

PROJECT

LOSD Long-Range Facility Planning Committee

MEETING SUBJECT

Ed Spec's & Recommendations for Forest Hills

DATE

2024-01-25

LOCATION

Administration Building – Board Room

TIME

4:00-5:30pm

PARTICIPANTS

Guy Benn
Courtney Clements
Wayne Ha
Bruce Brown
Rachel Verdick
Erin Quandt
Cyndi Spear
Miles Haladay
Liz Hartman
Tony Vandenberg
Jennifer Schiele
Mary Kay Larson
Stuart Ketzler
Rebecca Stuecker (Arcadis)
Levi Patterson (Arcadis)

DISTRIBUTION

Attendees

This is a record of the January 25th Long Range Facility Planning Committee meeting.

Meeting Agenda

1. Committee Meeting Workplan & Structure
2. Topic A: Elementary Ed. Spec's
3. Topic B: Capital Improvements
4. Committee Recommendations for Forest Hills

Introductions

- The Committee gave brief introductions

Workplan

- Rebecca Presented the workplan showing future meeting dates, agenda topics, and locations. Dates were based on survey provided to LRFP Committee
- Moved the meeting from January 30th for extra planning time around Lake Grove ES site
- Meetings are purposefully broken into two parts and held at various District facilities
- April 9th is an added meeting not currently on the committee's calendars
- Rebecca asked if there were additional topics the committee wanted to add:
 - Response: Schools are more than just schools. They are Community assets, Emergency centers.

Ed Specs

- Rebecca presented the LOSD Elementary Educational Specification developed to inform River Grove's Design
- Definition/Purpose of an Ed Spec
- Planning Considerations
 - Learning Neighborhoods

- Support for Specialized Instruction
- Inquiry and Making
- Play, Physical Education, Nutrition, and Community Gathering
- Entry and Identity
- Purposeful & Flexible Spaces
- Vision for Elementary Schools
 - Innovation Culture & STEM
 - Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, & Access
 - Student Wellbeing
 - Sustainability & Resilience
 - Safety & Security

Capital Improvements

- Past Improvements
- Facility Condition Assessment ratings
 - 2017 Bond – Stop the Hemorrhaging
 - 2020 Bond – Beyond the Basics
 - 2024 Bond Planning – We still have parity concerns between schools
- Some of the bigger challenges for Elementary School Parity:
 - Multi-purpose Commons at River Grove
 - Sustainability & Resilience
 - Student Services Programs
 - Continued Accessibility Upgrades
 - Outdoor Classrooms
 - Safe Separation of Parents & Busses for Pick-up/Drop-off

Deep Dive into Forest Hills Elementary School (FHES)

- Rebecca shared floor plans and site plan arials comparing FHES to River Grove and Hallinan and used those to illustrate the parity challenges. The Major Takeaways:
 - Extended Learning Environment missing from FHES
 - Restroom access is very poor
 - Lack of student support spaces
 - Site access for vehicles is very poor; “It is the worst traffic jam in LOSD”.
 - Building circulation is unsafe and impactful to teaching time. Classes have to be staggered to prevent unsafe overcrowding of the double loaded corridor
 - iLabs are an important District-wide initiative that we achieved at Hallinan but the iLab at FHES is limited by its small size and has no direct outdoor connection.
- Committee Questions:
 - Enrollment at FHES
 - Current - 400
 - Projection – 400
 - Why is FHES currently positioned as a re-build?
 - Past LRFP identified as such
 - Resilience goals not able to be achieved if not re-built
 - Continuing to find building failures in the existing facility
 - Site logistics pose additional challenges that cannot easily be addressed with the current location of the building
 - Currently one of the worst energy performing facilities

- Is re-building FHES going to be able to solve the site circulation?
 - The design team will share preliminary site plan and massing ideas to help visualize the site's opportunities
 - Potential for parking under building
 - Making a two-story school can open up the site
- Potential to cap the capacity compared to the ed spec
- As a committee, what are the collective thoughts about capital improvement at FHES?
 - Comments in favor of replacing:
 - Great location for a school, and will continue to be, which lends itself to decide to build something that lasts over time
 - Is there an element of pedestrian circulation that is being provided?
 - Safe Routes to School is part of that discussion
 - Coordination occurs between LOSD and the City of LO
 - Potential to look at re-prioritization of City of LO lists of projects
 - There is potential on the site if it were redeveloped, it could allow for vehicular circulation on the north and south side, and it's fairly flat.
 - Current mix of bus and parents on the streets
 - Lack of traffic flow due to parents parking waiting for pick-up
 - Is the SW corner of the site used?
 - Some play occurs, but the shape makes it limited.
 - K-2 play occurs at SW corner and 3-5 on east side of building
 - Comments in favor of renovating:
 - Concerns about the environmental impact of completely removing the school; embodied carbon in the existing concrete footings, for example.
 - Concerns about losing a building that is beloved by the community. Couldn't we just gut the building and reconfigure the spaces to have it align with the ed spec and meet the district standards without tearing it down?
 - Comments in favor of replacing:
 - Concerns regarding the cost differences between massive renovation versus re-build
 - Sentimental elements of the school would ideally be maintained
 - Energy efficiency v. embodied energy – what is the wholistic sustainability view
 - A lot of the challenges are about the location of the building footprint.
 - We don't want to be in a position in which a few years from now some major systems fail and we have to replace a building we just renovated.
 - We don't want "lipstick on a farm animal"
 - We want (a new building) to last
 - Is FHES at capacity? Not much space to grow.
 - A new FHES is a good opportunity for the next iteration of what education looks like on this site. We can salvage the valuable elements of the existing character in a new building.
 - Some committee members questions the viability of what can be preserved at the existing FHES
 - Is it really able to be preserved?
 - Is a restoration what the community expects?
 - "Not everything that is old is valuable"
 - There are parts of the existing school that are unhealthy, including asbestos-containing materials

- If replacing, the committee would like to keep some elements, where feasible, that honor the past; the fireplace was an element that was considered desirable.

Next Steps:
Meeting #3 February 12th at Forest Hills Library,

Submitted by,
Arcadis Architects Inc.

Attachments: Workplan
Floor and Site Plans
District Properties Handout
Meeting Presentation