

WRE Project Programming Committee

Meeting Three – March 21, 2017

Summary

Committee Overview

The purpose of the WRE Project Programming Committee is to work with project architects from Perkins + Will to provide information and direction regarding design elements for WRE's expansion project.

The expansion project will potentially include 12 additional classrooms, and more space for core/central functions, such as the gymnasium, cafeteria, library, kitchen and administrative/front office. Final elements will be determined through the committee's process.

Committee members include WRE teachers, current/future parents, members of the Perkins + Will design team and RISD operations/facilities staff. The committee is expected to meet five times over the next two months, in addition to two meetings to share the committee's work with the broader WRE community.

Committee members include:

- Lee Walker – Design Committee Lead
- Jen Walker – Support Staff
- Denise Newman – Support Staff
- Joni Owen – Kinder-1st Grade
- Gretchen Stewart – 2nd-3rd Grade
- Miriam Osborne – 4th Grade
- Amy Burger – 5th-6th Grade
- Ron Crawford – Specials
- Brittany Code – 504, Sped, ELL & Dyslexia
- Susan McGinnis – Library & Computer Lab
- Angela McClure – RISD Exec. Director
- Michael Longanecker – RISD Facilities
- Sandra Hayes – RISD Asst. Supt.
- Perkins + Will Representatives - Architects
- Keely Smith – PTA President
- Stephani Walne – LHECPTA
- Robert Walne – HOA, parent
- Josh Northam – HOA, parent
- Mark Gray – Dads Club
- Scott Woodard – Dads Club
- Jason Metcalf – HOA, parent
- Richard Duge – WRVNA, future parent

The committee's work to provide programming information is the first step of a process that will also include preparation of the formal architectural plans by Perkins + Will, amending the planned development for the WRE site through the City of Dallas, followed by construction. The overall goal is for the project to be completed by August of 2018, in advance of the 2018-2019 school year.

P+W team members on the WRE expansion project include:

Patrick Glenn, K12 Practice Leader

Daniel Day, Project Manager

David McMillin, Project Architect

Nick Nepveux, Project Designer

Meeting Three

The committee met for approximately 3.5 hours on March 21. Ms. Walker opened the meeting and turned it over to staff from Perkins + Will (P+W), who led the meeting, utilizing a presentation (available on the WRE website).

P+W began with a reminder of the overall master plan process & timeline for the committee's work, as follows:

Meeting One: Listen. Focus on campus exterior, uses & elements.

Meeting Two: Listen. Focus on school interior, features, uses & elements.

Meeting Three: Engage & Create. Possible design options and possibilities.

Meeting Four: Develop. Develop and refine master plan and programming ideas.

Meeting Five: Finalize. Finalize master plan that will guide specific architectural plans.

P+W followed with a recap of meeting 2 (summary of meeting 2 available on RE website).

Ms. Walker & P+W reinforced the guiding principles of the process:

1. Implement solutions that allow faculty and staff the freedom and flexibility to plan and develop creative instruction and events and not be hindered by constraints of the building or site.
2. Maintain a small school atmosphere while enhancing the operations of a large school.
3. Enhance school culture, traditions and values by providing meaningful and purposeful spaces for daily learning and collective engagement.

P+W then moved into the goal of meeting three – Engage & Create. The list of requested program elements, both inside the school and outside on the site, was presented. The requested program elements were prepared from the guiding question and feedback processes in meetings one and two.

P+W then reminded the committee of the constraints related to the site, including zones available for new construction, easements for drainage and easements for floodway. Another factor to consider is the RISD district standard for building elements, including equity with other district elementary schools as it relates to features.

The committee then broke into three groups: Defined Academic & Shared Spaces; Special Programs; and Central Administration. Each group was asked to review the existing and requested program elements in each area and prioritize them. Prioritization is necessary due to the constraints related to the site.

Groups were asked to prioritize the requested program elements in their area by assigning a number to each element using the following scale:

1. Must have – educationally necessary, primary
2. Important to have educationally, secondary
3. Nice to have educationally, convenient

4. Nice to have, but not a necessity

The groups came back together at the conclusion of the breakout activities and shared their ratings and rationale with the larger group, which facilitated further input from the committee as a whole.

P+W then led a building planning session, taking the three groups through a site building/diagramming activity. Each group was provided a large diagram of the existing site, along with a diagram of to-scale major program elements (such as large and smaller gymnasiums, expanded library, expanded cafeteria, new classroom blocks, etc.).

The diagram (see presentation) was covered with Plexiglas and each committee was asked to brainstorm different design options for the expansion, placing different elements in available zones, or moving elements entirely from existing locations to new locations, thereby freeing up space for other elements.

Committee members were mindful of site constraints and the flow and schedule of students throughout the building. Through this process, each group, facilitated by a P+W team member, worked together to create at least two general options for the placement (or movement) of major program elements to be part of the expansion.

P+W captured each group's work and ideas and will use them, along with the results of the program element prioritization exercise, as a basis to prepare initial design possibilities for the expansion work as a starting point for Meeting Four.

Ms. Walker thanked committee members for attending and the meeting concluded.

(Please see the P+W presentation for Meeting Three on the WRE website for the listing of requested and existing program elements and examples of the site building design activity.)

Para asistencia en español, favor de llamar al: 469-593-0303