
McCLYMONDS HS PROJECT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES

Meeting Notes for January 17, 2023

Meeting participants: Jeffrey Taylor, Joshua Jackson, Jumoke Hodge, Wanda Stewart, Cristina Stone, David Colbert, Brian McGhee, Tiffany Knuckles, Eia Gardner, Melody Davis, Derwin Sisnett, Ginale Harris, Breanna Decker, Shamima Abdulla, Assata Abubgala, JaQualine Hutton, Kenya Chatman and Ray Bermudez.

Update on the RFP/Q Process – Nicole Wells

- We are in the RFP part, the 2nd part of this process.
- We had six firms submit the RFQ and we shortlisted it down to three.
- For the top three firms we've had a round of three meetings, which was like a design competition between these three firms.
- Over the course of three meetings, we saw their ideas about this project, what they think can be done for our budget, and what they think it should look like.
- During the course of those three meetings, we were able to give the firms feedback about our likes and dislikes.
- Over the course of the meetings, we have brought up things that you all have discussed in our Project Advisory Committee to give to them, and they have put all of that together and submitted their final proposals.
- The final proposals from the three shortlisted firms came in on Friday, January 13th.
- We have distributed them for the selection committee, and we are now taking a week to score those final proposals.
- We will select our final Design-Build Entity for our architect team.
- The selection committee will have those scored by this Friday, January 20th.
- We will inform the firms of the selection sometime next week, as we start to get the contract ready for board.
- Once we submit the contract to the Board, we will be coming back to this group to let you know who was selected.
- We would like for the firm to present what we've seen during the selection process to the members of the PAC.
- We have to get this contract approved by the board before they can start coming to this group, the goal is to have the contract by the end of February or the March date, it's all dependent getting the contract on the board agenda.

QUESTIONS, ANSWERS & STATEMENTS

Q: (G.H.) Were there parents in the selection committee?

A: (N.W.) *There were no parents on the selection committee, currently the selection committee is myself, facility's leadership, Mr. Taylor, Mr. Brian McGee, our representatives from Perkins (our Bridging Architect), representatives from 360 Total Concept, who are evaluating the Local Business participation and these firms commitments to that. Currently that is the selection committee, Mr. McGee is an alumni of McClymonds and also works at the school currently.*

S: (G.H.) *Mr. McGee doesn't have children that go to McClymonds, even though he is an alumni and well invested in the school, my son currently participates and goes to school there. It is concerning because parents are left out of everything at McClymonds, I have raised this concern a 1000 times. This is the only black historical High school in Oakland where black children are able to feel safe and nobody is considering that when you all are making decisions. What happens for the children that we have going to McClymonds High School? It has the appearance that there's clicks that are happening and the same people are involved in every single decision making that have no children there. I just wanted that to be on the record because I do plan on going to the school board council meeting and expressing that again because parents need to be included.*

A: (R.B.) *We had an activity in December where we asked everybody to give us ideas on what questions to ask the firms that would represent McClymonds and we're trying to get a parent voice involved. We have this next phase coming up where we are going to talk about the details of what the design will be, and the plan is to have as much parent participation as we can. Thank you for continuing to be with us and we look forward for you to be in a part of that process with a lot more parents.*

A: (N.W.) *When we do have this person on board, they will be attending this meeting monthly. Ginale, I will reach out to you to see how we can collaborate with the Design-Build Entity on other ways that we can engage parents, like if we want to have an in-person meeting. We can work to set a date and work with Ray to organize a meeting were we can talk to parents. Once the firm is onboard, we can customize the approach we have with McClymonds to meet what you guys have been asking for. Now that we're the past the fog of Covid, I think we only had one real in person meeting because we were in the thick of it but now I think everybody has echoed way more in-person meetings. Maybe we can come into to campus and show physical images like 3-D renderings and getting everybody's input in real no time. Once they are on board, I'm going to be organizing meetings with special groups like teachers so they can talk about classroom, and we'll include parents as one of those special groups.*

Q: (J.H.) Do you record the meetings?

A: (R.B.) *I do record the meetings to help me with the notes, once the notes are approved, I erase the recording and I don't keep the recordings. It helps me with getting the notes accurate, those are the*

meeting notes that I send out to PAC members along with the presentation and meeting agenda for our next meeting.

