

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
October 23, 2013

Meeting convened at Phelps ACE HS

Remarks:

1. Welcome and opening remarks by Dr. Pressley.
2. Eupert Braithwaite reported on the status of the project relative to the schedule and some of the activities, and aspects of the process that have been and are on-going. A lot of refinement and development has occurred since the last SIT Meeting.
3. Mel Mitchell introduced the Architectural team present and gave overview of progress and activities of the team.
4. Ed Schmidt presented the building for the Architectural team, highlighting the advancement and refinements and how we had responded to questions raised at the last SIT Meeting.
5. Then the attendees were broken into two breakout groups. Each of the groups was led by members of the Architectural team who answered questions and encouraged suggestions and ideas. These were noted on the drawing and will be responded to at the next SIT meeting.
6. At the break-out group led by Wendell Adams and Vicente Caballero, the following issues were discussed:
 - a. There may be an opportunity to provide stimulation strategies in the wide area of the corridor in the elementary age classroom wing.
 - b. Can there be a way to park wheel chairs when students are out of chair doing activities, particularly in the elementary age classroom wing
 - c. Questions were asked about how the HVAC system be provided in the school.
 - d. There was discussion and interest in how students would be protected outside the school during drills and emergencies.
 - e. A question was asked about the older students outside play area and suggestions that additional activities might be investigated.
 - f. Where is the a custodial office located?
 - g. Is there a more open entrance to some of the Resource classrooms?
 - h. The entrance to the Music Room seems slighted in comparison to the Art Room.

- i. There was concern that enough emergency exits from the school are provided. Once the doors were all identified by Mr. Adams, and assured that the Safety Codes for exiting will be met the questioner was comfortable with that issue.

7. At the break-out group led by Robin O'Hara and Veronica Mazo, the following issues were discussed:
 - a. Concern with pool location being too public. Consider frosted glass options for more privacy.
 - b. Prefer OT/PT offices to be located within the OT/PT room instead of in the Health suite.
 - c. Sensory room –needs to have access from corridor since it is used by teachers most of the time as well as access within the OT/PT room.
 - d. Concern that covered areas for shelter are too close to the building. (Safety office will direct any questions regarding this concern)
 - e. Auditorium – design needs to be further developed. Will look into ramp/lift options for stage access.
 - f. Need an office with sink for afterschool activities. Location to be determined.
 - g. Office location needed for PE teacher. Prefer not taking square footage out of gym since it will be used for voting and other community activities after hours. Perhaps decentralized admin near gym could be a shared office between PE teacher and other staff.
 - h. Toilets in Classrooms – further study needs to be done. Teachers would prefer 2 toilets in classrooms and one room designated for student changing. (Changing happens at scheduled times throughout the day. 9-930am/12pm/2-3pm).
 - i. It was confirmed that there will be one aid per classroom.
 - j. Location needed for custodian office and storage room.
 - k. Would like a fish tank. Main lobby could be a possible location for tank.

8. The full group then re-convened and each team reported on their respective discussions with a summary of the issues raised. Mr. Schmidt thanked the group for their input and emphasized how helpful it was towards enriching the design and making it their own.

9. Mr. Braithwaite then summed up the evening, he entertained some additional questions:
 - a. A group from the community asked if the project includes a helipad. They stressed that a helipad is a very important component of the community's long range plans. Mr. Braithwaite responded that the site, with all the program requirements placed on it, does not lend itself to also accommodate a helipad and was not a part of the project. (The site is not physically large enough to contain both this school project and a helipad). Mr. Braithwaite mentioned that there was enough open space across Anacostia Ave for a helicopter to land. The community representatives did not feel that this was viable as the land is owned by the Department of the Interior and emphasized the importance of this and requested that DGS provide assistance in creating a pathway to achieving a helipad for the community.

It was not clear if it was the intent for the helipad to serve school or to serve the River Terrace community.

- b. There was a question asking for clarification to the project schedule. Mr. Braithwaite indicated the construction activity was expected to begin not long after the beginning of the New Year. However, there may be some limited soil testing and inspection activities occurring on the site in the next few weeks; that work is necessary to gather information about the site.
10. The meeting ended at about 8:15pm.