



School Site Committee Visioning Workshop
(MS)
December 6th, 2022 | 10:30 - 12:00pm
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OCALA STEAM ACADEMY

Alum Rock Union School District





Community
Outreach

Next Steps:

LPA team will distribute the results of the Facility Condition Assessments (FCAs) to the school sites after the winter holiday. After that, LPA will incorporate the results of the FCAs and what we heard at this workshop to create the proposed new master plan to present at the Community Town Hall workshop in Mid-March and early April 2023. The week after the Town Hall meetings, we will meet with your Site Council Committee again to review the input with your group to finalize the diagrams before we do the cost estimating.

The Site Council Committee was oriented to understand what a master plan is and what Ed Specs are. Then highlights from the Ed Specs Visioning Workshop were shown, concluding with the draft guiding principle statement on the following page. After that, participants were asked a series of questions to draw out their ideas to improve the learning environments to support the mission and vision of Alum Rock USD.



Learning Shifts Focus on Student Empowerment- DRAFT

ARUSD's learning environments will support students' development of ***mind, body and spirit***. They will be empowered with the opportunity to try different ways of learning to discover how they learn best, ***find their spark*** and to ***keep the curiosity*** they were born with to become ***expert lifelong learners***. ARUSD will work to give students and families who need additional support to have an ***equal chance to thrive***, meeting all their needs.

EMPOWERING STUDENTS TO BECOME EXPERT LEARNERS

- Multi-sensory and multi-intelligences learning
- More control at the hands of the students
- Independent choice and/or collaborative elective periods
- Less teacher-directed time
- Students setting individual goals
- Student-driven activities
- Student-chosen schedules
- More independent work time
- Relaxation rooms
- No school uniforms

HIGHER COLLABORATION

- Team collaboration across studies, play, and extra-curricular activities
- Flexible and collaborative opportunities

EQUITY FOR STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES

- Spaces to support personal and basic needs (i.e. laundry services)
- Full day kindergarten

MIND, BODY AND SPIRIT

- More outside and exploration time
- Play and naturalistic movement
- Bring community into the class
- Indoor and outdoor use spaces

Visioning Questions:

1. In general, what is your **overall impression** of the campus as it exists today? How do you think the community perceives the condition of the existing campus? Is Admin working well as a welcoming space? Restrooms?
2. How well do **traffic patterns** flow on and around the campus (both vehicular and pedestrian)?
3. Do you have any observations or concerns regarding **safety and security**?
4. Are **outdoor areas** currently being utilized for educational purposes?
5. Is there adequate **play area**? If not, what would improve the current conditions?
6. Where does the school **assemble** for school-wide functions, grade-wide functions and smaller group functions?
7. How well do your **current learning spaces** support your instructional delivery? Library/Media Resource Center? Other spaces such as Makerspace? STEM? STEAM Labs? Arts? Science? After-school programs?
8. Are there adequate outdoor spaces for **P.E. and Athletics**?
9. What are your most **immediate concerns** regarding current facilities?

Participants were asked questions to draw out their ideas to improve the learning environments to support the mission and vision of Alum Rock USD.

1

Overall Impression

In general, what is your **overall impression** of the campus as it exists today? How do you think the community perceives the condition of the existing campus? Is Admin working well as a welcoming space? Restrooms?

- Community relations are overall positive.
- The community agrees the transition to project-based learning has been a successful improvement to the school's curriculum.
- Custodians care and maintain the campus to the best of their ability.
- The campus has a generally improved and welcoming curb appeal, however the facilities themselves are outdated and in need of modernization. Sitewide plumbing requires regular maintenance.

2




Traffic Patterns

How well do **traffic patterns** flow on and around the campus (both vehicular and pedestrian)?

- The pick-up/drop-off loop at the corner of Ocala Ave. and Wonderama Dr. causes traffic congestion at the intersection.
- Additional school traffic from Downtown College Prep (DCP) increases congestion along Ocala Ave. and within the parking lot off Ocala Ave. that is shared with DCP.
- Crosswalks across Ocala Ave. need controlled crossing points and safety measures.



