
McCLYMONDS HS COMMUNITY INPUT SESSION #3 MEETING NOTES

Meeting Notes for June 6th, 2023

In Person Meeting Participants: Danny Walker, Kimberly Burgin, Brian McGhee, Relonda McGhee, Shannon Alten, Alma Du Solier, Misty Cross, Bob Alten, Tolani King, Nicole M., LaSonia Mansfield, Stanley Cooper, Yvonne Crosby-Young, Josh Jackson, Gerald Smith, Herman Brown, Ginale Harris, Malagner, Kelley D., Yao Liu, Katie Barsanti, Pamela Brantley, VanCedrick Williams, Ronald Muhammad, Lailah Muhammad, Rahel Muhammad, Rod Henmi, Jeffrey Sims, Amanda Gusky, Ann Salerno, Kathrin Wagner, Walter Young, Tana Harris, Nicole Wiggins, Kenya Chatman, Jeffery Taylor, David Colbert, Mark Newton, Nicole Wells, Christina Stone, LaTanya Hawkins and Ray Bermudez.

* **Some community members comments are represented as (C.M.) in the notes.**

Online Meeting Participants: Tiffany Knuckles, Jumoke Hodge, Elia Gardner, Dr. Angelina Shine, Colleen Piper and Assata Abudgala.

Review Design Process to Date – Josh Jackson (Perkins Eastman)

- Guiding principles developed in partnership with community. Goal to create safe/healthy school, confidence in safety and wellness. High quality facilities.
- Quality community school, model in engagement with wrap around services
- Grassroots engagement with West Oakland community
- Campus and flow, improve efficiency and org
- Enforce identity, historic, recognize id and history is essential
- Committed to budget schedule, see project thru wo wasted money
- Frame project in broader effort. Measure Y part of that. Academic initiative and facilities improvements hope to open doors to future funding, catalyst to future projects and funding

Process recap – Josh Jackson

- PE identifying project goals, select DBE to design and build
- Bridging Architect phase – heartfelt thank you to this community.
- Prioritizing safety of school, plumbing issues, groundwater
- Focus investment on students
- Every decision needs to serve the students
- Athletics and pool are essential to campus
- Protect previous investments, marquee, gym floor, plaza, etc.
- Flexibility for future pathways. Current pathways, AND able to expand. Set up for future project, ongoing transformation over time
- Priorities – building systems, indoor/outdoor upgrades, etc.

Q: (C.M.) Is demoing the Shop Building a done deal?

A: (J.J.) No, that's a future goal, to be addressed

- Building systems – replace plumbing, address building comfort, etc.
- Indoor upgrades – renovate classrooms and labs, reconfigure cafeteria, etc.
- Outdoor spaces – bring field to level of football teams that play here. Plaza of peace. Resurfacing and lighting for basketball and tennis courts.

Q: (C.M.) You have not said anything about the workshop. You are identifying certain things that will be protected.

S: (G.H.) This is a community meeting, you need to answer the community questions.

A: (J.J.) We are talking about demolishing the Shop Building and creating a new shop space in another part of the campus.

S: (N.W.) We will do question and answer at the end of the presentation.

S: (B.T.) We do not want the shop demolished unless we are keeping a shop

A: (N.W) All of the things in that structure will be relocated.

S: (J.J.) The concept and cost estimates will change over time. I would like to hand the question over to the team that will produce the design.

S: (C.M.) You are giving the presentation, so you can say you told us. The New McClymonds Committee has been addressing this issue for over a year. It's documented. We even addressed it at the BOE meeting

A: (K.C.) What Josh stated earlier, he was going through the things that have been talked about in previous meetings. Perkins Eastman gathered all the information from the people that gave the information at the time.

S: (B.T.) I requested third a proposal for a third floor.

A: (N.W.) We provided it before the walk.

A: (K.C) Around March 26th or so

Q: (B.T.) I was being totally ignored. Was asked if your taking basketball court?

S: (C.M.) We've been duped big time. We were supposed to be top of the list at every bond measure. We've had a horrible experience. I understand this is a presentation, if you don't mention something, you need to make sure it's said for the record and he is held to it. Out of two bond measures, we were left. Tony come to us and asked us to help get this passed. After Tony left, we were forgotten. Antwan came and passed, he left, and we were left behind.

Q: (K.C.) My question to you, have you ever gone this far?

S: (C.M.) Oh yes. The first bond measure we were promised \$100K, Measure B.

A: (K.C.) I wasn't here.

S: (C.M.) We have a hard time trusting.

