



BVSD Universal Playgrounds

Location:	BVSD Ed Center	Date:	October 3, 2023
To:	Stephen Henry	Time:	4:00 pm
From:	Carol Henry	<u>Company</u>	
Present:	<u>Name</u>	BVSD, Exec. Dir. Bond Planning and Construction	
	Kris Stoppenhagen	BVSD, Project Manager	
	Stephen Henry	Kohl ES, PT	
	Jessa Vanderpol	Bear Creek ES, Principal	
	Tanner Dayhoff	Parent	
	Carole Bakhos	BVSD, PT	
	Janice Moore	BVSD, Admin. Asst.	
	Jean Sturm	Executive Director SPED	
	Michelle Brenner	Foothill Principal	
	Sennen Knauer	Bear Creek ES Principal	
	Tanner Dayhoff	DCLA, Principal	
	Carol Henry	DCLA, Sr. Assoc.	
	Lisa Langer	DCLA, Project Manager	
	Tory Hancock		

The purpose of this meeting was to review the assessment form layout and discuss the first four sites for 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. There is an RFP going out to CM/GC's to get a contractor on board for the 16 selected schools. Construction is planned for the next four years.
3. The first schools to be worked on have multiple ILC's.
4. Schools will get a combination of surfacing, equipment, social and sensory upgrades, depending upon current conditions and needs.
5. The team is starting with the four projects with multiple ILC's. Construction will occur next summer.
6. Maintenance of the play equipment is sometimes not addressed in a timely manner. Is it possible to get a maintenance contract with the play equipment vendors?
7. Circuitous access paths are helpful versus a path with angles.
8. Waysides along an accessible path.
9. The general assessment chart and key were addressed with the group. Discussed the subjectiveness of putting a value on the accessible components. Will add a category for assessing if there are opportunities for students to play together or interact with each other.
10. What is high-value play?

- a. Are students able to move at different speeds throughout the area safely?
 - b. How much time will a child spend on an activity?
 - c. Can students play together? The fisheye panel at Lafayette Elementary is a good piece to engage all students.
 - d. Is there a diversity of experiences? Is there a variety of activities they can do? Ex.: seat spinners offer both seating and standing options
 - e. Enhance opportunities for practicing skills.
 - f. Play area size helps to provide areas for multiple different experiences.
 - g. Want to have imaginative play, including items like boulders and natural elements that are rich in texture, invoke imaginative play.
 - h. Provide areas for students to have their own independence, i.e. no transfer required
 - i. A seesaw with a back is a good inclusive piece.
 - j. Elements with back are better options.
 - k. Buddy swings are a great option.
 - l. Create peer opportunities for engagement.
 - m. Interest in an activity and a student's age may not match. Provide a variety of activities.
11. Janice has spoken with a teacher for the visually impaired (Sally Burch) and found that it is helpful to
 - a) Highlight changes in elevations with a painted line (Monarch K-8 is a good example)
 - b) If you can't tell how the surface changes if you blur your eyes, a painted line/color variation is helpful.
 - c) Peripheral vision
 12. Communication boards/picture boards like the one at Heatherwood are helpful for non-verbal students. Could we paint our own?
 13. Sensory components are important.
 14. Provide areas for a stimulation break – gardens, quiet areas, pods nearby.

Conditions for each of the four schools were reviewed with the group:

Foothill Elementary School

1. Foothill Elementary has a new Intermediate playground with poured-in-place (PIP) surfacing.
2. Its swings are in a separate pit and have one swing bay of PIP and the rest has pea gravel surfacing. Play curb is present around swings.
3. The gaga pit is not accessible to get to, or to get into.
4. The fitness equipment along the east property line is old and very close to new off-site construction. That equipment does not need to be a part of the playground improvements.
5. The boulders and mature trees between the primary and intermediate playground are well used but are not accessible.
6. The primary play area has old equipment that should be replaced, has pea gravel surfacing and asphalt that encroaches into the equipment's fall zones. The asphalt encroachment had previously had rubber tiles to protect the fall zone, which are no longer there.
7. Concrete walks along the east side of the building, adjacent to the primary play area, have deteriorated and need to be replaced. The associated asphalt play pad has several significant cracks.
8. The kindergarten (pre-k scheduled to come in the future) play area has mostly older equipment with pea gravel surfacing. One composite is of newer vintage (pre-2007). One single swing has an access path to it and sits in PIP. The remainder of the area is a mix of pea gravel and dirt. The playground is fenced and has large shade trees throughout.
9. In order to access the kindergarten playground, students need to cross the sidewalk. There is no direct classroom access.
10. The fifth graders love the play fields, and there are portable soccer goals coming soon.
11. Access to the garden beds is an issue.

