



MEETING MINUTES

PROJECT: Mercer Island School District
Long-Range Facility Plan

PROJECT NO: 2019911.00

DATE: 20 January 2020

FILE NAME: Student Outreach Meeting_200115

SUBJECT: Student Outreach Meeting

MEETING DATE: 15 January 2020

TIME: 3:00 - 4:30 pm

LOCATION: Mercer Island High School Library

ATTENDEES:

Students & Staff

Alex Rosenbaum, MIHS Student
Finn Ernsdorff, MIHS Student
Norah Evans, MIHS Student
Meghana Kakubal, MIHS Student
Tristan Moore, MIHS Student
Paul Noone, MIHS Student
Thomas Short, MIHS Student
Miles Silverman, MIHS Student
Alexandra Van Blerkom, MIHS Student
Evan Wallin, MIHS Student
Joyce Zhang, MIHS Student
Winston Zhang, MIHS Student
Vicki Puckett, MIHS Principal
John Stafford, MIHS Teacher
Chantel Torrey, MIHS Teacher

MISD Support Team

Donna Colosky, MISD Superintendent
Ty Bergstrom, MISD Executive Director of Finance
Tony Kuhn, MISD Director of Maintenance & Operations
Brandy Fox, Owner's Representative, CPM

Mahlum Team

LeRoy Landers
Jennifer Lubin
JoAnn Wilcox

The following represents the architect's understanding of discussions held and decisions reached in the meeting. Anyone with amendments to these minutes should notify the author within five (5) days of the minutes date in order to amend as appropriate.



INTRODUCTION

On January 15th, 2020, members of the planning team held a student outreach session to get student input on the long-range planning process, goals, and needs. Separate outreach sessions will garner community and staff input. There will be another set of outreach sessions in the spring that will focus on long-range plan approaches.

The meeting was held after school and was open to all students in the district. (Staff that attended the session did not provide input. A separate outreach session for staff input is scheduled for January 22nd.)

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

LeRoy Landers reviewed the long-range planning process and schedule, as well as the vision and goals developed by the district and Facility Planning Committee (FPC). A copy of the complete presentation and other detailed background information can be found on the district website.

STUDENT INPUT

The following comments were made by students attending the outreach session. These comments have been summarized into a list of goals (attached) that will be presented to the Facility Planning Committee and taken into consideration during the long-range planning process. All comments are regarding Mercer Island High School (MIHS) unless otherwise noted.

Process

- :: If someone has feedback after this, who do they reach out to? Anyone can send an email to Brandy Fox through the district website, and it will be forward to the planning team and included in the planning process. There is also a plan to include a real-time survey at the next set of outreach sessions in the spring. There will be two phases of outreach to gather input: this one (need-focused) and another in the spring (plan approach-focused).
- :: Consider using Google forms or Schoology to get feedback from students who aren't able to attend the outreach meetings. The survey can be divided by class or by the whole student body.
- :: In addition to the survey, students can be a conduit for comments and may even implement the survey. The student representatives on the FPC can also take comments from students.

Educational Program Space

- :: The robotics team and the school as a whole need to have a shop. The current shop space is too small. Programs like robotics are getting bigger. Additional space is needed for safety and for programs to grow. Discussions about "career-building" and "skill building opportunities" are too broad. What is specifically needed is a shop.
- :: Consider integrating hands-on skills programs into the middle school and even into the elementary schools. All students should have the opportunity to create in a physical way.
- :: The radio station program is growing. The radio program classroom is remote from the station, which is not good. It should be located next to the radio station studio. The studio itself is okay.
- :: Program facilities for highly capable students are really important. More resources should be put into expanding what is possible for highly capable students.

- :: There should be better cross-pollination of programs. The special education area feels like it is the corner and remote. It doesn't feel like part of the student body. The arts and music program is also somewhat separate, but it is nice to have a separate space for that program.

Collaborative / Shared Spaces

- :: Provide shared spaces throughout the school to accommodate places for students to collaborate and work together. The new middle school building has shared open spaces that are good places for students to work and collaborate.
- :: The high school does have some collaborative spaces (commons, library, etc.), but these are not well utilized. They are centralized and not near the classrooms, and would be better used if distributed throughout the school.
- :: There should be other spaces for kids to have a more quiet and pleasant experience for socializing and studying. Food is not allowed in the library and the commons is too crazy and loud.
- :: Students sometimes go to teacher offices, or use window seats or ramps to make their own spaces to hang out. Many students eat lunch in the classrooms.
- :: It would be helpful to have more bench seating in the hallways throughout the school. It would be nice to have places to sit.
- :: It is common for students to hang out at the public library after school, and then come back to school for later activities. It would be nice if the school library was open later so students could stay there after school instead of having to leave.
- :: Principal Vicki Puckett noted that students must be supervised at all times (on campus). This limits number of spaces that can be used for gathering. There are also custodial issues; it is consistently difficult for kids to pick up after themselves in shared spaces like the commons. Currently, the school is exploring pulling out some locker bays and putting in seating alcoves in the hallways for students.

