

Mount Si High School
Site Design Team Workshop
2:40 – 4:40

April 29, 2015

Workshop Agenda:

1. Summary of Staff Workshop on April 17
2. Thoughts on SLC's
3. Creating a sense of place
4. Review and Discussion of Design Options

Summary:

NAC|Architecture shared some thoughts arising out of the high school staff workshop about SLC's (Small Learning Communities). Some of the key items identified during the staff design exercise were:

- Utilize shared spaces to link core classrooms. One option is to have science/art/CTE connected but on the perimeter for easier access and another is to have them more integrated toward the middle.
- Commons Spaces associated with the small learning communities should have good access to views and light.
- Teacher planning and conference rooms should be centrally located.

*National talent,
local focus*

NAC|Architecture discussed some thoughts about the characteristics that create an authentic sense of place.

- Refuge: A sense of protection from the elements.
- Prospect: Views to the larger environment
- The Edge: Edges define spaces – they can be solid or relatively open or a combination of the two.
- Discovery: A place has enhanced meaning if it changes over time and can be understood to have places where a certain element of surprise is possible.

Design Option Evaluation:

Four different overall design directions were discussed and evaluated by the Site Design Team. At this stage, all options are being considered, even options not considered previously such as building on the baseball/softball fields. The intent is to study all possible options to ensure that we are building the best high school for the next 100 years and looking at creative options to save money/shorten construction/and add value to the overall project. The intent of the evaluation was to identify "Pros" and "Cons" for each option with the intent to focus on the big picture potential of each option. The Site Design Team was divided into 4 groups and moved around in groups to identify pros and cons for the various options. A summary of the discussion for each option is below:

First Option – "Swiss Precision"

This option creates two small learning communities in the existing parking lot during Phase 1 and connects the school through a linear sequence of PAC lobby, hallways, and multiple commons.

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Site Design Team Meeting

April 29, 2014

Page: 2

Pros:

Very well organized
Varied sizes of Common Spaces
Gym and PAC – good separation

Cons:

Is it too similar to our current school?
Freshman far from the CTE and PAC

Second Option – “The Common Core”

This option organizes all the Small Learning Communities around a large commons oriented toward Mt. Si.

Pros:

CTE is part of SLC's
Good view from the Commons
Outdoor Plaza between SLC's

Cons:

Commons is too big
Need to walk through an SLC to get to the PAC
Not all the Commons in Phase 1

Third Option – “The Elevated Campus”

This option explores the idea of locating much of the new building on the baseball/softball fields to allow the building to be created in a single phase to simplify the phasing and reduce disruption during the construction process. A hydrology study is being undertaken to determine if this approach is feasible in terms of FEMA permitting requirements.

Pros:

Good Views in all directions
Good distribution of academic & green spaces
Doesn't feel like one big building
Improved Phasing

Cons:

PAC suite seems tight
How does CTE work? Access?
Can bus drop be by the freshman?

Fourth Option – “Rhythmic Approach”

This option has a commons that connects the gym/PAC and the small learning communities. Each learning community extends out from the commons with open space between each SLC. The learning communities are designed to maximize view and create flexible spaces between classrooms.

Pros:

Interesting Shape of SLCs' – good views
Like the main entry and the bus entry
Good orientation of the freshman SLC
Good outdoor space between SLC's

Cons:

PAC has a lower profile – behind the SLC
Commons seems too big
Can you close off the commons for events?
