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ARCHITECTS

September 7, 2016

Alameda USD – Edison Fencing Project

Edison Elementary – Community Meeting #2 Notes

Attendees:

See attached sign-in sheet

Notes:

1. Introductions, Roles and Responsibilities:
 - a. Robbie Lyng introduced the design team.
 - b. QKA explained goal for the meeting was to give the community an update on the Phase 1 Fencing Project. Since many attendees were new, Nick walked them through the process to date.
2. Nick summarized the Design Standards established by the AUSD Committee for Safety and Security Design Standards, which were explained in greater detail in Meeting #1, and explained the standards for fencing design, height, and locations.
 - a. Ornamental fencing has been approved district-wide only at the main frontage road. Since Edison has four street frontages, it was the request of the committee at meeting #1 that ornamental fence be provided at all four street frontages. Nick explained that this request has been incorporated into the current plan. Robbie reminded the group that the extra costs of this additional ornamental fence is coming out of the modernization budget.
 - b. Nick pointed out that Fence is not needed along Buena Vista Avenue due to the ample building façade along the perimeter.
 - c. A new black ornamental fence will be 6'-0" high along Versailles Avenue, Lincoln Avenue and Pearl Street. At the ball courts located along Pearl Street, the existing 10'-0" high fence supports are to remain. New black chain-link fabric will be added to the existing 10'-0" high fence supports. The existing fence support structure will be painted black to match the chain-link.
 - c. Two options were presented for the fence location along the classroom wing at Pearl Street. Option '1' is to provide new ornamental fencing under the existing eave in between the columns. Option '2' is to provide a new ornamental fence away from the classrooms located approximately 4 feet off of the sidewalk. The majority preferred to have the fence located away from the classroom wing. One attendee recommended that the grass be removed since we are in a drought.
 - d. Nick explained that fencing will be designed and constructed as 2 phases. Phase 1 is the Fencing Project and Phase 2 is the Modernization Project. Phase 2 includes new ADA ramps along Pearl

Street and potential reworking of the Administration Building check-in in order to provide one main access point during school hours. Therefore, the fencing at these locations will be temporary during Phase 1.

- e. The Emergency Vehicle Access (EVA) gate will need to be widened from 12 feet to 20 feet to meet current codes. The asphalt is thickened at the EVA access and path on the playground to accept the weight of fire trucks; therefore, the gate location cannot be relocated. One tree may need to be removed in order to accommodate the increased path width. Robbie stated that any trees removed will be replaced. The District has an arborist that will advise on the removal and planting of new trees.

3. Community Concerns- a number of items were mentioned by the attendees as follows:

- a. There is currently a blind spot at the Emergency Storage Container located along Lincoln Avenue. The general location works well, but the design team may want to consider relocating the container slightly or locating the fence in a manner to remove the blind spot.
- b. The gate located near the middle along Versailles Avenue is not currently used by students and would ideally be removed. Robbie explained that this gate is required by the Fire Department. Also, further gates may be required by the Department of State Architects (DSA).
- c. There was a lot of discussion regarding having panic hardware at all gates so that students and faculty could egress the campus in case of emergency. This type of hardware at all gates was not originally included in the construction budget. If panic hardware is provided, metal mesh infill panels will need to be added along the top and sides around the doors in order to prevent someone from simply reaching in to open the doors. There is concern that the exits at the two corners of Lincoln Avenue would not be enough and should be better dispersed. During an earlier Site Committee meeting, the teachers were tasked with confirming the emergency escape route(s) where panic hardware needs to be provided. The plans will be revised to align with the necessary egress points as expressed by the staff.
- d. Robbie confirmed that information signs will be provided (either re-using the existing or providing new signs) which help identify the main office location.
- e. Community volunteers are concerned about access. Robbie assured them that the community will have access on weekends and after hours.
- f. Can the fence be another color other than black? Robbie stated that black has been used at other schools and tends to not fade like other colors.
- g. One attendee shared the former Principal's comments about the fence and gate access. Not only is it providing a safe environment for the students and staff by keeping unwanted visitors from easily entering the campus, it also helps to deal with the potential hazard of all the parents trying to find their kids during an emergency situation. Having controlled access points allows the staff to methodically make sure the student is safe and paired with the proper adult supervision.
- h. Can the fence be 4'-0" high instead of 6'-0" high? Nick explained that the height was decided and approved by the Site & Safety Committee and Board. A committee member stated that a 4'-0" high fence is easier to jump over whereas a 6'-0" high fence is difficult to climb over.

- i. Why was the Edison site chosen as the first site to implement the fencing project? Robbie explained that it was due to a recent incident that has created a need for safety and security.
 - j. A committee member stated that a rendering of fence and entry gates would help to visualize the final product. Currently, the architects are not under contract to provide renderings for the fencing project. Images of ornamental fencing were shown during the presentation, and additional images can be found at www.ameristarfence.com. Robbie also passed out the fencing brochure. A real example can be seen at Ruby Bridges Elementary School at the Kindergarten classrooms and at Henry Haight Elementary School.
4. Schedule- a contractor has already been procured. Robbie explained the following tentative timeline:
 - a. Board to approve construction contract at end of the month.
 - b. Approximately 5 weeks to order/receive materials (may be altered due to unforeseen conditions).
 - c. Approximately 6 weeks for construction (may be altered due to weather).
5. Next Steps:
 - a) Teacher confirmation of panic hardware locations
 - b) Board approval of construction contract.
 - c) Notes from meeting to be made available on the District Website.

End of notes