Q: (A.A.) I don't understand why a school like McClymonds, my name is Assala Adubgala, with such great needs related to the facility as well as the academic environment, why would you put forth an item that says the actual work doesn't start until 2025? All of this talking, talking, talking, talking for 2 years, I would assume nothing doesn't result in the actions that need to take place to change their facility. On the agenda tonight there's an item for \$492,000 for Fremont for computer and every agenda in every meeting, schools like International High School, Fremont HS, Oakland Tech and issues related to their facilities, their academic environment are constantly being put on the agenda. There's a small item for McClymonds on the agenda, but it makes no sense to have a school with such great needs like McClymonds to actually start the work in 2025. The Cole administration building started working immediately once they decided on every aspect of the building including the toxins that were found in the ground which still hasn't been resolved at McClymonds. I'm also concerned when a member of the public who is on the Lighthouse Charter School board comes into these meetings, every meeting, for what intent? Are you trying to get my McClymonds to become a charter school? I'm watching you. This is not a valid process when you don't have immediate response to the needs of the McClymonds, 2025 is a concern.

A: (N.W.) *For the larger projects like Cole and The Center, they went through the same process that we have. We have to go through certain steps because this is not just like pick somebody and give them money. This is a legal process and if we change or skip a step in the process, there can a legal challenge that'll set us so many years back. Whatever action you see or board items that are happening for other projects those items getting onto the board agenda are two and three years in the making, they just started their process before we got our money and started our process. For Cole, it took them a year to design, it took them 6 months in DSA and that is the process that we as builders for a public entity have to go through to get things done.*

S: (A.A.) *I have looked at the calendar for when projects started, some projects started immediately, some go to the second year and some go to the third year. Don't tell me that all these projects are done the same. Please, let's move on to something else it's insulting to tell me that move on to something else and don't answer me with that answer, please.*

A: (R.B.) *What my colleague was trying to say is that there were engagement processes that happen before Measure Y got approved and this is following Board Policy 7155, which states that we need to engage, that we really need to hear community members, you all are experts of your particular needs at McClymonds. We are trying to listen to all of those needs to be able to get this right and be able to spend the funds in in the right way and so this is what we're following here, but thank you for your comment.*

Next Steps – Nicole Wells

- The next steps include being able to make a selection of the firm that we'll be going with.
- Following the selection of the firm, we have to wait for Board approval.
- Once the contract is approved by board, we can start reaching out to different groups like parents to start setting up meetings.
- We will get that team to come here and to start to present their ideas and design concepts, we can feedback from that process.
- Once they have met with all the groups, they can start their designs.

QUESTIONS, ANSWERS & STATEMENTS

Q: (G.H.) When you come back and you're reaching out to the people, can you not make it third party? The communication that comes from McClymonds does not get to the parents, that's why you don't see any parents here. We have three hundred students and there are very few parents at any of these meetings, because I attend them too. At every meeting, in our SSC meetings, there are very few parents and they don't run those meetings correctly, they run them illegally and they don't have any binders or paperwork on their spending to back up what they are doing. There's a whole lot of emotion and I just want a commitment from this committee that they are going to communicate with the parents of the students who attend McClymonds. We have to stop relying on alumni, we need to stop relying on administration and really have the teachers and the parents together.

A: (R.B.) This is not only an advisory committee, but we are also going to touch on folks here to help us in developing a plan.

A: (N.W.) To directly answer the question concerning this project as far as communication to set up meetings, the emails will come directly from me or Ray. Ray and I will be the only people reaching out to you concerning this project to get your participation.

Q: (J.H.) I just want to be really clear like when we leave here, what are the next steps? The next time we meet do we expect something to be different or have changed? Do we have a precise date for the Board meeting? Can we get to a in person meeting to begin to meet and see each other?

A: (N.H.) My goal would be that the first meeting with the Firm would be in-person, to start our engagements with them, with everybody in-person, and showing you the concepts that they've shared in their proposals. The goal for the Board meeting is to have the contract in for the last Board meeting in February, but it could be the first meeting in March. It all depends on when we get all the paperwork sign by the builders and we follow the legal process to get it ready for Board.

S: (J.H.) I would suggest that we meet before that Board meeting, because if we want for the community to support it when it goes to Board it would be best for us to meet before.

A: (N.W.) Yes, our meeting falls before that, our next PAC meeting is in the beginning of February.

