



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

**MEETING #:** 15

**LOCATION:** Yates High School

**DATE / TIME:** September 25, 2014 5:30pm

**ATTENDEES:** (those marked with a check were present)

√	Ray A. Gatlin
	Matisia Hollingsworth
	Leo Bobadilla
√	Kedrick Wright
	Gloria Barrera
√	Princess Jenkins
	Sue Robertson
	Liz Philippi
√	Donetrus Hill
√	Cletus Johnson
√	Amie Johnson
	Tenaya Oliveras
	Krishelle Russell
√	Donetrus Hill
√	Cory Dixon
√	Mark Cohen
√	Marier Flowers
√	Carolyn Evans
√	Pamela Doveland

√	Marcus Bland
	Carl Davis
	Larry Blackmon
√	Roland Cotton
	Iva Ward
	Victor Bailey
√	Arva Howard
	Mark Eden
	Michelle Barnes
	T.C. Williams
√	Martha Griffin
	Ebony Edwards
	Miracle Haynes
√	Arthur Triplette
√	Aubrey Ray
√	Kedrick Wright
√	Ishita Shan
√	Amber Wright
√	Titus Bryant

	Margo Hickman
	LTC Sandra Thompson
	Terri Collins
√	Velda Hunter
	Tameka Jeffrey
	Rennette Lucien
	Ray Carrington II
	Ron Roberts
√	Amanda Goodie
	Johnny O'Connor
√	Jennifer Topper
	Kenyell Banks
	Joylissa Stafford
√	Gerry Monroe
√	Arnell Johnson
√	Rosalind Branch
√	Deveena Porter
√	Ave Broussard
√	Anderson
√	Michael Coleman

	Donald Carroll
	Albert Ray
	Barton Drake
	Wally Huerta
√	Wardell Ross
	Carolyn Evans Shabazz
√	Angela Wright
√	Maurice Hobson
	Robert Ford
	Amber Wright
√	Jamie Watts
√	Ishira Shah
√	Stacey Dueitt
√	Flossie Norman
√	Elke Henderson
√	Darryl Jackson
√	Alan Henry
√	Corrie J. Wilson

**PURPOSE:** This meeting focused on 21<sup>st</sup> Century design elements for the new Jack Yates High School.



**AGENDA:**

- Presentation of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Environments to receive feedback on preferences for the new building
- Discuss Community Meeting held on September 16, 2014
- What to expect at the next PAT meeting

**DISCUSSION:**

1. Donetrus Hill, Principal, opened the meeting and stated that the school needed to be “right for the scholars of today and tomorrow”.
  - a. Mr. Hill also referenced a comment made by Mr. Larry Blackmon, PAT member, reiterating that the interest of the community is represented in this delegation. The PAT knows what they want to see, and needs the community’s voice to be heard and filtered into the school design.
  - b. Mrs. Arva Howard, PAT member, asked if the design could be changed as more spaces were being added. The library is in the process of being acquired and will need additional square footage. As the opportunity comes, can the architects be flexible? She remarked that the Business Academy could potentially come into the school. Mr. Albert Ray (Moody-Nolan Architects) stated that changes could be made, but decisions had to be made soon so the school opening is not delayed.
2. It was noted that this PAT meeting was meant to discuss the curriculum and how it ties into big concepts, as well as the imagery from the Seattle trip.
  - a. Currently the team is in the Schematic Design phase and it is possible to make changes. It is important to make decisions now, because it will be harder to change and be more expensive if done during the Construction Documents phase. It was noted that it is also important to consider inflation.
  - b. It was noted that construction will take 18-24 months, and it is scheduled to end spring of 2017.
3. Albert Ray, Moody Nolan, spoke about the neighborhoods and the basic anatomy of the school. In the past, academic neighborhoods were typically organized by grade level - freshman, sophomore, juniors and seniors. Now, it has evolved and is sometimes based on technical spaces and classes. CTE learning centers act like the schoolhouse and the remainder of the classes are the supporting spaces. The change is that classes work together to overlap topics. This is the idea of linked learning.
4. CTE classes were a big question brought up during the Community Meeting; Mr. Ray reviewed what was being offered in the school. The school is being built for flexibility, so that it can address any changes that happen over the years.
  - a. Mr. Hill stated that there were things to consider: the addition of the Business Academy with Houston Community College, and the introduction of a culinary arts program to compliment the maritime program.
  - b. An attendee asked if the pharmacy program would be like the one in Ryan. Mr. Hill stated that the students at the pharmacy program will be prepared to either work as a pharmacy tech or continue their education at institutions like Texas Southern University.
  - c. Another attendee stated that the school could partner with an offshore company to have students work there after high school. Mr. Hill said that he would coordinate with Mike Webster, HISD CTE Director and determine how to research this possibility.