12. The raised shelter and outdoor classroom have stairs with missing/loose railings.
13. An original gravel path through the garden leads to the upper part of the outdoor classroom area.
14. The school and PTO are committed to the gardening program.

Kohl Elementary School

15. The ECE playground is newer, with EWF surfacing, new equipment, shade shelter, tables, benches, a trike track, grass and planting beds.
16. The 1st and 2nd grade playground has been converted to EWF, and the swings have an access walk that leads to a rubberized tile swing bay. The two northern access ramps don't provide compliant ADA access. One of the slides needs a missing bolt replaced.
17. The adjacent asphalt around this playground is in poor shape and makes access into and around the playground challenging.
18. The 3rd and 4th grade playgrounds have newer equipment, and a surface with both EWF and PIP.
19. Janice noted that it would be helpful to have enough PIP for the students to go up onto the transfer point and come down on a slide. This does not occur here.
20. Janice suggests PIP surfacing at the bottom of slides as well and then connection back to an accessible place.
21. Several large shade trees are present on the east side of the playground. A picnic table and bench underneath them are not accessible.
22. The students love the disc swing.
23. The kindergarten playground has a large amount of EWF. Steeper slopes exceed range for ADA access, and a gate with panic hardware doesn't function well. No ramps are present in the play pit.
24. The exit gate is not accessible from either side.

Nederland Elementary School

1. All play pits have rubberized tile surfacing. These improvements and replacement of new equipment at the primary and ECE areas was completed in 2019 was previous bond.
2. Adding access to the lower playfields would be helpful.
3. There is an overhead spinner on the upper play area that BVSD is going out to look at with their risk management people. These overhead spinners are not allowed in new equipment configurations.
4. Better access to the lower parking lot would be useful. It is currently accessible by the parking lot's perimeter sidewalk.
5. The school's main entry needs paving improvements to be truly accessible.

Eisenhower Elementary School

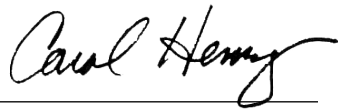
1. The school building provides significant shade on the north, south and east sides. Site furnishings and painted games are located under the overhangs.
2. The early childhood playground is new, with painted games, trike track, PIP surfacing throughout the play pit and plantings.
3. The southeast K-12 playground has EWF surfacing, a storage bin, shade, painted games and access ramp. The play equipment is older and there is a lot of unused area within the pit.
4. The swings are old, worn and should be replaced.
5. The small east central playground has one composite piece of equipment, and an ADA ramp that is not compliant and should be replaced.
6. The large northeast play pit has EWF surfacing but virtually no play elements. Its ramp is non-compliant. equipment is old, and no children were seen playing in this area. We recommend that the old equipment be removed from this area and the playground improvements should be focused on the other playgrounds.
7. The northern swings are old, worn, and should be removed or replaced. They do have one ADA swing, but it is far from any access point. Southern swings are in better condition.

8. The kindergarten playground is located on the north side of the site and has EWF with a small area of PIP surfacing that leads almost to an older composite's transfer point and also swings. The area of PIP needs to be expanded to be helpful. There is also PIP that leads to a swing bay. The composite's decking is starting to delaminate.
9. Several older climbers are present but could be replaced with more engaging equipment.
10. The glider is well used.
11. There is a drop shot set onto a small concrete pad within the play pit, but the area of concrete is too small for game play.
12. The larger asphalt play pad is in poor condition, with grass growing up through cracks.
13. A buddy bench on the west side of the playground is under shade but is not accessible.
14. Access walk from the building to the southeast is in good condition, but steep.

Action Items

1. Next DAT meeting scheduled for November 8th at BVSD Education Center.
2. DC to send out the school analysis boards, and image boards presented at the meeting.
3. Please share notes with the rest of your teams (especially the OT's and those that help with visually impaired students).
4. Please share any photos of successful components with the group at the next meeting or send them to Kris/Stephen.

Prepared by:



Carol Henry, PLA
Principal