

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

April 15, 2015

Workshop Agenda:

1. Review what we heard from previous workshops
2. Share some initial thoughts about the design context
3. Small Group Design Exercise and Report-out
4. Share some initial thoughts about site planning design

Summary:

NAC|Architecture summarized the previous discussions about the building tours, flexible planning concepts, the Town Center concept, and Small Learning Communities (SLC's). Some key discussion topics were:

- **The experiential quality of the school plays a large part in the success of the design.** In addition to the functional relationships identified in the schools we toured, three key aspects that made the spaces feel successful were the quality of the daylight, a sense of connectedness (between spaces inside the building and to the outside), and whether the school had a variety of types, sizes, and character of spaces.
- **The school should be adaptable.** It is anticipated that the school will initially utilize the interdisciplinary, small learning community model for personalizing education in a high school, but the building needs to be designed flexibly so that as change occurs over the next few decades the building can adapt to other models for high school education.
- **The ideal size for small learning communities was determined to be between 250 and 400 students.** This allows for teacher collaboration within departments and between departments while still fostering a strong sense of community and strong student/teacher and student/student relationships.
- **The "Town Center"** (cafeteria, commons, media center) that links various core academic areas **should be unique, focus on views of Mt. Si, and provide access to student services** such as guidance, ASB, etc. The "town center" should not be one single space, but multiple smaller spaces and preferably have access to the outdoors.

*National talent,
local focus*

Small Group Design Exercise:

As small groups, the committee utilized building blocks representing the key components of the school to create multiple layouts for the new building. Each small group created multiple school layouts. The layouts were photographed and the thinking behind the layouts was shared with the full committee.