

**WEST JEFFERSON HILLS SCHOOL DISTRICT
CONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE MEETING
6-19-14**

Present:

Dr. Michael Panza, Superintendent	Alan Caponi, Board Member Representative
Debbie Pozycki, Chairperson	Thomas Risley, Jefferson Hills
Betsy Kane, Turner Construction	Larry Payne, WTW Architects
Ira Weiss, Solicitor	Doug Shuck, WTW Architects
John Hosmer, Board Member Rep.	Kieran Wilmes, Grimm & Parker Architects (G+P)
Kelly Magill, West Elizabeth	Anthony Lucarelli, Grimm & Parker Architects (G+P)
Ryan Snodgrass, Director of Facilities	
Keith Pancoast, Pleasant Hills	

1. **Welcome and Introduction:** Dr. Panza welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked all to introduce themselves.
2. **Review of the Open House in May:** Dr. Panza talked about the Open House held at TJ in May. Approximately 200 people showed up throughout the day; 10 tours were given to residents. Reps from Turner Construction and Larry Payne from WTW were in attendance. Concerns of the residents: do the building right the first time, add air conditioning and a pool. Approximately 60 children were in attendance for the movie, and the local Cub Scouts held a spaghetti dinner fundraiser.
3. **Review of timeline to hire the Architect:** WTW/Grimm+Parker Architects hired on May 1, 2014.
4. **Work of the Architect to date:** Larry Payne from WTW reviewed the project schedule with the committee. A PowerPoint presentation was shown as well.
 - Discussed trends
 - Currently in Program Validation Stage through August 2014
 - Schemes will be ready by October 2014
 - Use of the Facilities Master Plan Study data was deciding factor in building a new high school. Need to keep the community/residents informed and involved and made aware that their input into the FMP was very important in coming to this decision.
5. **Architect Contract finalized:** The Architect contract has been discussed and reviewed by Betsy Kane of Turner Construction and Ira Weiss, Solicitor, and will be approved at the Board Meeting on June 26, 2014.
6. **Review of the Meetings with Teachers:** On May 29th and June 4th, representatives from WTW/G+P, along with Dr. Panza, conducted interviews with the high school teachers to discuss their wants/needs in the new high school. The teachers were impressed that they were part of this process and that their input will be considered. The Department Heads will be invited back for further discussion/input in July.

While the teacher interviews were taking place, some of the architects went to talk to students in the cafeteria or study halls while the others remained with the teachers. The students were very intrigued, excited and happy that they were asked for their opinions.

The Architects then briefly discussed their visits to Bethel Park, South Fayette, Baldwin-Whitehall and South Park High Schools.

7. **Upcoming meetings:** The next meeting will be held on Thursday, August 21, 2014, at 5:30 PM in the Jefferson Room of Thomas Jefferson High School.
8. **Possible visits:** The Architects plan to meet with Department Heads again, as well as Administrators, staff, etc., for more input.
9. **Plans for the next 60 days:** Continue gathering information as part of the Program Validation State.
10. **Plans for the next 24 months:**
 - Program Verification (15 weeks) – should be completed by August 2014
 - Schematic Design (14 weeks)
 - Design Development (14 weeks)
 - Construction Documents (22 weeks)
 - Bidding & Negotiation (4 weeks)
 - Early Site Prep – Feb 1 – March 31 (8 weeks)
 - Construction Administration (117 weeks)
 - Post Construction
11. **Other items discussed:**
 - Use technology for communicating with the community – e-mail one place, etc.?
 - Betsy Turner to conduct a Traffic Study
 - Doug Shuck to conduct an Environment Study and Geotechnical Study
 - We should hold a community meeting in September
 - Share teacher ideas with the community – Mr. Snodgrass will send out minutes and questions from the teachers/students meetings
 - Separation of vehicular/pedestrian traffic on site
 - Bring some legacy items from old school to new school
 - Outdoor spaces for dining, instruction, etc.
 - “Collaboration” and “project-based learning”
 - Need to have a “Sustainable design”
 - Will be a LEED building but not necessary to apply for actual LEED certification

Question from the Architects to the community: "Nothing is built yet. We have a clean slate. What do you think will make this school building a success?"

- ✓ Make the building easier to use for the public.
- ✓ Focus on academics, keep kids happy and want to go – atmosphere
- ✓ Open space next to Guidance Office that has lots of course and college information/posters, military information for students to review
- ✓ Friendly entrance (no tunnel, for example)
- ✓ Make it a minimum 50-year building
- ✓ Accessibility to building – kids vs. buses vs. cars, etc. – flow of people
- ✓ Adaptive technology
- ✓ Balance between sports/academics/arts
- ✓ Bright, welcoming, open spaces
- ✓ Clear understanding – preventive maintenance plans from the get-go
- ✓ Better collaboration amongst teachers, custodians, etc., at Middle School than TJ right now. Collaboration needs to begin soon at TJ.
- ✓ Keep all stakeholders involved – community website?
- ✓ Giant outdoor space—utilize it well!
- ✓ Memorial at TJ now. What's going to happen to it? Must go to new school.
- ✓ Make the new high school part of the West Jefferson Hills School District, not the Thomas Jefferson School District.
- ✓ Change orders to a minimum.
- ✓ Approach, Arrive, Park, Enter

How to bring the three communities of the West Jefferson Hills School District together:

- Community website (WTW/G+P will host the site)
- Mail the best way to communicate to residents of West Elizabeth
- Open high school fitness center to public
- Rent out LGI for corps, etc.
- Concern: Who would monitor the fitness room?
 - High cost of allowing public to use facilities
 - Need policies/fee charts
 - Security of buildings – subtle but high level
- Have one archival room for all three boros – historical data
- Keep all boro councils involved
- Sports help to bring communities together
- Signs indicating the three communities that make up the high school