

WRE Project Programming Committee

Meeting Five – April 25, 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 Five

The committee met for approximately 3 hours on April 25. Ms. Walker opened the meeting by thanking members for their work and efforts over the previous six weeks, and reiterated the goal of meeting five was to reach consensus as a committee for a scheme recommendation to the RISD Board of Trustees. Ms. Walker turned the meeting 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 the fourth meeting, which began with a review of the six committee-generated scheme concepts that were narrowed down to two primary scheme options and a discussion of advantages and disadvantages of each. P+W reiterated that the primary goal of any scheme from a classroom standpoint was to provide 52 total classrooms for core instruction across the seven grade levels (K-6), not counting additional classrooms needed for specific programs such as REACH, PPCD, etc.

P+W then moved into the goal of meeting five – Finalize.

The feedback and discussion from meeting four was considered and utilized by P+W to incorporate into the two revised scheme options (Scheme 1 and Scheme 2 – available for viewing on the WRE website).

P+W then presented both schemes to the committee for feedback and discussion. P+W shared the list of requested program elements generated from the first three meetings to demonstrate that almost all requested elements were able to be included in the schemes under consideration.

In response to a question, RISD staff indicated that the projected cost of both schemes is similar and architects indicated that the construction timeline and impact to the school would be similar under both schemes.

Ms. Walker shared that the WRE staff members on the committee reviewed the two schemes in advance of meeting five so final feedback could be obtained from the remainder of teachers and staff to best inform a committee recommendation.

Committee members separated into two groups, each tasked with evaluating both scheme options and generating relative advantages of each.

Both groups then presented their findings to the entire committee, expressing a clear preference for Scheme 1. Reasons cited for support of Scheme 1 included:

- Preferred placement of cafeteria & adjacent outdoor covered area
- Cafeteria location more suitable for visitors and more conducive for check in & safety
- Preferred placement of library, with capability for separate access for community and voters as needed while securing remainder of school and grounds
- Location of second gymnasium adjacent to fields & green space
- Preservation of existing gym (newly renovated in 2014) and all existing new classrooms from 2014 renovation
- Offers more classrooms together, allowing for greater chance that grade levels can remain together in same area of campus
- Rear pickup & drop off location
- Flexibility with scheduling due to most major program elements being dispersed in different areas of the campus
- Aesthetics of exterior design maintains a smaller school feel (specifically, concerns expressed about the size and “high school look” of two new gyms located side by side in Scheme 2)

Both groups brought up the possibility that the proximity of the cafeteria and new gym in Scheme 1 could contribute to potential congestion. The architects expressed confidence that potential issue can be addressed as they design the actual plans based on Scheme 1. Ms. Walker also indicated that scheduling plays a major role in potential congestion in any area of the school, and could easily be addressed through administrative planning since both gyms would not be in the same area.

Based on the consensus of support and preference among committee members for Scheme 1, Ms. Walker indicated that Scheme 1 will be formally recommended on behalf the committee at the May 1 RISD Board of Trustees meeting.

P+W then reviewed the site plan associated with Scheme 1, focusing specific attention on the organization of the playgrounds and play fields. P+W indicated that the west half of the site will be heavily impacted by flood plain remediation.

Architects and RISD staff then talked about the planning and construction process from this point. An accelerated timeline is anticipated, which will require approval from the City of Dallas to amend WRE's Planned Development (PD), in order for construction to begin by October 2017 to allow for project completion by August 2018 in time of the 2018-19 school year.

After the May 1 RISD Board meeting, the committee and architects will hold a second community meeting on May 2 for WRE parents and residents to see the final scheme and ask questions.

Ms. Walker again thanked committee members for their efforts and commitment to the process, and the meeting concluded.

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