- d. Mr. Hill reiterated that at the town hall meeting that was held the previous on Monday, there had to be “or” decisions, not “and” decisions, and they could not accommodate everything in the new building. An attendee stated that if requests were made now, bond money could be saved so that by the end of the process, the programs they wanted could be put back into the school to have the “and” option.
  - e. Mr. Ray added that certain CTE programs, like architecture and construction, could be taught; like wood shop classes, within the CTE. It was agreed that the discussion would be continued at a later point with the Principal.
5. Mr. Ray reviewed the programs requested by the PAT and a Spaces list given to HISD by the PAT several weeks earlier. This list was compared with the currently planned Yates draft programs and spaces.
- a. 8-lane track requested by PAT: The existing track has 5 lanes. Yates is not a competition campus. If there is a way for the budget to accommodate the increase, then it will be bought back to the PAT for consideration.
  - b. Baseball fields and football field requested by PAT: Regulation size practice fields are included.
  - c. Spark Park: More information is needed in regards to its status. Mrs. Arva Howard stated that the Spark, or “school park”, is a grant and the money has been set aside for about 7 years. It has been approved, and is managed by HISD and the City of Houston. Ms. Howard will find out more information.
  - d. School Store: Space will be provided near the front of the school.
  - e. Mr. Albert Ray stated that any information on the history of the school memorabilia and historical items should be collected now.
  - f. 800 seat capacity auditorium: The current draft program provides for an auditorium with a seating capacity of 500.
    - i. There was a discussion to increase the seating capacity. It was noted that one of the gyms can hold the seating capacity, if needed. There was discussion to consider increasing the auditorium seating capacity by another 100 seats to 600 seats. A decision has not been made but is pending discussion on programming.
  - g. A UIL regulation swimming pool is desired. A pool is not currently in the program.
    - i. Mr. Blackmon stated that it doesn't have a fair competition because the pool is not measured in meters.
    - ii. An attendee stated that it was hard for a coach to train a team for competition on a field that wasn't made for competitions.
    - iii. Mr. Ray asked that the architects be given an opportunity to develop the plans further and then bring back more refined information to show the PAT, and apply all the comments received.
6. A series of images of 21st Century Learning Environments were shown. Mr. Ray commented that these were based on the four tools of learning that had been mentioned in earlier meetings.
- a. Entry Image: Dunbar High School in Washington – The entry treatment of Yates will not be to the same scale, but could have a similar feel. It's meant to show natural light and the possibility of a “senior lounge” in the rear.



