



Project Advisory Team Meeting Minutes
Jack Yates High School

MEETING NO.: 011

LOCATION: Jack Yates High School

DATE / TIME: July 8, 2014, 5:30 pm

ATTENDEES: Samuel Long, HISD Band Director; Matisia Hollingsworth, HISD Construction Project Manager; Kedrick Wright, HISD Facility Design; Gloria Barrera, HISD Facility Planning; Princess Jenkins, HISD Facility Planning; Sue Robertson, HISD General Manager Facility Planning; Cletus Johnson, Yates HS Staff; Velda Hunter, Yates HS Staff; Renette Lucien, Yates HS Staff; Morris Bennett, KWAME Program Manager; Marcus Bland, Yates Assistant Principal; Larry Blackman, Alumni; Roland Cotton, Alumni; Arva Howard, Alumni; Wardell Ross, Moody-Nolan Architects; Jonathan Moody, Moody-Nolan Architects; Wally Huerta, Huerta & Associates Architects; Ishita Shah, Huerta & Associates Architects; Stacey Dueitt, Huerta & Associates Architects; Clint Stanford, Huerta & Associates Architects; Carolyn Evans Shabazz, NAACP; Arthur Triplette, Alumni; Amie Johnson, Alumni; Gregory Bush, Alumni; Bobby Scott, Alumni;

PURPOSE: This meeting focused on reviewing updated building schemes, exterior massing and appearance.

AGENDA ITEMS:

- PAT will provide input on their preferences for the appearance of the exterior of the new facility.
- Architect will present various schemes for site organization and request PAT feedback.
- Confirm future PAT meeting dates and time
- What to expect at the next PAT meeting

NOTES:

Discussion:

1. Mr. Dan Bankhead, HISD – General Manager of Facilities Design, opened the meeting by welcoming everyone. Mr. Morris Bennett, HISD Program Manager, reviewed the agenda and introduced the Architectural Design Team.
2. The design team presented updated site plans for both schemes which addressed the comments received at the previous PAT meeting:
 - a. The front entries face Alabama, as requested.
 - b. Both schemes consist of three story buildings.
 - c. Revised site circulation for bus drop-off, parent drop-off, staff parking and visitor parking.
3. The Architect requested the PAT to participate in an exercise to select their favorite and least favorite images from among those included on three boards that were identified as Entry, Massing, and Materials.
4. “Entry” Image Board Comments:
 - a. The image of Dawson High School’s entry was a favorite because of the collegiate feel, high quality materials, timeless look, and perceived durability.
 - b. The second choice was an image that displayed a large amount of glass, which was attractive, but the entryway didn’t stand out. The group stated that the glass exemplified contemporary 21st century design.
 - c. The PAT stated that the entry should be lit and seating areas. They would prefer strong emphasis on the school entry.
 - d. It was noted that glass on the building will provide an opportunity for reflections of the outside landscaping and will allow for nature to become part of the school.

