

**Rockford Public Schools, District 205
Facilities Master Plan 2025 – 2030
Values Workshop
Meeting Minutes**

**College and Career Education Center
Monday, October 23, 2023**

Leanne Meyer-Smith opened the meeting at 6:02 p.m. She thanked everyone for spending time with the group tonight and explained who the DLR Group was.

The DLR Group team introduced themselves.

Leanne M. Meyer-Smith, AIA, K-12 Education Leader/Principal

Korey White, AIA, pK-12 Planning Leader/Senior Associate

Morgan Wynne AIA, Architectural Designer/Associate

Helen Ho, Ph.D., EDAC, Project Research Manager/ Associate

Present were:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>School</u>
Dane Youngblood	Director of Purchasing	Administration
Brett Vosburgh	Director of Special Ed	Administration
Brad Roos	President Sustain Rockford	N/A
Fred Diehl	Director of Security Services	Administration
Anita Schauer	Capital Programs Architect	N/A
Michael Slife	Exec. Dir. of Transportation	Transportation
Kimberly Nelson	Exec. Dir. Of Early Childhood	Early Childhood
Dr. H. Cyrus Oates	Dental Contractor	N/A
Scott Phelps	Foreperson Distribution Ctr.	Distribution
Vereny Carter	City of Rockford PW	N/A
Suany Rodriguez-Parham	Supervisor of Translation	Administration
James Lester	Plumbing Dept. Foreman	Operations
Steve Kryzstopa	Director of Logistics	Distribution
Gina Beaver	Lead Parent Educator	Early Childhood
Jeff Hursh	Shop Manager Transportation	Transportation
Brian Ward	N/A	N/A
Emily Klonicki	Alignment Rockford	N/A
Maureen Kirschmann	Family & Comm. Engagement Mgr.	Administration
Jesika Moffitt	Talent Development Manager	Administration
Catherine Ellis	Director of Facilities/Ops/D&C	Operations
Kristina Reuber	Director of Customer Service SAC	Welcome Center
Eric Setter	Region 1 Planning Council	N/A
Chris Burton	NAACP	N/A

Ben Epperson	Exec. Director of Curriculum	Administration
N'Diya Hopkins	Student	Auburn HS
Dorothy Redd	Former Educator	N/A
Paul Carpenter	RPS 205 Board Member	N/A
Pati Strehl	Principal	Bloom Elementary
Angela Scott	NAACP Education Chair	N/A
George Scott	NAACP President	N/A
Scott Jenson	Director of Fac/Ops/D&C	Operations
Tiana McCall	RPS 205 Board Member	N/A
Colleen Koehler	Exec. Director of Nutrition Services	Administration

What are we doing here today?

Leanne explained that the meeting was going to be fast paced and they were here to start a conversation about what possible sustainability goals could be on a wholistic level and how our design choices can influence our understanding of sustainability. Design choices have an impact on every scale, from the classroom to the school level, to the city level, and even to the regional and global levels. We are trying to think about sustainability level from all of these scales because the environment is everything around us, including us and how we interact with each other. We need to understand ourselves as part of the ecology in the entire system.

The groups were given cards and asked to produce a consensus on what their table's values were for sustainability. Values stands for human architecture through the light of user experience and sustainability.

Card categories:

Access and Mobility – includes different types of transportation processes to get the students easily and safely on-site, including walkable networks.

Community Connector – think about how Rockford Public Schools can support neighborhood vitality by including the public in decision-making processes, forging community support and providing other resources and programs.

Culture and Identity – for this category we might discuss how Rockford Public Schools can use design to celebrate local histories and context, as well as develop a strong sense of space that speaks to the identities of the occupants, students, teachers, community runners, and the surrounding communities.

Energy – design and utilize site resources like daylight, heat, and wind. Building systems that will efficiently provide for energy demand and generating renewable energy to offset energy costs.

Indoor Environmental Quality (IEQ) – This includes indoor noise levels, air quality, visual comfort and light, thermal comfort, and temperature and how these support health and well-being, cognitive function, and performance. This should be considered alongside the previous category on energy use.

Equitable Development – we want to consider how the Rockford Public Schools can change the community through responsible land use, providing equitable access to programs, resources, and opportunities.

Health and Wellbeing – for this category we consider how the district and the schools can promote mental, physical, and emotional wellbeing

Materials Impact – this includes the district’s choices when it comes to building materials, composition, durability, and sourcing, because all these things impact human health and comfort.

Outdoor Environment Quality – this category considers how outdoor spaces across the district have the means to restore ecology, promote wellness, and build community.

Procurement and Operations – this category considers responsible procurement and disposal of goods and supplies.

Resiliency – this encourages your district, schools, and design teams to intentionally enable sites, buildings, individuals, and communities to respond to, withstand, and recover from stressful or adverse situations including extreme weather events.