A: (K.C.) Again, Josh is giving a summary of what was asked and presented previously. HKIT and Alten are the Design-Build Entity. They will take this information. There is no design that has been approved. They have scope, but not a design.

Q: (C.M.) We've seen this picture before. Lafayette was redesigned, we gave input. Then that campus was given to KIPP Charter. It undermined Lowell MS and West Oakland MS. Cut off bloodline to McClymonds. When the designs are done, we are super skeptical if it's for us. Are you planning this design for someone else?

A: (K.C.) I appreciate that. I want everyone to know, it does feel like a hostile environment.

Q: (G.H.) why is it hostile? Is it because we're black?

A: (K.C.) I'm black.

S: (G.H.) This school was built in 1915, and nothing has ever been done. Not once have you said this is a black historical high school Josh. You need to consider that when you speak to us. I will come to every meeting. All of these people you've been meeting with, you have not provided the proof. It's being documented.

S: (K.C.) I will let Jeff continue the presentation. There will be time for Q&A

Share Preliminary Design Concepts – HKIT Team and Alten Construction

- Design Build process puts General Contractor and Architect on same team.
- We work on the price and how to build it. We look at what can be included in the budget.
- Glenview, Sankofa, Havenscourt, etc. we want to do this community outreach piece.
- If it hasn't been done, we don't know, because this is our first meeting. My father and oldest brother went here.
- I went to Castlemont. I'm in the community, born and raised in Oakland. We want to get what McClymonds deserve.
- It comes down to money, need to figure that out. Anything that they can do to value engineer, will get best for the community.
- It is about outreach and community work. New gym at another project, seeing the difference in peoples and kids' faces is so rewarding.
- Local contractors to work, it's like a checkbox. But getting local workers is important. They have pride, collaborative, better work.
- That means something to us, telling from the heart. Reach out to people you know with contracting companies, let them know. T
- his is your taxpayer money, we want you involved.
- Sustaining foundation, what we're doing with Alten is looking for local contractors. As much as it can be, Alten wants it to be a community project.
- Our team was one of many who applied to have the privilege of working with you. In the first conversation with Principal Talor, he didn't care what we did for others. Principal Taylor wanted to see what we could do for McClymonds.
- We haven't been able to meet you yet, go to lunch, ask for feedback, which we will do. Picked a few spaces, to show what we can do.
- As Kenya mentioned, we don't have a design.
- This was work we did to win the chance to work with you on the design and we'd like to share it with you

Q: (C.M) We must slow the process, if we don't our history says things it will get away. Cut down to \$65 mil, potential to get \$80-90 mil. Money determines design. Is it different designs based on different budgets?

A: (J.E.) When Josh presented, he mentioned priorities. Building systems, indoor outdoor, shop. We are looking at 1-3, in schematic design, what it is, what it could be. Looking at cost, and budget, in order to decide what things to go forward and will fit in the budget.

Q: (G.H.) Who is "we" who decides?

A: (J.E.) The school which includes the administration, teachers, and staff, community, parents, Facilities, alumni, and faculty all give recommendation to Board of Education. The Board of Education approves.

Share Preliminary Design Concepts (cont'd)- HKIT Team and Alten Construction

- Budget is a concern at all projects. On a project at West Contra Costa School District, budget and pricing skyrocketed, we try to get subs using their products, same or very similar but can save 20%.
- That happened in a year and a half. Did a project for College of Marin, \$82 mil estimate came in at \$83 mil.
- We come in and look at HVAC/windows/etc. currently and recommend what is best rate.
- Building systems. HVAC etc. will look at inside and outside. Want to show transformation.

Phase II – Indoor Updates – HKIT Team

- Peak into design process. This is a black historic school, want to see that too.
- Highly successful school, want to show school colors in more modern patterns repeated throughout.
- Two palettes, conceptual. Healthy materials would not include contaminants.
- First palette lots of pops of color, second palette more neutral with softer pops.
- Auditorium opportunity to introduce acoustic materials.

Q: (G.H) Will you have engagement to touch and feel the materials? Feel like designed with prison or Costco in mind.

A: (A.G.) Developing pattern, then will have materials to touch and feel, and more tangible experience.

S: (R.H.) These ideas were drawn up without your input, so we would love to hear your input now.

S: (M.R.) Still in progress are science classroom, hallways, auditorium, etc.

Q: (C.M.) – are you saying you've started designs, have you started work?

A: (M.R.) No, this is preliminary design existing classroom, looking at materials that can be updated like wall material. These are some concepts presented during the interview process with new acoustic material in walls, and new whiteboards.