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- e. The PAT would like the school name “Jack Yates High School” etched into wall at the top of the school similar Dawson High School.
5. “Materials” Image Board Comments:
 - a. The image featuring the large amount of glass, lighting techniques and the use of metal appearing to be light-weight and contemporary was favored by the PAT.
 - b. A PAT member asked: Is it possible to use brick and glass together? The design team responded that this can be done and often results in a positive contrast between the two materials. This also was favored by the PAT. The brick and glass combination “feels good” and “it will last longer.”
6. “Massing” Image Board Comments:
 - a. Members of the PAT liked the natural light and felt like it would make a huge difference. It was stated that it was something that the interior of Dawson High School did not have. They stated that they did not want the feeling of being left in a dark and gloomy space all day.
 - b. Several images that were least favored by the PAT had narrow windows that made them feel like they would be in a dark and closed in space. Some members stated the least positive images resembled a jail.
 - c. Several PAT members want a focus on natural light similar to the Houston’s Hobby Center. It focuses on the natural light in open and public spaces.
7. Mr. Wardell Ross, Moody-Nolan Architects, reviewed the evolution of the design
 - a. Mr. Ross noted that at the Design Charrette in May, nine building schemes were initially identified. The PAT narrowed these down to two for further development: the L-shaped Scheme and the Stretch Scheme.
 - b. Mr. Ross and Mr. Jonathan Moody reviewed how both schemes were developed to address the comments of the PAT.
 - c. Several members of the PAT expressed concern with the entry facing Alabama and suggested that the Administration/Academic Section of the building should face Scott Street. Other members of the PAT expressed concern with facing Scott given that the land between the school and the street are not currently owned by HISD. Ms. Sue Robertson, HISD General Manager of Facility Planning, explained that there is a real potential of acquiring the site on Scott Street. When asked she noted that the cost to acquire the land would come from the project (not construction) budget. She and Mrs. Arva Howard explained that there had been initial discussions with the City of Houston regarding the adjacent library and the possibility of partnering with Yates. Once possibility is for the library to be demolished and for the City of Houston to partner with Yates High School and locate a shared library inside the new school. The City of Houston Library would provide books and technology to potentially address community needs.
8. Mr. Ross provided PAT members with copies of both building schemes, the L-Shape and the Stretch and requested that the PAT break into two groups and discuss the Pros and Cons of each Scheme. Following their discussions, the following was offered:
 - a. Group 1 preferred the L-Shaped scheme provided the land on Scott Street is acquired; should this not be possible, then they prefer proceeding with the Stretch Scheme.
 - b. Group 2 strongly preferred exploring the L-Shaped Scheme with the academic area facing Scott and the performance areas facing Alabama (which could be switched) and the drill pad moved to house more academics in that area.
 - c. The PAT agreed that the athletic fields should shift in order to add seating around the fields to watch sporting events. They also noted that a number of amenities should be added for the community to use.
 - d. Based upon the comments received and a show of hands, the L-Shaped Scheme was almost unanimously agreed upon as the scheme for the architects to develop further.
9. General Comments:
 - a. Mrs. Howard explained that Yates High School had previously been approved for a Spark Park in 2006 and strongly recommended using that money to improve the site for community use.
 - b. Mr. Larry Blackmon explained that the athletic fields and pool could be used and rented for UIL-practices during the summer which would allow Yates High School to become a more self-sustaining school. Another PAT member stated the same could be done through rentals of the auditorium.
 - c. It was stated that the Jack Yates High School facility should be built to the level that has been asked for by the PAT although it was acknowledged that this may be greater than

allowed by the 2012 Bond budget. It was stated that if all the facilities identified by the PAT cannot be built, then a reason should be provided by HISD as to why.

- d. The PAT noted that they expect that their input will consistently be included throughout the process and changes to the interior and exterior will be made based on what was seen and approved.
- e. The PAT expects that all options will be reviewed with the PAT when designing the interior of the building.
- f. The PAT suggested that a point person be selected to communicate more regularly with the Architects. As discussed, the Principal will become the point person between the PAT and the designers to ensure that nothing gets lost in communication.

1. **What to Expect Next PAT Meeting:**

- a. The Next PAT meeting is July 29th, at 5:30 pm.
- b. The Architects will present further development of the site plan, the L-Shape building scheme and receive feedback from PAT.
- c. The Program Manager will discuss potential dates for the Community Meeting.

ACTION ITEMS:

- 11-01 Architectural design team will develop revised site plan with front facing Scott Street
- 11-02 Architectural design team will develop conceptual floor plan layouts
- 11-03 Architectural design team will develop conceptual exterior elevations/ 3D images

NEXT PAT MEETING: The Next PAT meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 29, 2014 at 5:30pm.

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

Sincerely,

Mr. Morris Bennett, P.M.

HISD – Program Manager

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