Water – this encompasses water quality for human and ecosystem health. Water and stormwater management practices

The groups had forty minutes to choose six priority categories they would like to focus on. They were to ask themselves, “If our District focused on _____, it would be a success.” When the forty minutes were up, each table was asked to do a quick sixty second share out of their group’s top priorities.

Table 1

Social Justice – includes equitable urban development

Neighborhood Vitality

Multi-modes of transportation

Safety and Security

Biophilia

Visual Comfort

Table 2

Evidence Based Modalities – district-based clinics and different areas throughout the community to serve needs of students right onsite

Decarbonizing Energy

Neighborhood Vitality – talking about how neighborhood schools are at the center of the community, make things more available, make it more welcoming

Organizational Transformation – using the Leap plans to take a different look at the way we provide our academics

Equity – making sure all our systems have what they need to make everything successful

Public Space –talked specifically about public space around sports and different ways we can work with that

Table 3

Waste

Nutrition Services

Community Partnerships – space for community events at the school

Parking - and we need more parking at most schools

Risk Adaptation & Innovation – planning on having schools where we live and building down schools to give us places to put our children in situations such as tornadoes.

Inclusion – multilingual signage in all our buildings because right now they are not welcoming to our families unless you are American and can speak English. Also, on the design aspect of our new schools, let us be unique and celebrate Rockford and bring that into our design.

Table 4

Thermal Comfort – is one of the District's initiatives to make sure all the schools' classrooms have air conditioning – we would like that to include gyms and auditoriums where children congregate and have class – also including alternative schools who should have access to those sort of facilities. Thermal comfort is also a way, in the future, to potentially have year-round school. Research will tell us that it will increase better outcomes for teachers who won't have to spend the first quarter of the year repeating what students have lost over the summer.

Nourishment – super important. We have a need to make sure our kids are well fed, have healthy foods, and have access to those foods. This is of utmost importance, if you want to increase your test scores and you want increase student achievement to make sure kids have what they need to get them out of survival phase and onto the learning phase.

Safety and Security

Inclusion – including mental health services and that sort of thing

Social Justice

Neighborhood Vitality

Table #5

Safety and Security – there is a need for the students to be in a safe and secure school

Emergency Planning

Multi-Modes of Transportation – discussions on how good transportation can improve things, also walkability

Community Partnerships

Equity and Inclusion

Air Quality

Table #6

Neighborhood Vitality – trying to disrupt our predictability by zip code – this is a piece of that

Linked Safety and Security & Multi-modes of Transportation – getting kids in and out of schools safely and efficiently is important

Linked Inclusion, Equity and Multi-Culture Relevance – sense of belonging. Also talked about multilingual signage in our buildings, universal access to students with hearing impairments and things like that

Net Zero by 2050 – we had decarbonized energy and energy reduction

Linked Ecology with Hydro Balance – nature is important in our schools

Play Spaces – where children can be together learning the social skills and inclusion, and having play be a part of that is important

Table 7

Multi-Modes of Transportation

Inclusion and Social Justice overlapped – make sure everyone feels they have safe learning environment to come into

Transparency in Decision Making – when we work together, things work out better

Evidence Based Modalities – Operational optimization, which goes in with building systems and selections

Emergency Planning – because who knows, we are barely surviving the pandemic so this should be at the top of our minds.

There were quite a few overlapping priorities between tables. Posters for Defining Success were passed out to each table. The groups were asked to choose one of their priorities and answer three questions, if their priority was successful.

Report – What would people in the space be able to tell you about their user experience or internal state?

Observe – What would you or your client observe happening in the space?

Measure – What changes in a metric, measured amount, or numeric criteria would occur?

Kory invited the group to look at the other tables to see what priority they chose and how they determined that it would be reported, observed, and measured. She then shared with the group what happens now with everything they shared. This has been a series of engagements that we have done throughout your district. We have met with educators, school leadership, students, and we met with you this evening. We also have a teacher survey out that closes tomorrow. We have been gathering as much information and feedback on the vision for Rockford Public Schools as we can. We are also kicking off with a smaller group of folks called a Steering Committee on Wednesday evening. What they will do, along with our team, is to take all this information, start to look at it, and determine the tools for the Master Plan. And those guiding tools are going to be the things that must be true for all the recommendations that come forward from the schools and community of Rockford Public Schools, as we start to go through different scenarios and approaches for the Master Plan. That is what all your great work will lead in to. We are going to take this back; we're going to go through it and summarize it all so we can make it accessible to those who aren't here tonight. We really appreciate all your time and attention. I think the conversations were very meaningful. I heard from one table that somebody heard so many positive things that they had no idea were going on. We really need to do more of that, because there are a lot of great things, and hopefully you will walk away learning something new about your own schools this evening. Kory thanked the group for attending and participating.

The meeting ended at 7:28 p.m.