



## **MEETING MINUTES**

### **BOULDER HS RENOVATIONS**

#### **Auditorium Focus Group – Meeting No. 1**

Date of Meeting: February 14, 2024  
Minutes By: Bruce Larson  
Time: 4:00pm  
Meeting Location: Virtual Meeting

#### **ATTENDEES:**

##### **School**

Ryan Bishop  
Shoshanah Armbruster  
Beau Bryson  
Kelly Carmichael  
Mary Rose Donahue  
Ryan Woodworth;  
Alana Morales;

##### **District**

Thomas Blahak

##### **Design Team**

Melina Saunders  
Bruce Larson  
Peter Incitti  
Nora Brooks

#### **COPIED (via E-mail):**

Kelly Carmichael (for staff team distribution)  
Thomas Blahak  
Alana Morales  
Scott Cawlfild  
Ryan Bishop  
Design Team

**These minutes are part of the permanent record for this project. Any changes, discrepancies and/or exclusions should be directed to this office in writing for discussion and possible amendment(s). If no exceptions are made within ten days, the minutes will stand approved as written.**

#### **PURPOSE OF MEETING:**

The purpose of the meeting was to review the Auditorium and to determine deficiencies within the facility to be evaluated by the design team for potential incorporation into the bond project.

- Introductions occurred, along with a brief description of responsibilities. Kelly Carmichael will be the primary school contact for the Design Team; she will disseminate information to and from the other staff members.
- Tom Blahak summarized the budget for the Auditorium, which is \$750K and matches what was allowed for the other high schools in the District. The school will eventually need to prioritize their “wish list” based on budget limitations; some items could be considered an add alternate as we move through design process.

- The bond project includes specific critical needs (“VFA items”) that are to be addressed, summarized as follows:
  - ADA wheelchair spaces
  - ADA communication (assisted listening)
 The remaining scope is to be determined by the school, Design Team, and District as part of the design process.
  
- The school presented several deficiencies and items to be included on a “wish list”, summarized as follows (no particular order):
  - Centralized controls for AV system (“plug and play”); remove all controlled systems from balcony. It was noted that much of the sound control system is new.
  - ADA access for the stage, back stage, and lower level.
  - Catwalk access and safety concerns (consider permanent “high lift”).
  - Improvements to spotlights; some areas of stage not lighted.
  - Color changing LED lights at proscenium “arches”.
  - Hanging microphones at stage.
  - Add walls to provide improved functional use for the back seating areas on either side of the control room; one side to allow for storage of larger items; one side could perhaps be for rehearsals. It was noted that mechanical (return air) grilles will need to remain operational; this could limit the possibility of fully enclosing these spaces.
  - Additional prop storage if possible (e.g., mezzanines on either side of stage).
  - Replace high-bay house lighting with LED to mitigate replacement issues.
  - Acoustical improvements on stage for sound projection to audience (e.g., acoustical shells).
  - New carpet and paint.
  
- The following items were sent prior to the meeting via e-mail by Ryan Bishop for Instrumental Music:
  - Top Priority
    - Acoustical dampening that maintains the art deco architecture
    - Acoustic shells above the open stage. Acoustic ensembles have no support from above when they perform. Their sound goes straight up and we would like it to go out to the audience.
    - New Carpet. Clean it.
    - Walls- paint it. Maybe a lighter gray color?
    - Stage Lighting- Instrumental musicians need different lighting than actors or vocalists. We need a bigger and better wash of light straight down from conductor (apron) to back wall.
  - Medium Priority
    - A more presentable way to maintain the auditorium classrooms (sides) that are sometimes used for storage.
    - The multiple sound systems cause people to have to either be upstairs or downstairs to completely run the system. Can we get all of it to one spot?
    - Is there a better way to have a neon lighting system? When it dies, we can’t afford to replace it. What should we do?
    - Can there be a ramp instead of stairs on the sides of the stage?
    - Making the pit sound better or have better sound projection during musical performances.
    - Retexture the staircase up to the balcony.
  - Low priority (dream)
    - New/newer seats for the audience.

- Other miscellaneous issues include the following:
  - Review stage flooring for consideration of needed improvements.
  - Review aisle lighting for consideration of needed improvements .
  
- The discussion concluded with the following (preliminary) priorities moving forward:
  - Wish List Priorities
    - Spot light system
    - Centralized controls for AV system (“plug and play”)
    - Stage mics
    - ADA accessibility issues
    - Catwalk safety issues
  - Bond Critical Need (VFA) Items
    - ADA wheelchair spaces
    - ADA communication (assisted listening)
    - Carpet and paint
  - Other Priorities
    - Replace high-bay house lighting with LED
    - Add walls at the back seating areas on either side of the control room
    - Review stage flooring
    - Review aisle lighting

Next Steps

- The Design Team will conduct further research regarding the priority items and provide a summary document (drawings and narratives) to review with the Focus Group as part of their completion of the Schematic Design Phase.

**END OF MINUTES**

Attachments: None