- b. Entry image: control desk: Could be strategically placed to monitor multiple wings simultaneously. Currently, the office is located in the middle of the school and it is easy to sneak away. Ms. Amanda Goodie, HISD Program Manager asked the PAT if the image reflected what they wanted. Mr. Blackmon stated that the entrance to Wunsche High School in Spring was the best option; it was unobtrusive, welcoming, had an easy flow, and would provide the needed security.
- c. Entry Space: Allows for natural light, inviting and helps avoid a “sick building syndrome”.
- d. Corridor: A hallway is no longer only just to get from point A to point B, but rather has sufficient space to allow for discussions and collaboration. It was pointed out that lockers would not be housed in the school for safety.
- e. Collaborative spaces (Learning Steps): Can be used as an extended classroom space and for discussions between classes. It is an easy way to meet together without having to set up special furniture. Each step is deep enough for chairs, too, and handrails could be located on both sides of the stairs.
  - i. Mr. Blackmon was concerned about the safety issues that the steps presented.
  - ii. Mr. Hill stated that this is a 21st Century concept for what we want and it is possible to have. Kids need to grow and regard their surroundings smartly.
  - iii. Ms. Benton suggested putting outlets into the stairs so students use their laptops and charge their devices.
  - iv. An attendee commented that it is a good social atmosphere much like the Spanish Steps.
  - v. Another attendee stated that the material could be used of a safer fabric, instead of concrete.
  - vi. A member asked when the stairs were going to be used. The answer was both during instructional periods and between classes.
  - vii. It was noted that the facility will be ADA compliant.
- f. Media Center/Learning Commons: Could be a learning center with a history component on the wall.
  - i. A question was raised, “Is the glazing shown single or double pane”? One of the architects stated that it is a curtain wall system that is structural on its own. They further advised on the need to be smart about when and where glass is used.
  - ii. Mr. Hill stated that one of the new educational philosophies entering the school was “linked learning” and with it, project based learning, as a driving force. It offers challenges, and is an analysis based environment that will allow students to create practical applications. Teachers serve more as facilitators. The trend now is to work in teams. It is imperative to start a vertical alignment by making sure that middle schools and elementary schools implement the idea, too.
- g. Dining Commons: Will include a separate area with lines that will be similar to a food court.
  - i. A question was raised if the possible culinary arts program can provide food to the student body? This can only happen as a separate CTE.
- h. Media Wall in the Extended Learning Areas: Learning space in the middle, with people passing by behind a wall. Some PAT members felt like the technology in the extended learning areas could be a distraction to the students in the learning centers.



- i. Learning Centers: The picture of the white board with built in storage behind it from the Seattle trip allows for “layering on lessons” with white boards that slide to reveal the screen underneath. It could also include smart boards and projectors. It was noted that all furniture can be modular so it can easily move around.
  - j. Science Labs: Wet walls against the sides and not in the middle which allows the furniture to be reconfigured depending on what the teacher needs and what the assignments require.
  - k. Radio/Television studio: Can produce real time videos and students can be taught to broadcast and produce a talk show. It was noted that Yates used to have a program that allowed that.
    - i. A question was asked, “Can the existing media equipment be put into the new school”? Yes, inventory will be done and some equipment will be moved to the new building.
  - l. Identity (Branding): The PAT needs to consider what to put on the walls to show Jack Yates philosophies. The architects noted they talked to the photography department to discuss possibilities for the walls. Colors will be adjusted to fit the Yates colors.
  - m. Fine Arts: The storage rooms should be climate controlled for the uniforms.
  - n. Auditorium: It can have a similar paint palette as seen in the picture, and have lighting that creates designs on the walls. It could also have a theater component.
  - o. Dual Spaces: Ability to convert the spaces to either open out of the room, or contain inside.
  - p. Media Wall: A good place to show current events and morning announcements. The whole school will be a combination of broadband and wifi. This was favored by all in the PAT meeting.
  - q. Scenic View: the PAT definitely wants to have spaces with nice views to the exterior.
  - r. Multi-purpose Spaces: Seats that can be moved or collapsed.
7. Additional comments from PAT members:
- a. An attendee asked if the auditorium size could be increased, so that assemblies could hold more students and could help to train and teach students how to behave properly. Mr. Ray asked how often would an auditorium that size be used, and suggested possibly rolling out seats as they were needed.
  - b. An attendee asked where the “living legends” area would go in the school. Mr. Hill mentioned that they had spoken about a room, and to not get tied up with the semantics. The space will be included in the school.

**WHAT TO EXPECT NEXT PAT MEETING:**

- 1. There will be further conversation about programming at the next PAT meeting.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

- 15-01 Architectural design team will further develop “Stately facing Alabama” Scheme
- 15-02 Architectural design team will develop conceptual massing studies

**NEXT PAT MEETING:** The next PAT meeting will be held on Thursday, October 16, 2014 at 5:30pm.

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



Sincerely,

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