

Mountview School Building Project
OPM Meeting Minutes
June 5, 2012

3PM

Mountview School

Present: Gary Kaczmarek, OPM, Eric Githmark, Principal, Brian McCarthy, Assistant Principal, Elizabeth Hughes, David Fredette, Kelly Nosel, Peggy Carlson, Allison Aliskevich, Angela Drosidis, Charlotte Cote, Brendan Ferrari, Robert Champlin, Bill Turgeon, Lorraine Neilan, Mike Pagano, LPA, Bill Senecal, LPA, Mary Bulso, LPA, Elizabeth Helder, Recording Secretary

1. Educational Input Discussion

Mike Pagano with LPA informed staff in attendance of progress updates to the project. Boring testing on site indicates that the site has been filled with rock blast from the I-190 construction project and will be stable to support a new school. He also said that a portion of the property has been determined to be zoned as prime agricultural land. He said that LPA is working with the Massachusetts Department of Agriculture for mitigation of the land.

Mr. Pagano explained to the teachers about the MSBA and the requirements of the MSBA. Input for instruction space comes from the teachers. He expressed that LPA is very open to teacher input.

Mr. Senecal said that the MSBA formula is approximately 850 sq. ft./classroom. There is will be 29 classrooms for 800 students plus 6 SPED rooms, 6 resources and reading rooms and 7 science laboratories. Several science teachers in attendance said that there was only a need for 6 science labs. Mr. Senecal said that the space for the 7th lab could be incorporated into another part of the school square footage as long as the MSBA understands why. Science teacher Lorraine Neilan said she would like the science tables to be round and not square. She said that the tables should be made out of a durable material that the kids cannot disfigure. She said that storage space for books built into the tables would be helpful in order to provide a clear workspace for projects. She asked that all the tables have electrical receptacles built in to the sides of the tables or on the floor next to the tables. Middle school science does not require gas at the tables. She requested that the science teachers have a desk separate from their teaching/demonstration work table. Classrooms should come equipped with large sinks and windows that open out and not in.

100% of all students participate in the music program. All staff in attendance agreed that the music rooms should be well soundproofed and kept separate from other classroom spaces for noise reduction. Principal Erik Githmark said he would like to see three separate spaces for music: one for band, one for chorus, and one for strings. The group discussed the possibility of designing for an auditorium. Mr. Pagano said that LPA designs "gym-a-toriums" and not "caf-a-toriums." Risers in the gymatorium will be difficult due to handicap accessibility issues.

Mr. Pagano asked how LPA could design the building to support teaching "teams." He asked how the teams need to function.

Science teacher Bill Turgeon said staff has never been able to function as a team the way the current building is designed. English teacher Kelly Nosel commented that the school design should bring technology to the kids not the kids to technology. She said she would like to see more open space and wireless labs and a "pod" in the classroom so kids can work in groups but not have to leave the classroom.

English teacher David Fredette said he doesn't use the "shared" space the current building offers (library/computer lab) because he can never "get in" to use it. His kids work in the hallways, which is distracting to other teachers/classes and does not allow the teacher to properly supervise students.

The school will be a wireless school and any computer lab space will be separate from library space. Mr. Pagano said that these days, technology is at kids fingertips via laptops, and iphones/itouch products. He said that wireless access is making computer lab space obsolete and technology is outsourcing books. However, that does not mean a library is not an essential teaching tool. The current library at Mountview is 1300 sq. ft. Library space to support 800 students in the new design will be 4,600 sq. ft. He said there will be at least 39 new teaching centers in the new design. It is also possible to trade off media center design space and add additional square footage in the classrooms.

Teacher Charlotte Cote spoke positively to "pod" space for overflow work, projects, and plays. She said that curriculum based space is not necessarily for classroom teaching. Pod space in a community can include a smart board, printers, computers, tables and chairs and can be used for presentations and are open and flexible space. However, acoustics need to be contained through carpeting and partitions.

School Psychologist Peggy Carlson said that she would like to have her office space near the administration area.

Other staff requests include:

- bathroom facilities and access for teachers within their teaching area is a must have
- ample bathroom space for students is also a must
- student bathrooms should be inside the cafeteria
- bigger locker space for students
- placement of lockers should be considered to improve the flow of traffic
- teachers would like out of classroom central storage space for props, and special projects that happen every year
- all classrooms should have a large sink
- each teacher should have a way to display student work – display cases in hallways
- every wall in every classroom should have electrical outlets
- stairways should be designed with no blindspots. Kids out of sight = trouble
- stairways should be wider
- conference rooms to hold parent meetings
- better security to building
- access building on weekends/after school hours
- a nice welcome entrance with a central office area
- bigger display cases in lobby
- better parking/entrance/exit onto Shrewsbury Street
- a regulation basketball court and two gyms
- a shower area for staff

Mr. Githmark added that he would prefer two gyms. There are two gym teachers teaching two different grades at the same time and only having one gym would be tight. Changing rooms and locker rooms are necessary, but not showers for students.

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Educational Input Discussion cont.**

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Mr. Pagano said that if the school were renovated or built new at its current site that it was unlikely the building would be one story.

The meeting ended at 4:15PM