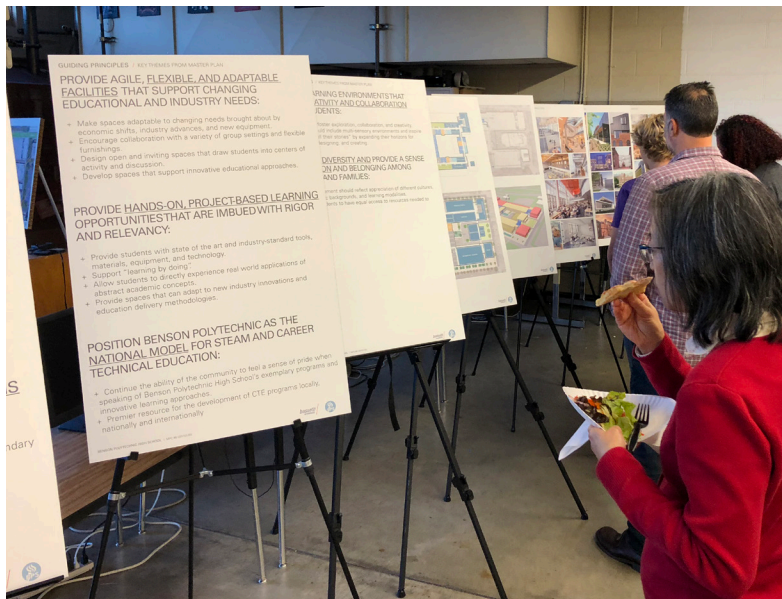


BENSON POLYTECHNIC HIGH SCHOOL

DESIGN ADVISORY GROUP SESSION #1

SUMMARY AND NOTES



MEETING DETAILS

Meeting Location

Benson Polytechnic High School,
546 NE 12th Ave, Portland, OR 97232

Attendees

PORTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS (PPS):

Jen Sohm, Design Project Manager
Dan Jung, Office of School Modernization
Jeanne Yerkovich, Director of Career Learning/CTE
Aurora Terry, Senior Director of College and Career Readiness
Sarah Davis, Senior Director of STEAM Education
David Mayne, Bond Communications Manager

DESIGN ADVISORY GROUP MEMBERS:

Curtis Wilson Jr., Principal
Paul Anthony, Board of Education
Roi San Anderson
Brian Gerber
Amy Henry
Tammy Hite
Luke Hotchkiss
Dave Ketah
Bryan Smith
Amy Sutton
Christina Thompson
Todd Williams
Dale Bajema
Rachel Browning
Janice Choy-Weber
Kevin Clark
Brent Dahl
Angel Dawson
Jeanetter DeCastro
Wendy Farber
Reuben Gilmore
Susan Hargrave
Rob Johns
Peter Koonce
Elizabeth O'Malley
Glen Pak
Matt Pellico
Brian Unflat
Drew Amrine
Immacula Bixby
Alan Campos

Sophia Chin
Hazel Curley O'Malley
Henry Kirkpatrick
James Littrell
Kailey Malynowski
Kimanh Nguyen
Adrian Sanchez-Hernandez
Arlette Torres
Daviar Wexler

PUBLIC

Paul J. Peters, Alliance, School social worker
Amy Acquino, Alliance Teacher
Kelli Mictchell, Alliance
Nathaniel D. Edmunds, Alliance
Parker McCollson, PPS Student
Griffin Jackson, PPS Student
William Horner, PPS Student
Andrea Darke, PPS Student
Carmen Brown, PPS Student

DESIGN TEAM

Lorne McConachie, Bassetti Architects
Joe Echeverri, Bassetti Architects
Aydin Eهران, Bassetti Architects
Holly Grosvenor, Bassetti Architects
Dianna Montzka, Bassetti Architects

Agenda

6:00 - 6:15	Arrival & Welcome + Project Team & District introductions
6:15 - 6:40	Introduction Activity + Goals and Aspirations + Group Introductions
6:40 - 6:50	Vote & Announcement of Co-Chairs
6:50 - 7:15	Update and Project Background + Project Update - PPS + Project Background - Bassetti
7:15 - 7:50	Site Analysis Activity + Provide input on existing site + review current master plan and provide input
7:50 - 8:00	Public Comment

