



Minutes
2012 Bond Project Advisory Team (PAT) Meeting
Wharton Dual Language Academy

MEETING #: 11

LOCATION: Wharton Dual Language Academy K-8

DATE / TIME: July 28, 2015; 3:45 pm

ATTENDEES: (those marked with a check were present)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jennifer Day	Principal	<input type="checkbox"/>	Martha Rangel	Teacher
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Patricia Selin	IB/GT Coordinator	<input type="checkbox"/>	Raul Ramos	PTO President
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cynthia Rangel	Teacher	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Marna Marsh	Parent
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rosemary Grant	Heery/HISD	<input type="checkbox"/>	Taryn Kinney	Parent
<input type="checkbox"/>	Kenneth McPherson	Community	<input type="checkbox"/>	Emily Cole	Community
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	David Funk	HISD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Albert Wong	HISD
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Casey Annunzio	Munoz Architects	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Geof Edwards	Munoz Architects
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Michael Sabouni	AutoArch	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lina Sabouni	AutoArch

PURPOSE: Present and review updated design concepts based upon the previous PAT work session.

AGENDA:

- Review & discuss current conceptual updates from the previous design work sessions.
- Review & discuss exterior design inspirations and materials.
- What to expect at the next PAT Meeting

DISCUSSION:

A. PRESENTATION OF THE REVISED SITE PLAN

1. The new Bus Drop Off area is located on the east side of the school. The right lane will be for buses and the left lane is for passing/queuing. The lanes will be only one-way after passing the Receiving Area.
2. The PAT did not take exception to using part of the building overhang as a covered area for the bus drop on the east side of the site.



3. The PAT appeared to like the proposed covered outdoor walkway connections along the north side of the courtyard for better connectivity throughout the school grounds.
4. Parent drivers may enter the student drop off lane from the SW corner of the campus or the school administration may choose to queue these vehicles to enter the left lane of the bus loop (from the NE corner) and follow around the south end of the school building to drop students off on the west side of the campus.
5. A large tree at the east side of the property will have to be removed, due to its location relative to the proposed drop off lanes and the existing building and property lines. Some additional landscaping will be implemented in the adjacent areas to, hopefully, offset this removal.
6. The playgrounds for grades 1-8 are shown to the east of existing school (expanded, current location) and also north of the new education building (South of ball field).
7. Playgrounds for Pre-K and K are located on either side of the renovated Visual Arts spaces, which are shown in the existing dining area.
8. The baseball field is shown in its current position, with no change to its shape or size.
9. There are 10-12 new visitor parking spaces shown next to the new main entry.
10. The traffic engineer has begun speaking with the city about this proposed vehicular circulation site plan.

B. DISCUSSION OF THE FLOOR PLANS

1. The new main entry for the school was shown to be on the west side. It was proposed that the vestibule could be a transparent two-story element to visually highlight this new entrance on Gray St.
2. The existing building main entry will remain a secondary (but public) entry for community events. The design team will investigate creating a large controlled vestibule within the existing lobby that will serve during public events to keep unauthorized visitors from entering the Pre-K and K wings of the school.
3. The Administration spaces were shown further west and more compact to open up the courtyard as requested in a previous meeting. The PAT seemed to be in favor of the new space layout.
4. A couple of Administrative offices and one of the teacher lunch/workrooms are proposed to be located in the existing building to support the Pre-K and K staff. The second work/lunch room is proposed for the second floor of the new building. The two smaller workrooms were shown to be on the first and third floors for an even distribution of teacher support space.
5. The design team will further study the vertical circulation throughout the new proposed multi-story addition.
6. The PAT seemed to like the idea of the new Main Learning Commons designed as a double height space with a partial second level dedicated to reading and class study/projects. The stacks and reading area will have views to the courtyard and be articulated as prominent features on the building facade.
7. The second floor gymnasium and supporting spaces were arranged slightly different than shown in the previous PAT meeting. There were no significant comments regarding this area. The team will continue to work on this area.
8. The Science Labs were shown as stacked for efficiency on the second and third floors of the new building. These spaces will have views to the courtyard and also be articulated to become prominent features on the building facade.



9. Building massing model views were shown to the PAT to give context to the scale and layout of the proposed new buildings as they relate to the surrounding buildings and streets. The PAT seemed to approve of the stacking and central space, in light of the constricted area available for construction.
10. To visually transition the new addition into the existing building, the design team proposed brick to match the existing exterior finishes at the first level. The exterior material would then switch from brick to another material for the second and third floors. This is to reduce the scale of the three story building.
11. Certain areas may push forward or pull back on the courtyard façade to further break down the scale. All attendees agreed this was important for the young students and will create a more welcoming school appearance.

C. EXTERIOR DESIGN INSPIRATION

1. Example photos of other schools' exteriors were shown to solicit the PAT's preferences and where they thought emphasis on the exterior should be studied. The examples that were shown to prompt discussion were the following:
 - a. Material changes on the building exterior to break down the scale.
 - b. Use of brick accents and banding at first floor.
 - c. Respecting and connecting to the existing building.
 - d. Use of metal panels as building skin and how to make this material fun.
 - e. Use of subtle color with a few bolder color areas.
 - f. Different means of providing solar shading of the south and west facades.
 - g. Highlighting areas as being special by more transparency and monolithic expression.
 - h. Using part of the building's second floor plate as shading and covering and also by using building orientation and massing organization.
2. Examples of important aspects shown to the PAT for consideration as the design progresses were:
 - a. Glass and glazing – using it to the greatest benefit for natural light, per the cost.
 - b. Solar Shading methods and appearances – budget is a big factor.
 - c. Setting up learning opportunity spaces outside of the Learning Centers with visual connections; also, secondary use of space already in program to try and accomplish this.
 - d. Playground shading and also ways of using shading devices to protect the students from unwanted voyeurism.
 - e. The Outdoor Learning Gardens and how to incorporate this important part of their program, as inexpensively as possible, into the central courtyard.

D. NEXT STEPS

1. HISD is continuing to investigate a single phased delivery option during construction.
2. Munoz|AutoArch will present the progress at the Community Meeting and provide display boards.
3. Surveyors are under contract and have begun the work. A completed report is expected around the end of August.
4. The Design Team will come to the next PAT Meeting with proposed elevations and more revised floor plans with PAT comments incorporated.



5. Prepare for the upcoming Wharton DLA Community Meeting on August 5, 2015.

QUESTIONS/ANSWERS:

- A. There were no additional questions from the PAT.

ACTION ITEMS:

- 2-1 Prepare for the upcoming Wharton DLA Community Meeting on August 5, 2015.

WHAT TO EXPECT AT THE NEXT PAT MEETING:

1. Discuss and review further development of the WDLA design concepts from Munoz/AutoArch.

NEXT PAT MEETING: Monday, August 3, 2015; 3:45 pm, Wharton Dual Language Academy

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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