



MEMORANDUM

Date: August 15, 2006
To: File
From: WMCRP, Inc.
File: Bells Mill Elementary School Replacement (0609)
Re: Facilities Advisory Committee Meeting #2

Attending:

James Song – MCPS DOC- Director	240-314-1000	james_song@mcpsmd.org
Jim Tokar – MCPS DOC- Proj. Manager	240-314-1008	james_r_tokar@mcpsmd.org
Jean Gries – MCDPWT – Traffic Engineer	240-777-2183	jean.gries@montgomerycountymd.gov
Michael Poness – WMCRP, Inc.	301-459-9500	mponess@wmcraparchitects.com
Kevin McPartland – WMCRP, Inc.	301-459-9500	kmcpartland@wmcraparchitects.com
Jerri Oglesby – Principal- BMES	301-469-1046	jerri_l_oglesby@mcpsmd.org
Merry Eisner - PTA	301-983-5225	merry@theeisners.net
Sandra Max - Parent	301-299-7277	sandramax@msn.com
Mary Vause - Potomac Almanac	240-477-2622	mvause@connectionnewspapers.com
Alexis Bakos – Parent	301-299-1973	bakosa@mail.nih.gov
Rachel Ginsburg - Teacher	301-515-8599	rachel_l_ginsburg@mcps.org
Sophia Wang - Teacher	301-469-1046	sophia_c_wang@mcps.org
Duncan MacKeever - Neighbor	301-299-6414	CrystalPools@crystalpools.com
Patricia Beder - Staff/ Neighborhood	301-299-5882	patricia_beder@mcpsmd.org
Carolyn Yunker - Staff	301-770-6111	carolyn_a_yunker@mcpsmd.org
Julie Karner - PTA	301-983-2727	julie.karner@comcast.net
Cindy Gibson - Parent	301-299-8516	cpgibson@comcast.net
Hideko Takahashi - Neighborhood	301-299-4421	deko7@netzero.com
Kathleen Rumfola - Potomac Elem PTA	301-469-8556	krumfola@comcast.net

1. Jim Tokar (MCPS Project Manager) called the meeting to order, and had everyone attending introduce themselves. Kevin McPartland (WMCRP Architects) then began his presentation on the changes to the floor plans and site plan.

Floor Plans

2. The changes from the plans for the Kendale site to Bells Mill Elementary School, as presented at the last meeting, were reviewed. This includes changes due to reducing the core capacity from 740 to 640 (smaller Multipurpose Room and Media Center, deleted Dual Purpose Room) and the addition of four classrooms and a Pre-kindergarten room.

3. Last meeting, it was discussed if the two classrooms shown as future expansion should be built with the initial construction. MCPS has determined that it is most cost-effective if these two classrooms remain a future expansion.
4. All three of the Special Education classrooms will be used for students with autism. Two of these rooms now have a toilet, but a toilet should to be added to the third classroom, even if the room must be made smaller to accommodate the toilet room. The Special Ed teacher requested the addition of a Time Out Room in each Special Ed room. She also requested an Observation Room; the Time Out Room might be designed to also act as an Observation Room.

Site Plan

5. A general review of the site was presented, as done at the last meeting. Those attending again were very pleased with the expanded parking capacity (currently showing 100 spaces). Mr. Tokar said that this might be reduced after review by other agencies; the standard parking capacity for an elementary school is eighty spaces. This is still nearly double the forty-something spaces currently available. There are currently 46 full-time and 19 part-time staff members. Overflow parking for after-school events can be accommodated on the paved play area and in the bus drop-off area (about 60 spaces). The adjacent day-care facility can also be used for overflow parking, with a path provided to facilitate this use.
6. The site plan now shows the existing pathway from Kirkwall Court connecting with the new walkways around the school. It was suggested that a low fence be provided, to help guide students toward the play areas, and away from the service area. Also, a perimeter fence around the property will be provided; it will tie into the existing fences as required.
7. The building has been moved closer to the parent drop-off area, and away from the east property line. It is now well past the required 25' set-back, over 30' from the property line. Although a two-story section of the building (about 30 feet high) is at the east property line, only a corner of the building comes closest to the line. Two triangular buffer spaces will be created, providing a nice view for the classrooms. The existing wooded area will be maintained.
8. A relative comparison between the existing play areas and the proposed play areas was requested. WMCRP will provide this analysis.
9. A sidewalk will be provided along Bells Mill Road. It may be asphalt instead of concrete, to keep in character with the neighborhood. However, we cannot provide streetlights (their locations are determined by another agency).
10. Michael Poness (WMCRP) presented a review of the Add Alternates proposed for the school, including a high-efficiency geothermal mechanical system, special landscaping, courtyard improvements, and other minor options. These will be included or not, depending on the bids received by the contractors.

Design Presentation

11. Michael Poness (WMCRP) provided a power-point presentation on the use of color in the proposed school design.
12. The first slides provided examples of the use of color in various buildings, to differentiate separate elements in buildings. This helps to break down large masses and distinguish specific parts of a building, especially the entrance.
13. The next slides presented some other schools designed by WMCRP, and their use of color and materials.
14. Some typical color selection pallets provided by manufacturers of various exterior finishes were shown. After removing colors that were not appropriate for the Bells Mill community, only a limited number of options remained.
15. Eight color schemes for the Bells Mill design were presented, beginning with the color scheme presented at the last meeting. Some thought this to be the best option, but others thought there were too many colors: those four major colors were too many. Other schemes have three major colors, with a fourth used only at the entry. Several people like the use of red at the entry, to evoke the "little red school house" image. Most agreed that red brick was too "heavy", and not appropriate for the community.
16. It was agreed that the first, third and sixth color schemes would be developed and presented again at the next meeting for discussion at that time.

Please notify this office immediately of any errors or omissions in this memo.

cc:

James Song, Mike Shpur, Adrienne Karamihas, and Jim Tokar – MCPS
Jeri Oglesby – Principal, BMES