

Schematic Design Meeting 3

K-8 Design Committee

Mendocino Unified School District

9 August 2005
QKA Project #686.04

Committee Business

QKA noted that the review of the Draft Schematic Design Project Narrative will be postponed in order to allow Jane Marx of Quadriga Landscape Architecture and Planning to meet with the Committee. QKA did pass out a brief summary of elements that can help define a high-performance school.

Building Programming

A review of the plans noted those items changed as a result of the July 20th meeting. Comments made on today were few. QKA noted that work at the Middle School was a little more constrained than that at the Grammar School because there are limitations as to how much change is allowed by the Department of the State Architect before improvement to current code is allowed. It was also noted that improvements at the Middle School are aimed at creating a very short term, ideally a summer construction period, minimizing the need for temporary housing of students during the school year.

Dissatisfaction with the sight lines from the new bleachers in the gymnasium was resolved by creating a larger opening leaving the existing columns in place, and allowing a more diagonal view line. QKA will ask the Cost Estimator to break this out separately.

The Computer Lab should show the sliding glass partition as requested so that it can be divided into two areas for instruction.

Site Design

Jane Marx and the Committee had a very open discussion / brainstorming session to determine how the new campus can best meet the needs of the students, staff, parents and community.

Play and social areas were designated for three age groups, K-3, 4-6, and 7-8.

Both paved and grass areas should be provided. There is a little bit of cross-age play on the play structures, so they could be adjacent to each other. There should be an undesignated grassy open area for imaginary play and chase games. Paved areas should have game markings and tetherball courts.

Provide basketball for upper and lower age groups, separated and with differing rim heights.

The community garden area should have the existing shed located in or near it.

Green houses can go at the south end of the site.

The central court would be used for meetings, performances, and ceremonies and so should keep a sizeable area open.

A defined outdoor eating area adjacent to the Multi-Use is desired.

Drainage is an issue. Make sure the new work drains properly. Jane and QKA both noted that the current methodologies of dealing with water flow aims to intercept, redirect or slow down water in more natural ways than the old concrete ditch approach that frequently created secondary problems with water force.

The site should be safely lit at night without creating glare.

It was noted that the dispersed parking areas and paving layouts will allow many teachers direct access for unloading supplies.

Barbara would like to make sure that all the areas that maintenance personnel need for large deliveries are easily accessible. QKA will confirm this in a separate meeting.

A well designed play field could benefit the community as well as the school. A track, or running loop, was added to the wish list.

As has been noted before, the existing amphitheater pit will be filled in for safety and ADA accessibility reasons, but the performance and gathering plaza will be maintained.

Plant selection will be deer resistant and appropriate to the coastal climate. Irrigation will be provided.

It was felt that a decorative fence that defines the property edge at the street frontage is desired, to aid in defining school boundaries for both the public and students, but it should be open, low, and not the least bit institutional.

Meeting Schedules

Mark Quattrocchi will present the current campus design at a Board meeting on August 25th and to staff on August 26th.

Next Design Committee meeting September 27th at 3:45 p.m.