Safety & Security

-  Traffic Congestion
-  Pick-up/Drop-off Loops
-  Speed Bumps Needed



01 The pick-up/drop-off loop at the corner of Ocala Ave. and Wonderama Dr. causes traffic congestion at the intersection

02 Crosswalks across Ocala Ave. need improved controlled crossing points and safety measures.

3

Safety & Security

Do you have any observations or concerns regarding **safety and security**?

- There are multiple points of entry to the site via gates and gaps in the perimeter fencing.
- The lack of a single controlled point of entry makes supervision and surveillance challenging.
- The Admin needs to be more welcoming with an entry vestibule for visitor management.
- The Admin needs better lines of sight to the parking lot, traffic loop, and main entrance.
- Wayfinding for visitors sitewide needs improvement.
- Lighting needs to be improved, especially at the parking lots and areas used after hours.



Safety & Security



Entry



There are multiple points of entry to the site via gates and gaps in the perimeter fencing.



The lack of a single controlled point of entry makes supervision and surveillance challenging.



The Admin needs to be more welcoming with an entry vestibule for visitor management



The Admin needs better lines of sight to the parking lot, traffic loop, and main entrance.



Safety and Security



Gaps in the perimeter fencing need to be secured.

4

Outdoor Areas

Are **outdoor areas** currently being utilized for educational purposes?

- Outdoor areas don't have adequate lines of sight.
- Outdoor seating is needed for students to connect to each other and to use for purposeful learning.
- The areas between classroom finger buildings are opportunities for outdoor learning by adding transparency to the classrooms for a line of sight for supervision with boundaries students stay within. Students enjoy working outside when given the opportunity, but these spaces don't support large groups.
- More shade structures are needed site-wide.



Outdoor Areas



Furniture needs to be updated and augmented to support mealtimes and outdoor learning.

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Play Area

Where does the school **assemble** for school-wide functions, grade-wide functions and smaller group functions?

- The blacktop is in good shape to support play and PE, just small improvements for general maintenance are needed.
- The futsal court has been a huge success amongst students in every grade. More engaging play opportunities like that would be great.
- The exercise course on campus, provided by the Care-Source Grant, needs to be replaced

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Assembly

Where does the school **assemble** for school-wide functions, grade-wide functions and smaller group functions?

- The cafeteria/Multi-Purpose Room (MPR) has a stage and serves as a gathering space but is not thermally comfortable and can only fit one grade at a time, so indoor assemblies are repeated and held in blocks.
- Weather permitting, school wide assemblies take place outside in the courtyard, but it lacks seating and shade.
- A shared resource arts center could support assemblies and community events like STEAM nights and music performances.
- The school uses a “house” system in which students are split between multiple spirit teams or groups to foster community across grade levels. The houses compete for points throughout the year and host weekly and monthly activities. An amphitheater or rally space would support this successful program.



Assembly



The MPR/Cafeteria is one of the main gathering spaces, but it needs to be expanded to function optimally.



Assembly



Outdoor areas like the courtyard need to be optimized to support comfortable gathering.

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Current Learning Spaces

How well do your **current learning spaces** support your instructional delivery? Library/Media Resource Center? Other spaces such as Makerspace? STEM? STEAM Labs? Arts? Science? After school programs?

- Classrooms need more daylight and direct connection to the outdoors.
- An indoor collaborative space with flexible furniture and soft seating for group work is needed.
- The library has been decentralized to mobile book carts and reading corners in classrooms. The vision is to transform the library into a shared resource multi-media center including space for reading.
- A dedicated state of the art science lab with storage is needed.
- There is a vision to better support the Visual and Performing Arts program with a theater and art studios to share district-wide.
- A Wellness Center for counseling services with support spaces is needed.



Current Learning Environments



Music courses are hosted in portables at the back of site and need replaced with permanent buildings.



Current Learning Environments



The STEAM Lab facilities need to be updated to support daily function. More flex spaces like these are needed.



Current Learning Environments



Classrooms need more storage, daylight, and direct connection to the outdoors.

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P.E. and Athletics

Are there adequate outdoor spaces for **P.E. and Athletics**?