S: (H.B.) I graduated from McClymonds in 1969 and I am a resident. Taught in OUSD for 36 years. Went to KIPP that invaded Lafayette. I looked at the design of that school. You have

to be careful. Listen to what we're saying. We looked at that design and it was like a prison. It looks like a sandbox with prison guard. Mind control and pushing an agenda on West Oakland populace. I see myself as a teacher. If you look at that, where is there any room for students to display their work? It's not there. I want to take that into account. We have to be careful to design, distinguish message from messenger. Parents come into classroom, they need to see their child's work.

A: (R.H.) It's great to see these comments, that's why we're here.

A: (M.R.) Next design is more whiteboards for student work. Showing cloud ceiling, we're proposing putting ceiling fans that can create air circulation.

A: (J.E.) We know The Bridging Documents show shops will be replaced; don't know how much will be done. We don't know yet what will fit within the budget. One type of engineering space. Existing has power cords from ceiling, workbenches. This is one kind of engineering lab, different from woodshop. There will be opportunities for outdoor learning adjacent to the engineering/shop.

S: (J.E.) Want to bring to community and school, if move to outside of shop building. The classrooms across the hall are very deep and next to outside wall. IF you agree that this is a good idea. Could have spill out space, next to the cafeteria, they could see what is happening in the shop.

Q: (C.M.) You mentioned acoustics, do you mean for music? I'm a school bus driver. If you don't have a music program, McClymonds will be less attractive.

A: (J.T.) We are adding music classrooms in the fall.

Q: (C.M.) Programming is essential when talking about design. Is it being designed for present or future population?

A: (J.E.) For both.

S: (C.M.) They took that school from us. We were designing and they took that from us.

A: (J.E.) We are designing for the students and families that are here, and it's our job to think about future as well.

Q: (G.H.) Have you done a walking tour around McClymonds?

A: (J.E.) Yes, and we haven't had the privilege of doing it with you. We're looking to schedule one with you.

S: (N.W.) Wanted to address moving parking, which was based on work Josh did with the students. They mapped out their day. This is the only campus that has parking in the center. It interrupts flow of students, walking across parking lot to access field, shop building, etc. This is why the idea is to bring those things into the campus. Good security is not having everyone come into the dead center of the campus. That's where the concept comes from.

S: (C.M.) A point for your cultural competency for OUSD. The reason why we lean on alumni, we went here and will stay involved. Some of those teachers you're talking to, they might leave next year. Just because you're a resident, doesn't mean you're a neighbor. If you consider people who bought homes but have no children in the pipeline, how can you consider them? The alumni have skin in the game, and they raised you. When you consider input, teachers talking about flow doesn't matter because they leave. Comment doesn't have cultural competency because they don't understand.

S: (C.M.) What I'm hearing is that we're losing space. When they get to campus, they travel from place to place. It's important we expose our kids to a bigger campus when it comes to kids being prepared for college. They are coming back, and not ready. Oakland Tech, Berkeley HS, Alameda HS are all big. This is the only HS that is not given the things that we need.

A: (R.H.) We have talked about a "quad" and concepts like that. You are right, it should feel college like.

S: (B.T.) We've been discussing this since March. Tear shop down, build up three stories. I'm an architect, we would like the wording changed. Tear down shop and rebuild. They've been doing that for years. We are still not changing the wording; we've been lied to a lot of times. We went through the same at KIPP. We are saying reword "demolish the Shop building" and "rebuild." We want that part changed. And find the money, \$93 million won't do it.

S: (D.W.) I graduated from McClymonds in 1974. My dad taught. I've watched this community evolve. The first problem I hear is you're trying to take some nickels. Since the lady embarrassed us saying we're hostile since we're passionate. We're not hostile. There's not enough money. The football team is winning championships. You can't take pennies. You guys have houses, you're not spending pennies in your houses based on the way you're dressed. Where is the money? You've got to bring it to McClymonds. There are schools bigger than McClymonds, I've watched dogs running around, fights, now all of my neighbors are white. Are we remodeling the school for someone else? Wow. They tore down Marcus Foster. We need feeder schools for McClymonds. Do you have an agenda? I've been president of SCIU chapter, I know negotiations and I've been a garbage man 40 years. There is money, not spending it at McClymonds \$65 million will not do what we are asking.

