



Project Advisory Team Meeting Minutes
Jack Yates High School

MEETING NO.: 006

LOCATION: Jack Yates High School

DATE / TIME: January 16, 2014, 5:00 pm

ATTENDEES: Donetrus Hill, Principal; Ray Gatlin, Assistant Principal; Arva Howard, Community Member; Larry Blackmon, Community Member; Wally Huerta, Moody-Nolan Architects; Princess Jenkins, HISD-Facilities Planning; Albert Ray, Moody-Nolan Architects; Morris Bennett, KWAME/HISD Project Manager; Carl Davis, Alumni; Renette Lucien, Staff; Amber Wright, Student; Sue Robertson Gen. Mgr. HISD-Facilities Planning; Jaa St. Julien, One World; Donald Carroll, DCP Cons.; Cletus Johnson, Community Member; Margo Hickman, Community Member;

PURPOSE: Discussion will focus on finalizing the Guiding Principles and updating the Capacity Model and the draft Space Requirements for Jack Yates High School.

AGENDA ITEMS:

- 21st Century Schools Discussion
- Finalize the Guiding Principles
- Review the Capacity Model
- Discuss the draft Space Requirements
- What to expect at the next PAT Meeting

NOTES:

Discussion:

1. Sue Robertson gave a presentation of "Top 12 Workplace and Lifestyle Trends that are Informing Education".
 - a. One of the important topics of this discussion was Branding. The PAT discussed that they would like the new building to exhibit Branding excellence in:
 - i. Academics
 - ii. Championships in Competitive Sporting and Scholastic Events
 - iii. Alumni presence and history – producing productive citizens in the community.
 - b. Principal Hill also added that the staff, students, and parents will be offered the opportunity to provide input on the Yates brand as well.
2. School Tours are planned for the PAT:
 - a. January 29-2014 has been reserved as potential date to visit both Salyards Middle School in CyFair Independent School District and Dawson High School in Pearland Independent School District.
 - b. A trip has been planned to Seattle, Washington to visit 21st Century Schools on February 4-06, 2014. 3 of the 4 members traveling were selected by the Principal. The fourth person is unknown and will be identified by Principal Hill.
 - c. Mr. Larry Blackmon, an Alumni and PTA member expressed his opinions and his expectations for the new Yates High School and Neighborhood teaching. Mr. Blackmon express they want a school built like Dawson High School. Mr. Blackmon and some of the Alumni members visited Dawson High School and were very impressed the school.
3. Neighborhoods and Linked Learning Discussion:
 - a. Linked learning is the connection of Career and Technical Education classes and Core Subjects that help the student relate what is being taught in the classroom to real-life experiences. Linked Learning also weaves studies in English, Social Studies, and Science etc. into a career path reflecting the students' interests. Students are shown how subject matter from basic courses is combined into college preparatory and career pathways

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- provided by Yates High School. Students can then see the tie between core subjects and their area of study. Spaces are then designed and built to support these activities.
- b. Neighborhood teaching will help the students to be academically prepared for the 21st Century. "Neighborhoods" refers to the relationship between classrooms and how they are clustered. The visits to the benchmark schools will be geared around understanding academic "neighborhoods" and extended learning environments.

Question: Are there any schools that have Neighborhood teaching?

Answer: Yes. There are models and examples that some members will get a chance to experience going to the Seattle trip. Ideally, all of the new schools will be following this program of neighborhood teaching. Dan Bankhead discussed in more detail how the neighborhoods classroom teaching areas could be arranged to accommodate various types of learning and teaching.

Question: Will neighborhood teaching increase student enrollment at Yates or other schools?

Answer: Neighborhood teaching is not what increases the enrollment. Rather it is families moving into the area who provide growth in the area. Schools are being designed for families moving into the area, and future growth in the area.

4. Image of Jack Yates High School:
- Some members of the PAT do not want Yates to have a warehouse design and want it to be a school that will make a statement.
 - Dawson High School in Pearland ISD was mentioned as a bench mark school by Mr. Blackmon, a member of the PAT.
 - The school size is important to the PAT because of the desire to regain their students and student athletes lost to other schools. With the concerns of the community losing students to other schools, they want a school built so students will want to come to the New Yates High School and reclaim those students that have left Yates.
 - A combination of in-demand student academic programs, athletics, history, and a well-designed building are all components of attracting and retaining students.
5. Student Enrollment at Yates:
- The student enrollment is a contentious subject in the meetings. There are many theories as to why students are leaving Yates High School.
 - Sue Robertson presented some metrics for the PAT to consider. High points of that discussion were:
 - The new school is being planned to accommodate an additional for 350 students beyond the current enrollment.
 - The core building spaces (student dining and learning commons) are being planned for an additional 200 students above and beyond the planned program capacity for a total of 550-600 students' growth capacity in the building core.
 - 957 students are currently enrolled in the school.
 - Ms. Robertson discussed the square footage for the school. Handouts were given to the PAT members for them to review prior to the next PAT meeting
6. The PAT finalized the Guiding Principles. The Guiding Principles are as follows for Jack Yates High School:
- We are responsible and accountable to our local Community. Our school is the heart of the community. We will actively seek community involvement and respond to community needs.
 - We respect parents and their values. We value parent involvement, and will make every reasonable effort to address and respond to parental concerns. We have a responsibility to assist parents in the education of their children.
 - We care about students. Each student should be given an opportunity to be educated in a safe and caring environment. Their physical and emotional needs are paramount.
 - Our learning extends far beyond the classroom. The educational programs we offer our students adhere to 21st Century Learning Standards and extend with opportunities such as field trips; recreational activities; academic competitions; and club activities.
 - We will uphold traditional values, integrity, honor and excellence. These traditional values have served our society well in the past, are cherished by our community, and are important to our future. Through community involvement, these traditions and values will be infused in the student environment.
 - We value our employees. We specifically and carefully select our staff on the basis of their ability to carry out the mission and guiding principles. We will hire the best people suited for our school. We will respect their expertise and depend on them to work closely with the parents to ensure each student is successful.
 - We are continually growing & improving. Our curriculum, technology and educational methods should constantly evolve to meet the needs of the learners.
 - We will build the school so that our descendants will thank us. We will build a timeless facility for the future.

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7. Real Estate and new building orientation:
 - a. The District has looked into acquiring the Scott Street businesses currently fronting Yates High School and acquisition would be difficult. The owners of those businesses are not likely to be willing sellers. Given the football stadium construction at the University of Houston they probably see the increased value and increased revenue potential and thus are not willing to sell. There was no budget within the HISD program provided for land acquisition.
 - b. All of the topics associated with the site such as orientation of the building will be researched and options will be presented during design.

What to Expect Next PAT Meeting:

1. We will discuss the Capacity Model.
2. We will discuss draft Space Requirements.
3. Discuss the Seattle, Washington School Tours.

ACTION ITEMS:

- 5-01 Gather the participants for the School Tours on January 29, 2014 (Jack Yates Administration).
- 5-02 Update and distribute the Guiding Principles (HISD Facilities Planner).

NEXT PAT MEETING: The next PAT meeting will be held on February 20, 2014 at 5:00pm.

Please review the meeting minutes and submit any changes or corrections to Morris Bennett.

After five (5) days, the minutes will be assumed to be accurate.

Sincerely,

Morris Bennett, P.M.

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