



BVSD Universal Playgrounds

Location: Lafayette Elementary School

To: Stephen Henry

From: Tory Hancock

Present: Name

Kris Stoppenhagen

Stephen Henry

Susan Cousins

Jessa Vanderpol

Leslie Gaiser

Shannen Numair

Tanner Dayhoff

Janice Moore

Jean Sturm

Carol Henry

Lisa Langer

Tory Hancock

Date: September 19, 2023

Time: 4:00 pm

Company

BVSD, Exec. Dir. Bond Planning and Construction

BVSD, Project Manager

BVSD, Communications Mgr.

Kohl ES, PT

BVSD, Dir. Of SPED

BVSD, ADA Compliance Specialist

Bear Creek ES, Principal

BVSD, PT

BVSD, Admin. Asst.

DCLA, Principal

DCLA, Sr. Assoc.

DCLA, Project Manager

The purpose of this meeting was to kick off the BVSD Universal Access playground renovation project.

General Comments

1. The team reviewed the general scope of the project. There will be evaluations of 16 elementary and ECE playgrounds conducted in the coming months, with 4 schools targeted for 2024 construction: Kohl, Foothill, Eisenhower, and Nederland.
2. The 16 schools are:

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Eisenhower b. Foothill c. Kohl d. Nederland e. Louisville f. Mapleton ECE g. Aspen Creek PK-8 h. Bear Creek 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Coal Creek j. Creekside k. Eldorado K-8 l. Fireside m. Heatherwood n. Mesa o. Monarch K-8 p. Ryan
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3. Design and assessments will target site accessibility, surfacing, and play components.
4. After assessments are completed, Design Concepts will begin to present conceptual designs and imagery to Design Advisory Team.
5. The team toured Lafayette Elementary school and discussed aspects of surfacing and play components:

Successes observed by PT's and special ed

- Nature play items that incorporate walking, balancing, jumping

- Real stone is sensorily rich, especially with a choice of height and texture
- Trike track would work well in a full circle or have a loop walk
- Lockable shed for 'loose parts' play
- Poured-in-place rubber surfacing best for accessible play
- Synthetic turf is okay, better than grass for cleanliness and maintenance
- Option for multiple access points into play pits work well so as to avoid a long path away from friends
- Option for multiple pathways of PIP when adjacent to EWF to be close to friends
- Goal is to get kids to multiple points at play structure – even if kids can't access the whole structure, they can be near (parallel) to friends
- If EWF, ramp is required
- Ramps around and on structures should be wider than one wheelchair or allow for two-way traffic
- Acoustic components (caution should be used where sound is loud and can be disruptive to classrooms and neighbors)
- Steppers have variety of play value – movement, sensory, balance, jumping
- Option to have stairs with railing all the way from first stair? Challenging with transfer platform opening with no connecting railing to first step
- Some adaptive swing seats are better than others – we will investigate this further with the team
- Option to have consistent surfacing underneath all swings (ADA/belt)? West play area at LES is a really nice installation.
- ECE kids love the components that spin, steering wheels, and music components
- Important to have appropriate challenges for grade level
- Big sculptural, climbing snake is well loved at the kindergarten play area
- Zip lines are always popular
- Somewhat enclosed area with seating is very valuable (playhouse with shade, seating, etc. – kids can all be in there together). Make sure the play houses are well built.
- Change in topography adds interest, need to make sure pathway is maintained as accessible - Lafayette nature play area needed to be worked on
- Amphitheater with shade is a great feature
- Spinners are popular – several good accessible models are available
- Provide social components as well
- Disk swing with harder plastic seat with rubber edge is better than the webbed options
- Buddy/face-to-face swing would work well to swing with friends
- Any components that encourage more peer interaction
- Installing swing seats with a variety of heights is helpful to accommodate all students

Challenges

- EWF is generally not great for accessibility
- One point of entry at far side of play pit is challenging for some
- Avoid configurations that take mobility challenged kids noticeably away from the group
- Ground level fine motor skill components can be a challenge for kids with limited dexterity
- Supporting kids to get into swings is a challenge, especially when they swings are set too high
- Grade changes without visual difference is a challenge
- Big gaps with nothing to hold on to nearby can be intimidating

Action Items

1. Next meeting scheduled for October 3rd at BVSD Education Center
2. Please share notes with the rest of your teams (especially the OT's and those that help with visually impaired students).
3. Please share any photos of successful components with group at next meeting or send to Kris/Stephen

Prepared by:





Tory Hancock
Project Manager
September 22, 2023

DESIGN
CONCEPTS