S: (S.C.) Very involved in Oakland and community, chair of NAACP. Minority contractor, African American Chamber. Civil engineer certified in Oakland. Want to see OUSD; we have to know where the target is. Alten is given a budget to work with. This is an OUSD/Alten partnership. All of this should be directed toward BOE members that we voted in. We need to know how much budget is left. How much is left in this bond, what percentage has been directed to other schools like Fremont? We should focus on this being something beautiful, on the edge of downtown Oakland, great location. This is an excellent location; we don't have people moving to West Oakland from San Francisco for no reason. We need to do with the friendship of OUSD/Alten/community, plan how to better this community with the money that is left. I grew up here, and came here every summer. We need to beautify the site. Have community events, championships lots of pride in West Oakland. Put the money where it needs to be. Cole ES, OUSD may or may not use it as offices. Maybe we can redirect McC to be something like that. Not only school space. If it's a high-rise for example, have OUSD offices at top, school at bottom. Parking lots with solar. Green school as well. Hire those that are here in community. I'm a General A Civil engineer. You can't say you don't know we're here. Make sure the goals are met, that the children have a beautiful school, host more than school. I know Alten, they are a good firm.

S: (H.B.) As an OG teacher. First, thank you designers for putting your work in. You put in a lot of hard work. If I had to give you a grade, you did a great job. You have been listening to the West Oakland community. A lot of people don't understand the culture. It's different than anywhere in Oakland. To be brief, I have a recommendation. Come to the school and meet the students, ask them what they would like to see. They might be aspiring to do what you're doing. If we get the money, the students will go here. This school should reflect.

A: (R.H.) We would love to get comments.

Q: (G.H.) The facilities committee are not here. They are the ones that perform our budget. Our Director VCW is here. Where is the facilities committee?

S: (C.M.) One thing to say is this is great community engagement. But if we don't have enough students in this school, we won't have teachers or music program, sports program. Gentrification. As we speak of renovation, let's increase our enrollment, talk about what we can do to increase enrollment. I went to Marcus Foster ES from 5-8th grade, now a Central Kitchen. Those are the things I'm talking about. We need more students to come to McClymonds.

Phase II – Indoor Updates (cont'd)– HKIT Team

- In the existing cafeteria, there's limited access to outdoors. Increase lighting, new flooring and ceiling, light fixtures. More natural light
- In Concept 1 there are different furniture types. Alcoves and spaces for students to gather in smaller and larger groups. Flexible spaces

- In Concept 2 there are ceiling options that would create identity in this space.

Phase II Outdoor Updates – HKIT Team

- We heard comments from people that the outside looks like a penitentiary. An idea is to upgrade the exterior and create a new identity.
- The upgrade will look more modern and contemporary.
- We had an idea of putting fins façade on Myrtle. This would help with energy, screen the sun and create more of an identity.
- These panels could have graphics that could be made to look like alumni. Screens could create rhythm and pattern play of color.
- Here are some drawings of northwest gate we had the idea to name it Michael Peters.

Q: (G.H.) Can you create something like a garden because people have dogs that go to the bathroom on the landscaping?

Q: (H.B.) Who are those relief figures on the wall? Those look like Greeks. Bill Russell and Frank Robinson should be on those walls. They graduated from this school in 1951. Bill Russell is first player to become a black coach in the NBA. Robinson became a manager in NBA.

A: (R.H.) That figure is Bill Russell on the fin.

S: (H.B.) Whenever someone says something like that, take that into consideration.

A: (R.H.) I will. I have worked with Ron Muhammad's mother.

Landscape Architectures – Hood Team

- We are here to introduce ourselves.
- We focus on cultural practices when it comes to landscape architecture.
- Want to hear your stories.
- We have been in West Oakland for more than 25 years.
- We worked on project at 7th street.
- What we did as landscape designers, we went beyond just putting plants in.
- We're thinking about the history of McClymonds and thinking of how music makes spaces.
- Thank you for these comments as we start this process.
- We want to hear about what makes you feel passionate, we need to understand your story.
- This is about making that connection and looking outward.

- As a neighbor, I would love to see McClymonds looking better as well and that's how we connect.

S: (G.H.) We need moringa trees. They live forever.

S: (J.S.) I graduated in 1972. Outside in front, they have icons and their names. On that structure, why didn't you put the names on there? For youngsters coming in, they don't know who the people are. You should put the names of the people with who you portray.

S: (C.M.) Just putting it on the post is not enough.

A: (A.D.S.) You know the story and who they are.

