



**Summary notes for Elementary School 15 Educational Specifications Design Advisory Committee**  
**Meeting 4 – January 19, 2023**

Alderwood Elementary School principal Micah Smith welcomed the committee back together at Parkview Elementary and reviewed the agenda for the meeting. Parkview is one of the district's recent rebuilds, which opened in the fall of 2021.

Dykeman architect Zach Ham reviewed the exercise the committee had participated in the previous meeting, revising the four district design goals and identifying keys to design. Design goals are developed to support the foundation of Bellingham Public Schools and [the Bellingham Promise](#). The keys to design are part of the built environment and what is important within that new school. Dykeman architects took the teams' comments and compiled each group's design goals and keys to design. They added additional keys to design that they thought fit that design goal. Each group shared the original goal and the goal with their revisions.

Zach revisited the Numeric Program. The square footage for the new building is 58,141 square feet and fits within Bellingham Public Schools budget. The architects look for ways to be innovative, with dual use spaces and providing infrastructure for some spaces to accommodate different programs in the future.

Committee members reviewed the [Narrative Program](#) prior to the meeting. The Narrative Program outlines each program space in the school intended to be used by students or school staff for education. It covers the general use, development objectives, program areas within each space and the relationships to other spaces that are required to support teaching and learning. Micah shared parts of the Narrative Program, explaining to looking globally at what spaces need to be next to each other, and when do we want things farther away. Teams went through an exercise reviewing adjacencies of the different spaces in the building and suggesting edits where they thought these adjacencies could be improved.

The committee then participated in a site charette. Zach shared ariel photos and a video of the building site, reminding the team the new school will be a two-story structure. The committee was divided into four groups, and each group was provided with a site plan and building/site blocks that represented each space in the new school. Staying within the property line, they placed the blocks on the map determining best site location, orientation and adjacencies for the building, as well as exterior circulations paths, such a vehicular, pedestrian and bike, and possible trail or outdoor classroom areas.



Zach shared some of the sustainability and health items that were used in Sunnyland Elementary School rebuild, which include the use of native plants, secure parking for bikes, and having the building solar panel ready. Elementary School 15 is a unique site and a great opportunity to be as creative as possible and use the most sustainable practices possible. The [Sustainability Advisory Committee](#) can work in concert with this project.

The next meeting is 3 to 5 p.m. February 2 at Birchwood Elementary School; the committee will review the detailed space requirements.

Meeting adjourned at 5 p.m.