lockers rooms but will be changed to accommodate both genders.
18. Mr. Ochoa proceeded with the second slide which includes the CTE building that needs access to the service yard. The new parent drop off would be on Dumble Street, which has only a 50' right of way. The Design Team will have to meet with the Traffic Engineer and the City of Houston before any final decisions can be made.
19. Mr. Wong asked if the community used the facility after hours and Principal Steve Guerrero responded that some schools use it for after-school programs and Saturday classes. Mr. Ochoa stated that movement in the building will be controlled after hours so that people are not roaming the campus.
20. Mr. Martinez asked if there will be any signage to indicate where the students' dropoff, bus lanes, etc. are to direct people and Mr. Ochoa stated that there will be way-finding signage throughout the campus and on the streets.
21. Tania Roman asked if Jefferson St. will be maintained as the main entrance to Austin High School and Mr. Ochoa stated that it would become a new entrance for visitors.



22. Mr. Cantu stated that, during the Design Charrette, the possibility of moving the central plant was discussed. At the moment, however, it appears that the central plant will remain where it is located. Mr. Martinez stated that it would be allow funds to be spent on student, staff and program needs if it remains in the same location.
23. Eli Ochoa indicated that there would be two loops around the campus. The old 1941 building was added when the girl's gymnasium was added. The Design Team would like to keep the 1941 building. The corridor from the 1936 building will continue until it hits the second floor outer loop and will continue all around the campus. Mr. Ochoa continued with the second floor and proposed to take out an existing stairwell which will become a corridor that will become part of the loop indicated above.
24. Mr. Martinez asked where the elevator was located and Mr. Ochoa showed the PAT on the site plan. The existing elevator may not stay, but other elevators will be added.
25. Mr. Ochoa continued discussion about the Administration areas which will be dispersed throughout the campus.
26. Mr. Ochoa mentioned that there is a possibility of including a glass wall at one of the Gym or Dining Commons areas, but the sun's heat radiation will have to be considered.
27. Marsha Eckerman asked if there would be an entrance from Lockwood and Mr. Ochoa stated that there would be emergency exits facing S. Lockwood Dr. These entrances and the canopy added for the band hall were shown on the illustration.
28. Lydia Zamora voiced her concern regarding the walls facing S. Lockwood Dr. getting tagged from top to bottom. Mr. Ochoa will keep this in mind as a valid concern.
29. Ms. Eckerman asked how the rest of the PAT, who didn't attend the Design Charrette, felt about moving the entrance to Jefferson Street. Mr. Ochoa clarified that the entrance on Jefferson Street will be primarily for visitors. Bus students will be coming in from S. Lockwood Dr. and parents will drop off students on Dumble Street. Lockwood and Jefferson will be used for after-school purposes. Students will be entering through the entrance on Lockwood. The Design Team will not know which area might be considered the school's main entrance until they get the survey and building plat information. Ms. Eckerman asked if the Design Team will have a modernistic design approach for these Austin High School changes or reinforce the historical façade on Dumble St. Mr. Ochoa stated that the Design Team will combine a modern design while maintaining the history of the building. Mr. Martinez stated that HISD would like to preserve the history and legacy of the school. Mr. Ochoa stated that the biggest design challenge is how to maintain a residential feel to an institutional entrance.
30. Depending upon how many buses are assigned to Austin High School and due to the high traffic along S. Lockwood Dr., the Design Team would rather relocate the buses elsewhere, if possible. The traffic engineering survey should help to determine its best and safest location for serving the campus
31. Ms. Eckerman asked if there is a possibility to make Jefferson Street a one way street. Mr. Ochoa replied that it was a really good idea, but this will have to be discussed with the Traffic Engineer.
32. Mr. Ochoa continued by showing an inventory of the spaces that are available and where they can be located as part of the current Austin HS Program. All of the colors on their illustration mean something to the Design Team, with the standard classroom size set at 850 sq. ft.



33. Tania Roman asked if the Design Team is still looking at the idea of the teachers sharing classrooms. Mr. Ochoa's responded that this not shown on the capacity model, but it is a possibility that teachers may share classrooms in the future.
34. Ms. Roman asked if the CTE classrooms were included in the program and Mr. Ochoa stated that certain CTE's are grouped with the Maritime program. The pool area might house an elevator that Mr. Martinez suggested to make it easier for students to access the second and third floors.

QUESTIONS/ANSWERS:

- 1.) Eli Ochoa asked for any other questions that the PAT might have. All the questions were asked and answered throughout the meeting.

ACTION ITEMS:

- 1-1 Prepare for the next PAT Meeting.

WHAT TO EXPECT AT THE NEXT PAT MEETING:

- 1.) The Design Team will provide 3D Sketches.
- 2.) More input from the Traffic Engineers

NEXT PAT MEETING: June 11, 2015

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 Wong, AIA
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