

District of Columbia Public Schools  
Washington, DC

Re: **River Terrace Elementary School Addition and Renovation**  
District of Columbia Public Schools  
Washington, DC  
Project No. 213093.00

**SIT Meeting**  
September 25, 2013

Meeting convened at Phelps ACE HS

Remarks:

1. The program was opened with welcoming and opening remarks by Dr. Pressley.
2. Eupert Braithwaite spoke as the Program Manager for DGS and talked about the process and progress to this point and what the expectations might be for the next few months.
3. Ed Schmidt presented the building for the Architectural team. He laid out some of the challenges for inserting this special program into an existing building with the spaces/rooms that were planned and designed for a school some 60 years. He explained how the interior existing walls can be demolished, and the corridor re-located to one side of the wing which would allow new classrooms to be re-configured and enlarged. You would have classrooms on one side of the corridor and then have glass and windows with views to the courtyard on the other side. He further explained that the existing building is not large enough to hold the entire program and that a new addition would be necessary. He then gave a rationale how the new spaces would be grouped and organized. He explained site circulation and parking. He explained where the buses would enter the site and therefore where the entrance and administration would be located, and the importance of iconic architecture. The main school entrance will be on the west side facing Anacostia and a secondary entrance will be provided at the existing entrance on 34<sup>th</sup> Street. He talked about the use of colors and textures on the walls and ceilings that would be stimulating to the students, the use of the courtyard, outdoor musical instruments, and other stimulating devices, etc. This presentation was facilitated with the use of a Powerpoint visual presentation.
4. The floor was then opened for questions – responses were given by Mr. Braithwaite and by Mr. Schmidt depending upon the subject of the question:
  - a. A person from the community asked if a helipad might be included in the project. The response was that there is not room for a helipad on the site because of all the new construction and amenities that will be provided for the students. Additionally, a helipad was not included in the program provided by DGS for this project.

- b. It was noted by several folks in the audience that the pool shown on the plan might be able to serve the community and that there was a number of senior folks who could benefit and who might enjoy the ability to use the pool in the evenings or weekends. It was explained that the pool required in the program was not a swimming pool, but a therapy pool, too small for swimming laps or general swimming. It will be designed particularly for the use of the medically fragile. The pool will be outfitted with special hoists, and other methods for moving the students into the water. It will be quite small, probably around 20' x 30'.
- c. There was definite interest within the audience for the safety of the students, especially during emergency and drill evacuations. The response provided was that a complete safety analysis will be made as part of the process and recommendations will be followed. As the design is still being developed, and a complete safety/emergency plan will be conducted at the appropriate time. The questioners wanted to know where the students will go in an emergency. How will they get there? Where would the 'off- site' refuge area be?
- d. Several questions centered on the impact that additional traffic might have on the streets of the River Terrace community when the school is in operation. What specific streets would the buses use to reach the school? Where would they queue up to load children at dismissal time? Would they be lined up on Dix or 34th Street? The response was that it was anticipated that bus traffic will come from Benning/Anacostia Avenue, but there will be a transportation analysis conducted by a Transportation Consultant. This has not yet been completed but should help answer those questions and help the design team best address potential issues.
- e. One questioner was interested in the football field; if the existing football field will be removed to make room for the new addition, will a new football field be provided at a different location on the site? The response provided was that the project program did not include a new foot ball field.

The meeting was adjourned around 7:30pm.