INTRODUCTIONS

Goals and Aspirations for the Modernization of Benson Polytechnic High School, shared by all DAG members:

- + Healthy learning environment
- + Maintain the biggest high school in the district
- + Continue the legacy of BPHS
- + Believe in Benson
- + Be the best it can be
- + Be environmentally friendly
- + Be a better future for the students
- + Interactive science space
- + Align industry with the classroom
- + All departments need representation
- + A bright environment
- + Parents proud of graduating kids
- + Inviting environment
- + Preserve the historic building
- + Student input learning
- + Parents care about Benson
- + A long lasting building that will be good for another 100 years
- + An inclusive process
- + Accessibility is important
- + Advance into the future
- + Be a creative and collaborative space
- + For every student to have mentor in their junior year that is in their major industry
- + A school for the students, parents, and alumni
- + To learn about the community process
- + Preserve the history
- + To ensure that teachers are a part of the process and their voices are heard and represented in the final design
- + The school is a teaching environment; needs to function and not just look nice
- + Teach freshmen about student voices
- + English as a second language
- + Design for diverse makeup of students and staff
- + The namesake and legacy needs to continue



SELECTION OF CO-CHAIRS

DAG Members we asked to express interest in becoming a co-chair. The DAG will be comprised of one adult co-chair and one student co-chair. After nomination, a vote was held to select the co-chairs, and the results were:

- + Glen Pak, alumni
- + Kailey Malynowski, student

UPDATE & PROJECT BACKGROUND

- + Jen Sohm of PPS provided a project update.
- + Aurora Terry provided insights on the CTE visioning process, which is underway.
- + Sarah Davis provided a brief introduction to STEAM Education in the district.
- + Joe Echeverri of Bassetti Architects presented a project update and background to inform DAG members of the process to-date.

Slides from this presentation are attached to these notes.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

- + Questions were raised about the budget and how the district is going to come up with enough money for the modernization of BPHS. There is no concrete decision at this time as to where the money is going to come from, however the board has committed to the project and will look for ways to fund the project, such as an additional bond.
- + Questions were raised about the non-Benson alternative schools and programs who are currently housed in BPHS. Based on a previous board resolution, alternative locations are to be studied by the district, and the current program for the project does not include a space for these programs. It was noted that these programs have not been formally notified that they will not have program space in the modernization at BPHS. Several people expressed interest in these programs staying at Benson and not being relocated.



SITE ANALYSIS ACTIVITY

The site analysis activity asked the DAG members to identify places on the existing site that they liked or that they felt needed improvement.



Positive Existing Site Comments

- + The open space the entrance provides is nice, allowing activities to take place
- + Beautiful facade, sense of history
- + The front entry is they face of Benson
- + The auditorium is the center of the community for all of Portland
- + The hill at the front entry
- + Upper level track in the gym
- + Good natural light but it could always be improved
- + The auditorium is an amazing space and the acoustics are good
- + Front is iconic and historic, don't touch it
- + The impressive entrance and stately columns
- + Wellness center is industrial chic!

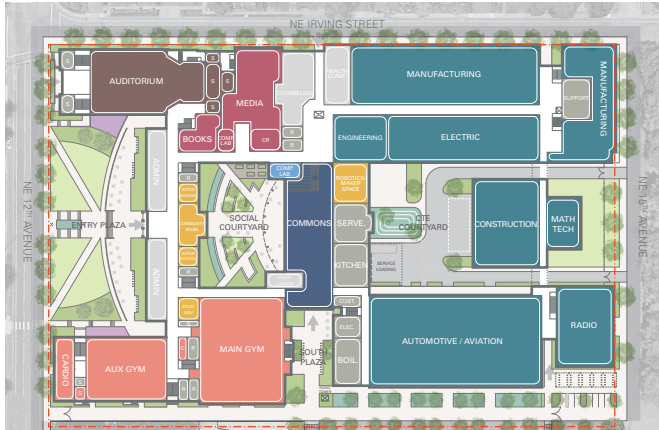
Things That Need Improvement

- + When school gets out, sidewalk is full at NE Irving and NE 12th
- + Pick up/Drop off: Front lawn could be a half circle for drop off to take it off the street
- + In the auditorium, it's hard to hear anything on the sound system and it's very dark
- + Bad ADA access to the historic main entry
- + The cafeteria is below grade and depressing
- + Too narrow of an entrance to the cafeteria - causes congestion.
- + The cafeteria is very unaccessible and stairwells get very crowded and it is a bit dark
- + Improved access is needed through the SW corner of the site