- A gym is needed for sports and PE. These programs use the STEAM labs on rainy or heat wave days which affects the reservation schedule for STEAM classes.
- Fields are underutilized because they are uneven from gopher holes.
- Workout equipment and a small weightlifting room would increase the opportunity for individual training and encourage students to develop lifelong fitness habits.
- Outdoor and indoor storage for sports and training equipment is a needed.



P.E. and Athletics



Fields require regular maintenance and proper stadium seating.

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Immediate Concerns

What are your most **immediate concerns** regarding current facilities?

- Public Announcement (PA) system needs repair.
- Improved controlled crossing points or other preventative measures are needed for pedestrians.
- Wayfinding for visitors needs to be improved.
- More staff restrooms are needed.
- Lighting needs to be improved, especially at the parking lots and areas used after hours.
- Remove portables and replace if needed. We need equitable classrooms quality campus wide.
- Larger classrooms to support project-based learning.
- Increased visual and direct connections from the classrooms to the outdoors.

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Immediate Concerns

What are your most **immediate concerns** regarding current facilities?

- The Cafeteria/Multi-Purpose Room needs central AC to make gatherings thermally comfortable.
- Gym for PE and athletics
- Repair fields to use for PE and athletics and add stadium seating.
- A new district-wide shared arts center for VAPA events with support space for performances.
- Outdoor seating is needed for students to connect to each other and to use for purposeful learning.
- Outdoor and indoor storage for sports and training equipment is a needed.
- More combination bottle filling station/drinking fountains are needed.

Outside-In and Inside Out

The following pages organize the questions that were asked at the visioning workshops into two categories: Outside In and Inside Out. Outside In items capture needs outside of the buildings. Inside Out items capture needs for the buildings and the interiors. Items are listed from macro level (larger needs) to micro level (details).



Outside In



Entry



There are multiple points of entry to the site via gates and gaps in the perimeter fencing.



There is congestion at the pick-up/drop-off loop at the corner of Ocala Ave. and Wonderama Dr.



Congestion along Ocala Ave. and in the parking lot, where traffic with Downtown College Prep overlaps.



A single, controlled point of entry with improved sight lines is needed. and main entrance.



Outside In



Entry



Fields are underutilized because they are uneven from gopher holes.



The futsal court has been a huge success. More play areas needed.



The exercise circuit course on campus needs to be replaced.



School wide assemblies take place outside in the courtyard, but it lacks seating and shade.



Inside Out



Entry



Remove and replace portables if needed.



Larger classrooms needed to support project-based learning.



There is a need to upgrade and augment library services into a centralized Multi-Media Center.



The cafeteria has a stage and serves as a gathering space, but is not thermally comfortable and needs to be expanded.



Transform and expand Administration into a Welcome Center.

Vision

The facility master plan for this campus will focus on the bullet point list of priorities synthesized from the workshop.

At the Town Hall Workshops, we will share highlights from the Ed Specs, this report deliverable and a proposed new site diagram. Town Hall participants will be engaged in an exercise in which they choose the top five priorities and add their comments to the boards.

- Upgrade perimeter fencing and Improve sight lines from Admin for site supervision at the front of the campus.
- Improve traffic congestion by shifting drop-off/pick-up away from the intersection and add parking.
- Transform and expand Administration into a Welcome Center with better visitor management.
- New Wellness Center for counseling services for students and families with support spaces.
- Landscape improvements to the courtyard adding seating and shade for assemblies and events.
- A new amphitheater would be ideal for assemblies and house rallies.
- Use areas between classroom finger buildings for outdoor learning with direct visual connections.
- Expand the existing classroom size by combining adjacent classrooms or creating Commons areas in between pairs of classrooms to extend the footprint.
- Transform the library into a shared resource Multi-Media Center including space for reading
- New dedicated state of the art science labs with storage
- A new district wide shared VAPA Center with support space for performances. (Black box theater?)
- New Flex Gym to use as an MPR for P.E. and sports training, keeping one MPR for mealtimes.
- Add a new workout equipment and a small weightlifting room.
- Renovate locker rooms and add indoor storage for sports and training equipment.
- Add stadium seating at the field