Restrooms

- :: More gender-neutral bathrooms should be provided throughout the school. As a queer student, it can take 15+ minutes to find the right bathroom, depending on where you are in the school.
- :: Renovate the 100 and 200 hall bathrooms to be more like the 300 hall bathrooms. It is hard to find a bathroom that is available. If bathrooms are nicer, students will treat them better.
- :: Make the gaps in the stall doors better. They are too big.
- :: The commons bathroom has many stalls, but the hallway bathrooms are too small.

Food Service

- :: There should be a more streamlined system for getting lunch. Currently, there are long lines to get lunch and not enough space to get through.
- :: There are two lines for lunch, which gets confusing. There should be a divider. Students have their backpacks with them in line, which further cramps the space.
- :: There should be more food options on or close to campus. It is too expensive to get a balanced meal in the lunchroom.

Building Environment

- :: There should be more windows and skylights to bring in more natural light. There is very little light in some classrooms. It is much easier to learn in the new classrooms because they have a lot more light.
- :: The auditorium is not conducive for a performance arts experience. As the program grows, it would be nice for kids to be able to experience this to its fullest.
- :: There is a desire to have the acoustic benefits of the middle school band room in the high school music spaces also.
- :: There should be consistent heating across the facility. Right now there are great variations in temperature, including the “furnace” bathrooms. It is hard to know what to wear throughout the day.

Parking

- :: Rethink parking lots and sidewalks to be safer for students.
- :: There should be more parking for students at the high school. Even as a senior, the parking system is still terrible. Many kids have to spend 10-15 minutes walking to school every day.
- :: It can take up to 10 minutes to get out of the parking lot. There is only one entrance and exit; adding another exit would help a lot.
- :: Other students feel that the parking situation is not that bad.
- :: The pavement from Northwood to the high school is dangerous when it snows and should be salted.

Crest Learning Center

- :: There are a lot of students that take online courses. There should be a space for students to work on online classes other than in the commons.
- :: Crest is a great facility but needs renovations. The Crest classrooms are not to the same standard as other classrooms.
- :: Crest currently doesn't have a paved path to the front door now that there is a single entry, which seems weird. It didn't used to be this way. Principal Vicki Puckett noted that since students had a concern about this, a gravel path was added.

Other Facilities

- :: There should be more garden space at the elementary schools.
- :: The reliance on portable classrooms at the elementary school is too heavy. Students feel more a part of the community if they are not in a portable classroom.
- :: The old Islander Middle School buildings are adequate. They have better shared spaces than the high school and have some nooks. The gigantic common area in the 100 building is nice.
- :: The middle school has already had a large expansion recently.
- :: Mary Wayte Pool hasn't received major changes since the cretaceous extinction. It is not a facility that is pleasant to be in. Replacement of this facility should be considered. This building seems to be in the worst condition.

Student Planning Goals

The following goals were developed from MIHS student comments during an outreach session on January 15th, 2020. Goals refer to MIHS unless otherwise noted. The list of goals will continue to be updated as more student input is received.

PROGRAM

- > Provide hands-on shop space at the high school (for robotics and other skill-building programs)
- > Locate the radio program classroom adjacent to the radio station studio
- > Allow for more cross-pollination of programs at the high school (especially special education)
- > Provide dedicated space for the highly capable program
- > Expand hands-on opportunities at the middle school and elementary school levels
- > Provide more spaces for students to work on online classes other than in the Crest commons

COLLABORATIVE / SHARED SPACES

- > Provide shared spaces throughout the school to accommodate student collaboration
- > Provide spaces for socializing and studying
- > Provide bench seating in the hallways throughout the school
- > Extend school library hours to be open after school

BUILDING ENVIRONMENT

- > Provide more windows and skylights to bring in natural light
- > Improve heating system so that it provides consistent heating across the facility
- > Improve acoustics in the band room and the auditorium
- > Renovate the Crest facility (classrooms are not to the same standard as other classrooms)

BUILDING SERVICES

- > Develop a more streamlined system for the lunch line (faster, more space)
- > Provide more food options on or close to campus (not the lunch line)
- > Provide more gender-neutral bathrooms distributed throughout the school
- > Renovate the 100 and 200 hall bathrooms to be more like the 300 hall bathrooms
- > Fix bathroom stall doors to minimize the gaps

PARKING & SITE

- > Rethink parking lots and sidewalks to make them safer for students
- > Provide more parking for students at the high school
- > Improve the configuration of existing student parking lot (add a second exit)
- > Provide a paved walkway to the front door of Crest

OTHER FACILITIES

- > Provide more garden space at the elementary schools
- > Decrease reliance on portable classrooms at the elementary schools
- > Replace Mary Wayte Pool