

Valley High School Program Committee Minutes – November 14, 2003

Present: Whitney Beaver, Fred Bell, Anjana Chandran, Mandy Dorff, Jamie Ehlert, Allison Hansen, Ruth Henderson, Taylor Johnson, Nick Nelsen, Vicky Poole, Rob Schebel, Sherry Snider, Mary Whitaker

Support Members: Brian Abeling, Jeff Blosser (RDG), Dave Blum, Liz Celania-Fagen, Gordon Dahlby, Eliz Erbes (RDG), Phil Hodgkin (RDG), Kim Jordan, Jody Ratigan, Kay Rosene, Phyllis Staplin

Dr. Poole welcomed all to the meeting. She said the puzzle plans developed by the Program Committee have been reviewed by the Valley Site Improvement Team, Valley staff and by students from the principal's advisory group. Dr. Poole reviewed the agenda for the meeting. She noted the final plan from the Program Committee will be reviewed in a joint meeting with the Site Design Team on Tuesday, November 18 at 4 p.m.

Dr. Poole reviewed the charge of the committee. She then summarized the feedback from the various groups that had reviewed the puzzle plans. She asked that table groups examine the feedback information and identify big ideas. Dr. Poole emphasized that all ideas will be considered, but all ideas cannot be adopted. The committee then worked in small groups on the "big ideas."

Hodgkin showed a new design concept based on the committee puzzle plans and feedback from Valley students and staff. He explained the process for development. He reviewed a list of issues not yet completely resolved:

- Locker placement
- Main entrance and student entrance
- City requirements
- What goes in the commons
- Black box theater (budget will probably not support this)
- Greenhouse
- Classroom size vs. team space
- Code issues, mechanical requirements

Blosser reviewed elements of the new design concept. He noted the wrestling room would remain where it is. The "fat C" configuration has been rotated. In the center is space for computer labs, teacher areas and academic commons. The new construction would be placed about 30 feet back from the current southern exterior wall of the fieldhouse, he said. Math classrooms have been re-grouped and an additional bay of rooms retained on the east side of the building. The corridor would be maintained on the north side of the science/math/family and consumer science classrooms. The existing mechanical room could be remodeled as a media center, he said. Blosser noted the following elements currently proposed for the commons: business-education classrooms, student store, administration, visitor entrance to the north, student entrance to the east, guidance. The radio tower would stay in its current location. The forum and debate rooms would be remain near the entrance. In response to a question, Blosser said the current design concept adds 30,000 square feet of space to the existing building.

Erbes explained the space utilization and classroom allocations for each department. Dr. Staplin asked for clarification of placement of the media center. The group talked about where the

broadcast/video center might be located. It was suggested that facility move from the tower. The group concluded that more discussion was needed regarding the multi-media space and usage of the forum. It was noted that technology access is needed for TV, radio, debate and journalism. It was suggested a central studio be created.

Erbes, Hodgkin and Blosser responded to questions on placement of design features and space allocations. It would be beneficial to keep academic commons space flexible in design, the group agreed. Concern was expressed with the proposed location of language arts classrooms on the first and third floors. The group discussed the location of the teacher areas and opportunities for planning interdisciplinary activities. There is a need for a gathering place for all staff.

Possibilities for locker placement were reviewed. In the art room area, it may be beneficial to have space to store projects. Most lockers for books and coats are now proposed in the math/science area. Others would be dispersed throughout the building. The group discussed challenges of smaller square footage in the classrooms. Could the size of the academic commons be reduced and space added to classrooms?

