

Workshop Summary



Architecture Planning Interiors

DLR Group Architecture & Planning
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Date February 24, 2015
Project Greater Albany Public Schools Facility Planning
Project No. 74-15104-00
Subject DFAC Workshop #2

Topics In attendance: Shane Wooten, Chris Bailey, Scott Wehrman, Chad Kerlegan, Milt Caldwell, Chad Angel, Sue McGroory, Kelly Bussard, Rich Engel, Pat Eastman, Greg Roe, Ron Reimers, Ben Mundie, Douglas Hambley, Heath Kasper, Rick Costain, Dileep Nageswaran, Ben Mundie, Russ Williams, Dale Debolt, Scott Rose, Karen Montovino, Erika McClain, Jon Dillbone, Russ Allen, Maria Delapoer, Doug Pigman, Tonja Everest, Dan Rockwell

Brief Re-Cap Introductions and Work From Last Meeting by the DFAC Co-Chairs

Discussed Elephants in the Room— DFAC Co-Chairs

The question was posed: "Why are we here? Do you have questions about why we are here or misgivings about why we are here?"

- There were some concerns that the DFAC is just here to rubber stamp the process. Greg Roe asked us to think about the decisions the committee will have to make and which projects will make the cut?
- A couple of the committee members thought that the "Did you know" video was not relevant to this committee.
- Concerns were expressed regarding whether or not this is going to be maintenance related or projects where the community really sees and impact.
- Conveying the message that technology is not just about electrical infrastructure, but it is a learning tool that teachers use.
- There was about \$ 60 million in projects that weren't addressed in the last bond project. The point was made that it seems daunting now but it is all possible. With the last bond, needs were first assessed on a "Safe Warm and Dry" philosophy. The committee needs to think about what the classroom will miss in 10 years.
- Seismic Issues in the buildings need to be addressed.
- In regards to the gLAs study, the description of a model school at different levels was appreciated, but does it really address the issue of "where is education going" the committee is discussing?
- We need to remember that resources are limited and the committee needs to define what is a must and a want, then make a prioritized list of the musts. Must vs want is important, and technology must be the latest to make progress.

Tonya Everest, Assistant Superintendent, gave a presentation on "21st Century Learning" discussing where we are headed in education and what that will look like.

Some of the topics from the presentation where:

- Communication and critical thinking will be the skill we need most.
- The teacher's role is changing. It's becoming more complex, kids are facing more issues, and teachers need to prepare kids to be critical thinkers for these problems.
- The teacher's role has really changed to being a "Guide and Facilitator"
- Kids are learning to ask good questions, ones we don't have answers to.
- Teaching is becoming a lot like coaching where the kids get immediate feedback. Feedback is given in

- real time and the teacher assesses and makes adjustments for real-time feedback.
- The student's role is also changing. Learning with technology makes instruction very personalized. Kids push relevance. They teach each other, voice their needs, learn more by doing rather than receiving information.
 - Mobile Learning: Kids are learning anytime anywhere with smart phones and tablets.
 - Maximize brain function. "We are in the business of brains."
 - Needs: nutrition/ hydration, movement, natural light, ventilation, acoustics, safety (physically & emotionally)
 - Learning Environment:
 - Flexible, dynamic, responsive, customized
 - Indoor/ Outdoor
 - Online Classroom
 - Libraries will be a learning center, not just a place to find a book or resource.
 - Ergonomics
 - Digital
 - Technology is just a tool, not a means to an end. We need to think about the task that we are doing and what the correct tool is to complete it.
 - Education will be 24/7, including connectivity through teacher help-boards and student chat rooms, similar to a work environment.

Some of the takeaways from the discussion were recorded on the iPads.
Slide show will be emailed out to members.

National Educational Trends presentation by DLR Group

DLR Group presented a slideshow on what education spaces look like. Examples across the country and internationally of re-thinking traditional approaches. Some of the topics covered were:

- Multi-modal learning
- Flexibility in furniture
- Active learning spaces
- Tinker/maker labs
- Career and technical education relevant spaces
- Informal learning spaces
- Accessible learning (media centers/ accessibility).
- Connected spaces
- Healthy spaces
- Spaces can be playful
- Promote lifelong fitness
- Technology rich
- Collaborative

Optional Tours of GAPS Sites

We are looking at Wednesday afternoons for touring sites. There will be emails going out regarding four group tours. Each tour will be 2-3 hours long and go roughly from 2pm to 5pm. Dates discussed were March 18th and three Wednesday's in April (TBD). Possible schools to tour are: West Albany HS, Liberty Middle & Memorial, South Albany HS, Lafayette and Oak.

Small group discussions on different issues

Scott Rose first spoke about the different needs that will be addressed. He made the point that:

- Buildings don't make a school, students and teachers do. A building can get in the way of learning. We want to create environments that aren't in the way.
- We have a lot of needs. What we want to do is look at them by category. Equity among schools is important.

Small group topics and comments from the discussions:

- **Safety & Security**
The group agreed with the list that was created. Security really stood out to this group as a need. They discussed site lines in the schools, easy entry, and accountability for who has copies of the keys.
- **Engaging Parents and Community**
Make schools into community centers. Create ways to make everyone in the community care about the success of the school. The group wanted to know more ways we can get the community involved in the classroom, not just parents.
- **CTE—Career Ready opportunities, Business Partnerships**
We don't have places where students can connect and experience hands-on learning. Classroom learning doesn't always engage all students. It is difficult finding people who are CTE certified. We need to find business local partners.
- **The List—diving in deep on physical needs**
We need a game plan to address needs from a capital investment standpoint. It's important to look at the overall cost of implementation of the items. We need to re-invest in buildings without replacing. Regarding buildings currently not used, can we make the recommendation to use or get rid of them? What is the cost of keeping an empty building? Make a game plan for the unused buildings. Many things on the list appear to be equalized but what actually drives these needs and how do we prioritize the items? We need to find a way to re-categorize the list to make a more prioritized list.
- **Student Retention--Pride & Inspiration (School Culture), Extra-curricular Activities**
Using CTE, look at culture, athletics, performing arts, plays. Conflict: how do you create fairness between schools on single use spaces like auditoriums and athletic facilities? They talked about how the facilities that have been improved have made a huge difference already.
- **Educational Best Practices—providing spaces that improve teaching and learning**
The group discussed the 21st century learning topics. GAPS currently has only 2 librarians district-wide. We need a media specialist. We need to have consistency amongst schools in reading and writing programs. Are we offering all our kids a common experience? We need more computer labs amongst the schools. GAPS needs more balance amongst the schools. Individualized teaching for special needs kids. There are technology needs and textbooks are antiquated. Struggling readers may do better with a swipe screen.
- *The Missing Topic-* Talk to the school district about full-day kindergarten.

Meeting Wrap up:

Schedule for the following meetings:

Meeting 3: Tuesday, 3/31/15

Meeting 4: Thursday, 5/7 /15

Meeting 5: Tuesday, 5/26

Questions should go to Russ Allen and he will funnel questions on to DLR Group.

DLR Group

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