



Project Advisory Team (PAT) Meeting Minutes

Lamar High School

MEETING NO.: 001

LOCATION: Lamar High School

DATE / TIME: January 23, 2014, 12:00pm

ATTENDEES: James McSwain, Principal; Robin Bissell, Teacher; Simon Chardey, Teacher; Joseph David, Teacher; Amy Downing, Teacher; Tyrone Green, Teacher; Kimberly Lis, Teacher; Angela Rice, Teacher; Nimmi Thomas, Teacher, Grace Mosby, Other School Based; Holly Gibson, Other School Based; Jason Spencer, Other School Based; Kendra Strange-Shaffer, Other School Based; Cindy Puryear, Non-Instructional; Karen Ewing, Parent; Cierra Duckworth, Student; Edlyn Pursell, Community Member; Gary Patterson, Instructional Specialist; Brooks Straub, Teacher; Tom Nolen, Athletic Director; Phoebe Tudor, Parent/Community; Mandy Nathan, Parent; Penelope Tschirhart, Teacher Coordinator; Sue Robertson, HISD - Facility Planning; Patrick Glenn, Perkins+Will - Design Architects

PURPOSE: Discuss design status

AGENDA ITEMS:

- Guiding Principles Summary
- Large Group Reaction and Discussion
- What has changed your point of view about the design for Lamar High School

NOTES:

Discussion:

1. A combined meeting of the Lamar High School Site-based Decision Making Committee (SDMC) and PAT convened at 12:00 in the Alumni Room. Approximately 35 members were present. Dr. McSwain opened the meeting with general comments about the status of the design process. He briefly discussed the week of visits during December to various schools around the country and recognized those who had participated. He also pointed out those who had recently visited another school in Detroit, Michigan. He then introduced Patrick Glenn, representative of Perkins+Will who delivered a presentation which explained stages of the design process and highlighted the schools visited by a nucleus of SDMC/PAT members in December, 2013. Following the presentation, the members shared reactions and discussed key points. The following is a summary of comments, questions and discussion:
 - a. 21st Century Concepts were seen in reality [during the site visits]. It was really great to be able to see many of the features the PAT had discussed.
 - b. PAT members saw teaching by concept...putting kids in boxes is DEAD!!
 - c. PAT members saw the "flipped" classroom when they visited Detroit, Michigan. This school is the pioneer for an instructional model where homework/practice is done with teachers' help in order to move students to higher level thinking.
 - d. Collaboration and knowing how to do it is critical...workplaces are moving more and more toward this strategy.
 - e. Blended learning and the "flipped" classroom are the coming changes – what does that mean for facility design?

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- f. The group continued the “flipped” classroom discussion by voicing several issues associated with the concept:
 - i. There is a concern about student completion of assigned work.
 - ii. Accountability to other members of the cohort.
 - g. The schools contained materials with various uses such as white board tables and glass walls as presentation screens.
 - h. Teachers love the use of glass and the openness it offers but are concerned about security. Mr. Glenn explained that glass walls can easily be made private with blinds or be made so that they are pocket windows.
 - i. Dr. McSwain briefly discussed the idea of “distributed dining” for students. He asked the members to visualize a central atrium divided into four quads with each having the capacity of 240 students. There would be a large common area and seminar rooms (that could be closed for privacy) and each quad would have a small kitchenette and dining area. There would be no scheduled lunch time and some nutritional foods would be available all the time.
 - j. Dr. McSwain discussed the idea of students being divided into cohorts with teams of teachers designated to teach them. Instruction would occur within the cohorts about 60% of each day and students would be in electives the remainder of the day. Cohort arrangements offer an adult environment for students that encourages responsibility, teamwork, and interdependence. For teachers, the major advantage is they plan all instruction as a team, thereby supporting each other and drawing on their strengths.
 - k. Members of the groups responded favorably to these ideas. However, some expressed some concern about students who do not behave well or buy in academically to a cohort arrangement. A Lamar teacher who is experimenting with the “flipped” concept commented that he is having success with students who are usually reluctant to do homework. Other members commented that collaborative instructional strategies and a differentiated classroom environment tends to address learners’ needs more successfully. Mr. Glenn pointed out that a large percentage of students today are bored in classrooms and that the cohort concept has a chance to change that. The teacher pointed out that the equivalent of seven school days could be saved by eliminating class passing times.
2. Closing comments were made to the SDMC/PAT by Dr. McSwain. He stated that there may not be enough money to address all of the wants and needs. He encouraged the group to think about the best use of funds and not to spend everything on finishes. The priority needs to be to obtain the most space, the most facility for the money. We must make wise use of light, brightness and color.
 3. The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:00 p.m.

What to Expect at the Next PAT Meeting:

1. Affirm acceptance of Guiding Principles
2. Discuss the capacity model and space program

NEXT PAT MEETING: Thursday, February 13, 2013 at 12:00 pm.

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

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Sincerely,

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