S: (B.T.) This is Ben Tapscott and the Chair of the McClymonds Committee. I have asked for three proposals; I only see two. I don't trust Ray one bit, I think there's a bunch of mess going on with McClymonds. It's impossible to be talking about a design when you haven't presented a proposal to parents. I don't want Jumoke doing anything when it comes to McClymonds. She closed six schools in West Oakland and her word is nothing to what people in West Oakland think of her. As far as the design is concerned, we haven't had an opportunity to put our two cents in. We asked for the shop building and Ray said that we have to demolish it, we haven't agreed to demolish anything at McClymonds. 64 Million dollars is a drop in the bucket. The district is not operating in good faith, you gave Fremont 137 million and you want to give McClymonds 64? And you haven't included any students or parents? We're not going to let you railroad this. You haven't done a cost analysis? So how can you talk about design, when you haven't decided if the foundation is structurally sound. This is a whole bunch of nothing of what I think and if you can't get parents together or students, I don't know what you're talking about when you say you're going into the board and present what? You haven't done anything over there to make sense to the people that are concerned with that school.

A: (R.B.) Thank you for your comment coach Tapscott and we've discussed all this through the engagement of our last phase, all the presentations and notes are online.

S: (G.H.) I think that what's is trying to be relayed here, and it is not personally directed against any particular person, I just think the process been very flawed. I don't think there's been enough teacher or parent participation. Each time I go to a committee meeting, the committees rely on the administration, and it is very clear that the administration doesn't engage with the parents. If you notice, because I have created an analysis of our enrollment at McClymonds that I will share with the Board, it's declining and no one is doing anything about it. When we come to these meetings and we talk about what we want to build, it sounds great, but who are you building it for? This is the last black historical high school in West Oakland and in Oakland period. Where our children have an opportunity to thrive and they do thrive. It takes a village and we just want to be part of your village. Please consider what we're all emphasizing here because it's extremely important and Coach is an alumni as well.

Q: (A.A.) I have a question about the in-person meeting, it has been a standard procedure at the Alameda Co. Board of Supervisors, OUSD and City Council, they are moving to this direction, participants have the option to meet in person or in zoom. I don't know why this body is recommending that, are you saying that these meetings will only be in-person? Because there are people that for their own safety, and I am not talking about safety related to Covid, I am talking about the safety of being out in the streets of Oakland. Can you make clear about the recommendations about your plans for future meetings?

A: (N.W.) *What we're saying is that any meetings that we have in person, we'll also have them on Zoom. The listening session that we had during our first phase of engagement, we did both and it would be that format continuing on.*

Q: (B.T.) **How are we contacting parents? Is the school sending out letters with your ID number to talk about the design? I sat on a meeting in the library and the architect was talking about two proposals and I asked him for a third proposal which is taking the shop area and making it three level like the rest of the school and I have yet to have any conversation. That addition can be for science, technology and coding, things that no other school in the district offers. People are worried about charter schools, we're not worried about charter schools coming into McClymonds, we have fought them off three or four times. We need a third proposal submitted so that parents can say "oh, I don't like 1 or 2, I like number 3", I haven't seen that take place yet.**

A: (N.W.) *That wasn't the architect in record, that was the bridging architect. We're getting the architect in record once the contract is approved by the Board. We have space at McClymonds, we have more space than the current enrollment even with not expanding that building, we have the space to grow the program significantly.*

S: (G.H.) *Ray, don't be in the misunderstanding that we are getting any communication from the school.*

A: (N.W.) *For our meetings, we handle the communications directly. For our last in-person meeting, we mailed out flyers to the surrounding community.*

S: (G.H.) *I personally get emails from Ray and that's the only way I know about these meetings.*

A: (N.W.) *Anybody that is in the committee, Ray sends out an invitation along with the meeting notes to everybody. Anybody can get added to Ray's list and we we're getting ready for the bigger committee meetings, we will do outreach through ParentSquare to outreach to the entire community.*

A: (R.B.) *All those invitations went out directly from us via ParentSquare last Spring, I know you're new to the school this year and you would not have gotten those invitation last year.*

S: (G.H.) *Because you think that McClymonds is being redone, you would think that there would be information in that school. I go to the school a lot and there's nothing that indicates that we're having these meetings. We rely on ParentSquare and it's terrible, you can't click on the links or the information comes after the fact.*

A: (R.B.) We would love your feedback in the next few meetings when we're going to talk about a communications plan and you'll help us revamp that. Thank you all for participating today, as always, we appreciate your support, and we'll see you all on February 7th.

Meeting Adjourn