S: (C.M.) I wouldn't say that

S: (R.M.) We are advocating for a bigger budget. Don't only hear people complaining. We understand that it doesn't start/stop at Facilities management. I want to make it clear that this is advocacy what you hear and passion. We are advocating for a bigger budget. What the district might see as a design build, might not be what we need in order to grow the student body. We are looking at shop and shop classes; we are in competition for students and that need to be considered in the school design. We see the bloodline being cut off at feeder schools.

A: (R.H.) We appreciate and understand that. Keeping the community healthy and attracting more students is our goal. We as a design team have to work within budget.

Q: (R.M) What is the budget?

A: (N.W.) The budget is \$65 million today, it might be \$90 million after tomorrow's Facilities Committee Meeting.

S: (B.T.) Some of the alumni in the New McClymonds Committee are looking at curriculum. What's shocking is that the ratio of curriculum, enrollment follows curriculum. If we don't offer classes that are nowhere else. New McClymonds Committee has set goal for next year to get enrollment at 400. We meet at the West Oaklan Library while the school closed, our next meeting will be on 6/17. McClymonds HS is unlike any other HS in the US. If we don't get new students, they will take over our space. They are not welcome here, we will put up a fight. We have 3 phases. Design, 3 areas wich consists of the main building, the gym and bleachers. Have four shots. More space towards the gate, 2-6 additional classrooms. Architects need to do cost analysis. Need so many light fixtures, chairs, etc. Third phase is construction. You don't have black general contractors, you only have subcontractors. In the main building and gym, they will gut the interior and keep wall. Bleachers are a mess, that's your third project. Need to improve curriculum.

S: (V.W.) I want to thank all of community for coming. This is a beautiful conversation, there were many on Zoom. We had a library discussion to come up with ideas, generated ideas for the Bridging Architect, hope that the design architect have gotten those ideas. They were good; they aren't being featured right now. That's confusing. You asked community what to focus on and what's important, now new Architect. Good to hear what alumni are asking for. They are continuing to fight, this is McClymonds' time. McClymonds' name has been used in other bond measures. This Bond is broken into four offerings (draws). There is money there, let's not pretend there isn't. We are designing the second draw. There are two draws left. They won't tell us the facts. We need to be at the Facilities and Board meetings. It's a bait and switch. They promise and then say they can't afford it.

Q: (C.M.) Who holds them accountable? Why are they important?

A: (V.W.) We had a meeting last week regarding funding, this it's up to the Chair to direct folks to show up, Sam Davis, not sure why he isn't here. He should be here.

Q: (G.H.) You can tell him tomorrow at the meeting. He's a charter school supporter; he took campaign money from charter schools. He doesn't love us.

S: (V.W.) We have to do the school justice. I am asking for your support, pushing for you to do better job to open up courtyard, basketball and football areas. I appreciate you. The Board meeting starts at 4pm, closed session if from 4pm to 6pm, the open meeting starts at 6pm. Will be on second half of the meeting, at La Escualita.

S: (S.C.) Something to consider, since we didn't hear it today, is mass shootings. We Want to make sure that the design is beautiful and provides a safe campus. We need plenty of lighting for dances and events with other schools. My wife and I talked about this, lockers should be clear. Not that we don't trust students, but want to make sure of their safety. There was a shooting at Madison MS. and we want to be safe.

S: C.M.) We didn't get to discuss question of planning and design. We don't want our lessons to bury us. It's good people expressed themselves. I worked on projects in Oakland. Castlemont has beautiful auditorium, but nobody knows how to use it. Custodian can't turn on lights. Bad planning leads to waste. I had a job at Tech, put in science rooms, America decided students don't need science, removed them after 2 years. Need to talk about these matters so can successfully complete this project.

Comments from the Chat:

Q: (C.P.) What is the plan to engage students in the color palette selection process? Will they have a chance to weigh in during August as previously mentioned?

A: (R.B.) We have most of next school year to engage students and staff.

Q: (C.P.) With the library remodel, students were active in giving input. That would be ideal if we could recreate that process. Students are not going to be joining a meeting during their summer vacation at 6 pm, generally speaking.

A: (R.B.) This is only the introductory meeting, there will be plenty of opportunities for students to get involved next school year.

Q: (C.P.) Will the community receive a timeline with deadlines as to when these choices need to be made? I would like to organize a group of students to provide input.

A: (R.B.) Yes, we will provide that during our project advisory committee meetings and during our

Q: (C.P.) Are the whiteboards magnetic?

A: (R.B.) These are just examples, staff will be asked as to what they prefer during this process.

S: (R.B.) Meeting notes from this meeting will be shared with all of our participants tonight and all of our PAC Members