

**VHS Site Design Team Meeting**  
**June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2003**  
**Valley Media Center**

Present: Dr. Vicky Poole, Dr. Les Omotani, Phil Hodgins, (RDG Bussard Dikis) Dan Nelson, Cindy Todd, Karen Downing, Mark Marco, Sam Kranovich, Jason Scales, Mary Whitaker, Ruth Henderson, Bob Hardin, Melissa Lersten, Katie Crane, Scott Hatfield, Anne Lane  
Absent: Dennis Linderbaum, Drew McLellan, Dr. Donna Wilkin, Pam Wymer, Mark Brauer, John Clarke  
Support persons present: Galen Howsare, Eliz Erbes, Dave Person, Jeff Blosser, Dr. Phyllis Staplin.

**I. Welcome and Introductions**

Dr. Vicky Poole welcomed the site team and thanked them for their contributions of ideas for this very important project.

Dr. Les Omotani reviewed the committee's charge: to decide to recommend to the Superintendent and Board of Education the preferred design solutions for modernizing Valley High School. The goals and criteria as developed by the Board of Education on April 23, 2003 follow:

- Minimize disruption
- Minimize time of project
- Minimize relocation of students
- Attend to health, safety, and code issues throughout the building
- Incorporate what's been learned through Design Down and the Connections Committee about quality learning spaces
- Provide more parking
- Improve the learning environment (windows, gathering spaces, team learning spaces)
- Improve operational efficiencies; reduce costs of operation
- Concentrate attention on where students will be spending the most time; place priority on core classroom space
- Be prudent about expenditures to fix core infrastructure
- Design moderate interior/exterior finishes (Valley Southwoods quality is okay)
- Stay within budget
- Anticipate remodel issues
- Renovate/overhaul heating, cooling, and electrical systems
- Be consistent with what was stated in the referendum, 10 year plan and 10 year master facility improvement plan
- Make appropriate modifications based on input from a variety of sources

Note: The Board of Education agreed to direct the site design committee to plan as much as possible to maximize new learning spaces at VHS.

**Future dates/ times for meetings:**

All meetings will be held from 4:00 – 5:30 p.m. in the Valley High School Media Center, unless otherwise noted. A schedule of meetings for the 2003-2004 school year will be sent out in August.

Tuesday, July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2003

Thursday, July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2003

Thursday, August 7<sup>th</sup> and/or 14<sup>th</sup>, 2003

## **II. Site Plan**

Phil Hodgin handed out detailed copies of a site plan. The challenge is now to go back and look at another version. The site plan has been reviewed by the Board, and meets criteria desired by the Board. The next step is the schematic design. There will be an opportunity for dialogue on the high points.

- Mechanical space will not be taken from the existing shop area.
- Maintenance and operations issues, including fresh air, parking, student drop-offs will be addressed.
- A two to three story academic wing where the existing media center and classrooms are presently located is part of the plan.
- The school will be zoned with public wing, ie. field house, band area.
- The auditorium, cafeteria, shop and art area will be located off of the students commons.
- There will be maximizing of the new square footage.
- The rest of the building will be brought up to code with sprinklers, improvement of HVAC.

Formula for continuous review and reflection: QUALITY (of building materials) X QUANTITY ( of space) = Budget

If the older sections of the building are fixed up, the quality and square footage of new space will be reduced. Waukee and Valley Southwoods have the same quality as the new academic area. Bruce Jilk, (Design Down consultant) has said that construction of the new architecture is the only best shot of changing teaching and learning. There will be limitation of parking if we do not eliminate some of the existing building footprint. There will also be less roof area to maintain. Phil Hodgin posed the question: If this is not what we would envision for Valley High School, what would we like for the beginning of conceptual design? We are anxious to get into this phase.

