

Dranesville Elementary School Renovation and Addition



Meeting Date: October 03, 2022
Time: 6:00 pm
Location: Dranesville ES & via Microsoft Teams

MEETING NOTES – 11
Project #22016

Issue/Revision Date: October 05, 2022

Purpose: Design Feedback and Engagement
Committee Meeting #2

These notes represent a summary and the substance of discussions and decisions reached at the meeting. Please contact the MTF Architecture at once if additions or corrections should be made. Otherwise, they will stand as an accurate record of the meeting.

Attendees:

Holli McKinley, FCPS Design and Construction
Vince Santmyer, FCPS Design and Construction
Braden Field, MTF Architecture
Elizabeth Parry, MTF Architecture
Jamie Gadley, FCPS DES Principal
Carrie Hester, FCPS DES Staff
Lisa Rita, FCPS DES Parent
Krista Rigling, FCPS DES Parent
Anthony Borradori, FCPS DES PTA President

Purpose:

The purpose of the meeting was to provide an update on the design progress for the renovation and addition project at Dranesville Elementary to the school design feedback and engagement committee and receive feedback on the school's needs and concerns.

Meeting Notes:

- FCPS opened the meeting with introductions, an overview of the purpose of the meeting, the design committee's role in the process, and the project timeline.
- MTF presented an overview of the existing school and site for context. MTF presented updated site plan and floor plans that have been developed since the last meeting. MTF shared rendered 3D images to help convey the design ideas and allow the committee to have a better sense of how the space will feel.
- MTF/FCPS received questions, comments, and feedback from the design committee. The following are a summary of comments and topics that were discussed:
 - The school reacted positively to the new proposed site plan stating that they enjoy the extension of the kiss and ride and agreed the expansion of parking spots is truly needed due to bus drivers parking here as well.
 - The school inquired if there would be any additional designated green space added to the site. They noted that the new addition is being placed on top of their existing gardens and they would like to be able to have these moved.
 - MTF noted that the new plan will provide an open courtyard that the gardens could be included there.

- Opportunities to relocate the exterior garden spaces can be explored as the site design develops further.
- A member raised the question of why there was no plan to increase the size of the playgrounds and why there is no connection between the playgrounds and the soccer fields.
 - MTFA noted that the playgrounds are planned to be replaced with new equipment. The square footage of the playgrounds themselves exceed the educational specification that is set by FCPS. The playgrounds are not recommended to be moved to the fields due to a couple reasons; the proximity of the playgrounds and the building is more ideal, did not want to encroach and crowd the fields, and most importantly, safety. Students would have to cross the street to access the playgrounds and we wanted to limit this as much as possible.
 - The school also noted that the current basketball hoops are too high for children's use. MTFA noted that new basketball hoops will be provided.
 - A follow up question on the playgrounds was asked about if they will be accessible to all.
 - FCPS stated that the playgrounds will be accessible for all students and meet ADA requirements. They noted that during the construction process the school will get to meet with a sales rep and have input on the specific equipment chosen.
- A parent reiterated a previously shared concern of design features and how they might impact students with sensory sensitivities, specifically about automatic flush sensors on toilets that can startle or upset certain students.
 - FCPS noted that this topic is being discussed internally and a decision has not been finalized. FCPS noted that this concern has not been ignored and that they are here to listen.
- A parent asked about the progress from the first meeting where there were 3 design option layouts and at this meeting there was only 1 layout. How was this layout chosen?
 - MTFA noted that this layout was actually a hybrid combination of the previously presented options that was revised from the feedback we listened to at the last meeting and with FCPS leadership.
- A teacher asked about break out spaces and their locations within the layout.
 - MTFA pointed out the different sizes of breakout rooms and resource classrooms provided within the program. There are resource rooms and multipurpose rooms that are similar to a typical classroom, there are large itinerant spaces which are larger break out spaces, and small itinerant which are smaller conference rooms. MTFA pointed out their locations in the plans and how they are distributed throughout the building to be flexible and easily accessible to all.
- Questions about school security were raised.
 - MTFA/ FCPS noted that the safety and security department typically covers the overall procedures. MTFA and FCPS reviewed specific design features like lockdown shades, blinds, specific door hardware, access control and a secure vestibule that are in the design.
 - A parent inquired about the number of exits provided.
 - MTFA noted that for the most part there are the same amount as the existing building, some just in a new location and that they must equally weigh number of exits with safety as well as egress requirements.
- The PTA president inquired if there would be power provided at the ball fields. He spoke to the need for an outlet to be able to plug in speakers or equipment for events instead of running extension cords from the building.

- FCPS noted currently they do not typically provide this, but would look into it.
- The PTA president inquired about what types of sustainability features would be incorporated in the designs.
 - MTFA noted that the school will be design as a CHPS designed and verified school and highlighted major design features that contribute to sustainability.
- A parent raised concerns about empty shelving in the current library and whether there would be new books.
 - FCPS clarified that there are different departments that deal with different aspects of the design and fit out. The books themselves are purchased through library services, not the architects or construction. MTFA noted that they have met with library services to review the design and worked through revisions to the layout of the space and the quantity of the shelves to ensure the new library meets the schools needs.
- FCPS revisited the previously shared school interest in the existing cherry trees and noted we plan to preserve, relocate, or replant the trees, as well as relocate the associated memorial.
- A parent raised the concerns of construction impacts on the surrounding houses/ neighborhood.
 - FCPS noted that the fields provide a great buffer to the surrounding houses. The addition being in the front will also aid in disruption and we expect minimal impacts. Additions to the building are not occurring on the side of the building closest to adjoining houses.
- The principal inquired about the timeline of communication within the community.
 - FCPS noted that the design committee themselves will remain as a small group for discussion purposes but later in the process there will be community meetings that will be sent out to a larger group as a whole.
- MTFA/FCPS asked about the highlights that the committee saw in the presentation:
 - The internal courtyard is a major bonus; the school is looking forward to a secured outdoor space.
 - The bridge connecting the two wings overlooking the large open space is really exciting. A PTA member stated they envision being able to use this space to host events, and it provides a great connection between the first and second floor.
 - The group noted they like all the daylight and high volume in the library space.
 - The group noted that the lobby feels refreshing and open with great natural light.

Meeting Notes By,
Elizabeth Parry, AIA
Project Architect
MTFA Architecture