

WRE Project Programming Committee

Meeting Four – April 11, 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 up to 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 – 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, Special Ed, ELL & Dyslexia
- Susan McGinnis – Library & Computer Lab
- Angela McClure – RISD Exec. Director over WRE cluster
- Michael Longanecker – RISD Facilities
- Sandra Hayes – RISD Asst. Superintendent of Operations
- Perkins + Will Team – Architects
- Keely Smith – PTA President
- Stephani Walne – LH Early Childhood PTA
- Robert Walne – HOA, parent
- Josh Northam – HOA, parent
- Mark Gray – Dad's Club
- Scott Woodard – Dad's Club
- 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 Four

The committee met for approximately 3 hours on April 11. 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 brief recap of the first three meetings (summaries available on the WRE 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 staff asked for reflections from committee members on the process thus far. Comments were positive and supportive of the process to this point, with the exception of concerns expressed by some committee members based on the meeting 3 activity.

During meeting 3, committee members in smaller groups were asked to create ideas for the placement of different broad programming elements (location of library, gym, new classrooms, etc.), and the concerns expressed involved instances where members of the architectural team participated in the activities in a consistent way that led some committee members to wonder if architects already had

final plans prepared or cemented ideas about the placement of final elements before the committee's work had concluded.

The P+W team leader directly addressed this concern by stating definitively that nothing has been decided or prepared that hasn't been shared with the committee, and that the P+W team has worked to be intentional about approaching the project and work of the committee with an open mind. He expressed confidence that this would become evident as the committee continued its work through meetings four and five as design schemes coalesce around ideas and feedback from the committee.

P+W then moved into the goal of meeting four – Develop. The list of requested program elements, both inside the school and outside on the site, was again presented as a reminder, along with the prioritization assignments the committee prepared for elements in meeting 3.

The committee was also reminded about the constraints related to the site, including zones available for new construction, easements for drainage, easements for floodway and fire code requirements.

P+W staff then presented the six separate brainstormed planning ideas created from the group activities in meeting 3 as actual planning schemes, along with the strengths and weaknesses of each, which led to further committee discussion about the pros and cons of placing different elements in different areas, factoring in issues such as safety, instruction, congestion and zoning requirements/limitations.

The architects then presented two more detailed planning schemes for the committee's consideration and discussion; each prepared using different elements of the six initial committee planning ideas. The final design ultimately selected should have at least 48 core classrooms to be able to accommodate the desired maximum capacity of 1150, with additional classrooms and areas available for special programming (such as dyslexia, REACH and special education).

After a break, the committee engaged in a comprehensive discussion about the two planning schemes. Major points of discussion surrounded:

- While both initial planning options included two gymnasiums, one scheme has two new gyms side by side and the other scheme includes one new gym separated from the existing gym. Issues related to shared equipment and storage were discussed, along with impacts on building flow, safety, congestion and access to fields.
- Both initial options included the cafeteria in new locations. Safety, congestion, and ease of access for parents were topics discussed.
- Building flow and hallway traffic/congestion were consistent themes discussed as ideas were offered related to placement of different elements.
- The location of the library was moved in both options.
- Some discussion surrounded the possibility of a two story classroom addition that would provide the additional classrooms needed while freeing up space for other elements. This option would require a change in Planned Development zoning be approved by the City of Dallas and City Council.

- Windows/outside light in classrooms continued to be prioritized among different ideas and element placement options.
- Some discussion surrounded the concept of not locating too many classrooms adjacent to the athletic fields/playground areas, to minimize distractions to instruction and also to eliminate the impact that testing days have on students who are not testing.

As discussions continued, committee members suggested alternate placement of some elements in each design scheme. While there was agreement on some specific elements, there was not yet consensus among the committee in support of one design scheme.

P+W staff will now redesign & revise options based on committee discussion and feedback. The overall goal of the program planning committee process is to arrive at consensus surrounding one design scheme by the conclusion of the fifth meeting.

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

(Please see the P+W presentation for Meeting Four on the WRE website that contains initial scheme options.)

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