## **III. Conversations and Considerations from the group**

The three-story construction would remove everything from west edge of the Media Center and classrooms around the Center. It will be necessary to have creative and flexible scheduling while the construction is taking place. Full use of all classroom space, class meetings in the North Gym, and/or temporary classrooms are possibilities to carry on with the education of students. There will not be funds to do anything but the new area. Potentially there will not be funds for new furniture. Dr. Omotani commented that other areas of the building, including the cafeteria, will require attention in the future. Possible additional funds could come from the Physical Plant and Equipment Levy, private fund raising, and after 2010, a smaller bond issue. The rest of the site will be brought up to code with sprinklers, alarm system, new heating and cooling. It comes down to choices, given the budget. There are electrical and lighting problems in the auditorium. It was shared that groups are looking for an auditorium in the community exactly like the size of Valley's.

The plan presented is not the final plan. There will be connection of the original school with the new addition. Possibly the library would be located on the ground floor of the three story academic unit Discussion regarding the gym floor and the pool took place. Additional conversation centered on the art studios, family and consumer science, working with the city for the water considerations. The north side of the school will have spaces for between 200-240 parking spaces. Drop-off lanes were discussed. It is not desirable to move the tennis courts and

the track. The area of roof will diminish. Water removal is a challenge to be worked out with the city. Phil shared there are many different ways of packaging the project.

#### **IV. Small Group Discussions**

The site team moved into two small groups to think about advantages and concerns of the proposed plans. Can we accept this plan or should we move into another version of the plan????

##### **Group 1**

Group 1 posed questions: Why are we doing this? Why do we need a new structure? Does this new plan have a “soul?” Will the new construction help develop a soul? Will there be new opportunities for additional collaborations, interactions? Can teaching change? Could a lecture be given to a large group of students and then have the teachers be available to assist students at another time? Students learn in many different ways and the new construction would enable opportunities for interaction and the planning and facilitation of learning.

Highlights of the proposal include:

- Improved heating, cooling and technology
- The new academic wing would be “nirvana”.
- Teachers and students would feel good about learning.
- The disruption factor would only be 2 years.
- There would be soul to the building

Concerns of the plan:

- Taking down the old rooms. Will there be enough rooms?
- Will there be less congestion in the halls? Will there not be more congestion in the new academic wing with students moving up and down stairs?
- How many current classrooms are there at Valley? How many classrooms will be in the new planning? The configuration of the new wing will determine the number of rooms.
- The plan will be more efficient. The plan includes a new south drive.
- Concerns were raised as to air-conditioning in the kitchen, better air control in the cafeteria, electrical problems in the auditorium.

Group 1 supports the new plan.

##### **Group 2**

Highlights of the plan:

- As deliberations are taking place, it is important to document and connect past discussions from the Design Down and the Connections Committee meetings. What is the desired state that would like to happen at some time in the future?
- It is important to talk about possibilities for the future and include these in a master plan beyond the present project.
- In order to make choices in the present plan, it is important to share possibilities and capture as many as we can, given the budget situation.
- The implementation of three smaller learning communities will give students new learning experiences.
- Be creative in use of space, ie. a lecture hall possibility
- Support of the plan presented by Phil Hodgin

Concerns:

- Need heating and cooling in existing areas
- Do something different with the cafeteria
- The service area for students needs consideration. The cafeteria is a visible piece for students and the community.
- There needs to be a continued balance: Is this more important than the academic wing????

Group 2 is supportive of the plan if attention could also be given to some of the areas mentioned.

## **V. Final Comments**

Phil Hodgin: Dr. Omotani said three years ago if we are not going to change how we teach and learn, why re-construct and re-design the building? It is important that we change the way we use the building. We will need to look carefully and determine financial costs. How much will it cost to air-condition the kitchen? We will need to create a master list, establish priorities, and create a menu.

Dr. Omotani: We need to think about recommendations regarding parts of the building that are not going to be touched and capture this information. However, we also need to remember we have only ½ of the dollars we wished for prior to the referendum.

**Next meeting: Tuesday, July 8<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm at Valley: Media Center**