



Summary notes for Elementary School 15 Educational Specifications Design Advisory Committee
Meeting 6 – March 2, 2023

Jeff Coulter, principal on special assignment, welcomed the group together for the final planned Ed Spec/Design Advisory committee meeting. He thanked everyone for participating and shared the meeting agenda.

Jeff summarized the activity and some of the feedback received from the community meeting held Thursday, February 26. Having committee members in attendance was helpful in the small group activity. Discussions included the value of seeing wildlife and trees, walkability, site access and the rural feel of the neighborhood. Director of capital projects Curtis Lawyer remarked that community input is valued, and comments and concerns were captured in a positive community meeting. There will be a second community meeting later in the year with a more concrete site plan presented.

After rebuilding several schools and going through the ed spec process, Bellingham Public Schools has developed district standards. The committee saw these standards in our recent rebuilt schools, and how they are consistent yet can look different depending on site constraints.

Dykeman architect Zach Ham reviewed the site charrette exercise from the previous meeting, then shared the proposed site plan. The plan shows a clear separation of public and private areas of the school and playfields with connection to nature. There is inclusiveness and equity at the front of the building, with an open, welcoming covered area and opportunities for outdoor learning.

The committee was divided into four groups with the proposed site plan, design goals and keys to design. After each group reviewed and discussed the plan, each shared their thoughts and provided comments, which Dykeman may integrate as part of the schematic design.

Curtis explained that Jeff and Micah Smith, Alderwood principal, will provide the educational specifications and site plan in a recommendation to Superintendent Dr. Greg Baker, which then goes to the school board for approval. Dr. Baker could approve the recommendation, or he may have questions or comments requiring the committee to come back together.

Curtis shared the district is seeking approval from the state to proceed with a project delivery method of general contractor/construction manager (GC/CM). In this process, contractors are



interviewed, and one is selected based on interviews, qualifications and experience. Sehome High School and Sunnyland Elementary are the two schools that used GC/CM method. Once approval from the state is received, we will move forward with hiring a general contractor, with the hope of having a contractor on board when we have our next community meeting.

Dykeman will continue to work on the schematic design and anticipate bringing the committee together to review an updated plan before the end of this school year. Zach concluded the meeting, thanking the committee for their time and input with the project.

Meeting adjourned at 4:35