The committee then engaged in small group discussion to compare the new concept to the big ideas from earlier conversations. **The Table Team Big Ideas are as follows:**

- Greenhouse – someplace on east.
- Tech Ed – auto needs 3 bays/Tech Ed needs elec. room.
- Footage needs to be put back into classrooms. Decrease academic common space.
- Multiple use small 10' x 10' area connected to commons.
- FCS (Family/Consumer Science) does not need an academic commons – move FCS up one – make flexible academic commons /conf./teacher area/resource for science/math.
- Math/science is too concentrated w/staff w/not enough actual teacher area compared to the tower.
- Greater percentage of general lockers needs to be in the towers. Project lockers may be left empty much of the time.
- Guidance area lockers need also to be general lockers.
- Attendance needs to be connected to administration; maybe swap w/ESL w/classroom back-to-back w/custodi area.

- Split FCS academic area – slide classroom north. This creates a computer lab (science focus.)
- Switch ELP & Peer Helpers.
- Flip-flop new science room & Rooms 232 & 233. This connects science better & brings math to academic are better.
- Language arts near forum – is this journalism/yearbook?
- Special Ed resource scattered??? Can somehow they be grouped? Combined resource.
- Who is “student services”? Who is administration?
- Production studio by the forum?
- Does guidance have career/college planning capabilities?
- Do we have too many Business Ed rooms?
- Media center to have differentiated areas – some quiet, some project, some individual work stations.
- Are project lockers necessary? Too small to be effective; to be big enough won't fit in allocated space. Put student lockers here instead!
- Can some lockers be put in the band area? (currently by where display cases are located along pool wall)
- Move multi-media to floor 1 between language arts & social studies or on second floor if plan is changed.
- Could faculty restroom be by (connected to) teacher areas?
- Purposed, yet flexible academic commons...stage/courtroom/computer labs/etc.

- Departmental floors – because of (1) shared resources, (2) traveling teachers, (3) departmental conversations over curriculum. Also the academic commons alone allow for interdisciplinary uses. At least having rooms that serve as commons areas for departments. Departments also important for new teachers to work closely w/mentors.
- One department teacher area may allow for great communication & classrooms can be more spread out.
- Keep classroom size large. We are willing to compromise 2 – 3 feet of academics commons to allow larger classes for more management options.
- We love the new classroom configuration (square vs. rectangle). Great use of space & student flow!!
- We love the main commons – counseling, administration, student center, etc.
- We would like to see a student activity office & student work rooms to facilitate student group projects, etc.
- Perhaps front of media center for student conference/computer use.
- Computers lining every Fat C (academic commons). Need lots of computers!
- Where is the central printing/resource area for teachers? (Currently the space behind media center)
- Centralized facility dining??
- We love the nurse's office location & size.
- Separation of student services with administration areas – a question.
- Conference room space for student meeting – outside media center.
- Space for professional teacher media area, carts with videos concern.
- Stack areas, cut down of 20% area. Needs more discussion with VHS staff. Media center is still a concern: workroom, check out area near entrance.
- Special Ed does not like split-ups; Peer area could be moved.
- Multi-media area – video studio along with radio – increase size & have a “communications” area. ICN could be here. Recording possibilities, music stations, broadcasting, debate, *Spotlight*, and journalism area. A “news room” atmosphere for this area.
- Lockers for art projects near art room.
- Language lab needs hard walls for soundproofing.
- World language on 2nd floor – yes.

The committee then listed issues needing further discussion:

- Reduction in media center space. Need spaces for student conferencing, equipment storage, work. A space utilization study is necessary.
- Re-align the family and consumer science space
- ELP/Peer Helpers location?
- Location of special education resource rooms – should they be dispersed throughout the building or grouped together?
- Location of student services/counseling and administration?
- Departments on same floor or departmentalized teacher space?

Other ideas/suggestions from committee members include:

- Student activity office/student work rooms/student conference rooms located in commons area
- Computers lining every academic commons to keep the space open
- Would project lockers be used? If so, they should also be located in the music and athletics areas of the building.

Next meeting: Tuesday, November 18, 2003 4-6 p.m. VHS Media Center
Joint meeting with the Site Design Team

Monday, December 1, 2003 5:30-9:00 p.m. LRC
Board of Education Workshop