- + Doors / Security (at gym)
- + No windows in the front classrooms by the gym
- + Entrance to Buckman Field is unfriendly and the ADA ramp is a long distance away
- + No ADA access to the field where we gather for fire drills
- + No seating at Buckman Field
- + Side/Bank could be seating outside, not blackberry bushes!
- + No outside lighting along main access from parking
- + Lack of student common areas
- + The courtyard is not accessible or visible
- + Courtyard space is almost unusable due to small size
- + There is only one table in the courtyard and the most safe place for bikes is in the middle of the school
- + Stormwater overflow not managed at north side of site
- + Roof drains makes a waterfall at C wing when it rains
- + Lack of airflow in C wing
- + "C" wing stand for Creepy
- + Leaking roof by the foundry, water fountains are unusable
- + There is a major heat island at the parking lot at center of building and little to no natural light in C wing
- + 11,000 cars a day down Irving
- + So many exterior doors.. but how to you get where you're going on time?
- + Noise isolation is needed between CTE spaces
- + Parking space at the center cuts connection between wings
- + Bike parking is extremely difficult
- + Challenging to move between school sections
- + The girls locker room size needs to be improved!
- + Access to after school day is limited and inconvenient
- + CTE rooms (radio) that are less accessible
- + There is no continuous pathway through the building. Students have to retrace their steps to get to other classes
- + As it is today, the flow of the hallways and open space is not thought out here. There is no synergy.
- + There are so few gender neutral bathrooms (only two accessible to all students) that are ALWAYS occupied
- + Lockers in CTE wing are impossible to use and get to during passing time
- + Access to the building corridors for students is not the best, like the east end of E-wing.

SITE ANALYSIS ACTIVITY - CONTINUED

The second part of the site analysis activity asked the DAG members to review the current master plan and provide input



- + Make sure there are a lot of skylights for natural light
- + Multiple courtyards are a nice idea in the fact that they provide two different types of spaces for the kids
- + Concern for the CTE courtyard, how will it be used, and what if it is pushed to the east edge?

Master Plan - Scheme L.1 Observations

- + It would be nice to have a clear glass greenhouse type louver roof on the courtyard
- + Part of the courtyard needs to be covered so students can still be outside in bad weather
- + The central area with the cafeteria looks nice as a HUB for BPHS
- + Yay! Space for Math Tech
- + Would like a greenhouse on roof
- + Use the roof and courtyards for green power. Use PVs on roof and let the students add more over time.
- + I love the old tools, historic building details, and hope they can be made into art installations and details in the new building
- + The social courtyard looks very beautiful and inspiring. The greenery makes Benson more pleasing to the eye
- + Love the front landscaping!
- + Much nicer/usable courtyard spaces
- + South plaza entry is much better coming from the parking lot
- + The auditorium space could be locked off and used by private arts & theater groups
- + Where does parking happen?
- + Basement locker rooms are on so many different levels. It would be good to simplify
- + The big lawn should be a public space with more trees
- + Preferred to have no cars in the middle of campus, but a place for tech parking in the fire lane.
- + For 1700 students it would be nice to increase the access to sports fields as well.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Nathaniel D. Edmunds, Alliance

- + A teacher at Alliance
- + Alliance provides programs for at-risk youth and is comprised of the 20% or so of displaced student population.
- + Benson site is a central location that serves while city
- + Displacement of the school could cause enrollment drop
- + STEAM integration is important for society to reach at-risk youth
- + Alternative school and program stakeholders have not been included in process

Kelli Mictchell, Alliance

- + Appreciative that Benson has allowed Alliance to use the building
- + They promote inclusivity, and have shared goals between the schools
- + Do not want to be thought of as "other" programs at Benson
- + Desires equity

William Horner, BPHS Student

- + There is currently no music program at Benson, which is disappointing
- + Now is a good opportunity to design music into the program at Benson
- + As a musician, feels that other students would benefit from opportunities at Benson

