

MEMO

Perkins Eastman
Architects DPC

Date	9/10/2020	
Project Name	Neelsville Middle School	
Project Number	85730	
Subject	Community Meeting #1	
From	Karen Gioconda	k.gioconda@perkinseastman.com
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Zoom Meeting Attendees:

Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS): Debbie Szyfer, Rob Badstibner, Dennis Cross, Gary Mosesman

School Leadership Team: Lily Lake-Parcan, Melissa Sigley, etc.

Community: See Attendee List

Perkins Eastman Architects (PE): Sean O'Donnell, Omar Calderon Santiago, Karen Gioconda, Ann Neeriemer, Stewart Gregory, Heather Jauregui, Juan Guarin, Anne Chen

School Principal Introduction:

Principal Lake-Parcan introduced Neelsville Middle School Project. The county has heard the concerns of the current facility that have led us to the project. She acknowledged the Assistant Principal Melissa Sigley, PTSA president, and Norm Gordon, who has been a parent at Neelsville for a number of years and the positive force to ensure that the community's voices are heard.

Perkins Eastman Introduction:

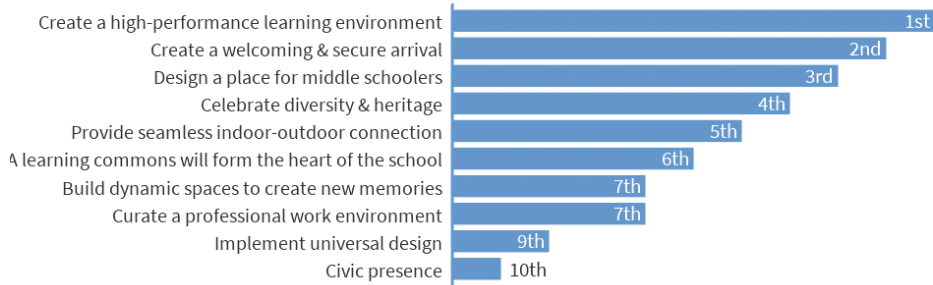
Sean introduced Perkins Eastman Architects' expertise and expressed the excitement and gratitude of working on the project. We pride ourselves on creating sustainable high performance learning environment. We also pride ourselves on creating building that are truly part of their place and the center of the community. We would like to begin the conversation with you and the exploration on creating the tailored design specific to the Neelsville community and the site of this school.

Karen introduced the project specific website and mentioned that the presentation will be posted on the website. Rob is the project contact. Karen also introduced the rules for Zoom meeting.

Community Polls

When poll is active, respond at PollEv.com/seanodonnell999

Rank the Draft Design Principles from most important (1) to least important (10).

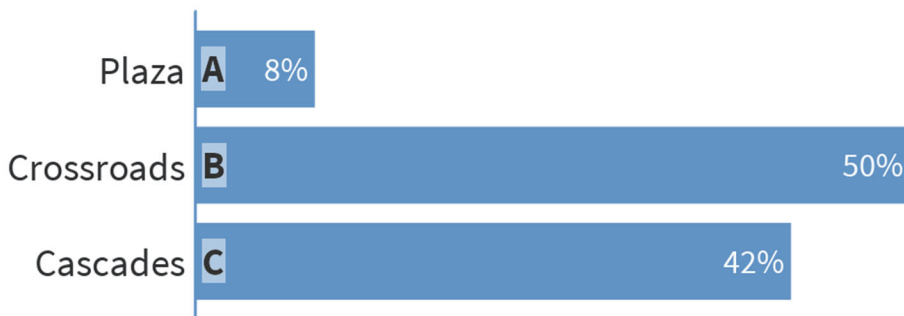


Answers to this poll are anonymous

Respond at PollEv.com/seanodonnell999

Text **SEANODONNELL999** to **22333** once to join, then **A, B, or C**

Which is your preferred concept?



Answers to this poll are anonymous

Questions:

- **Ann:**

- What is the track record on separating grades by floor at other schools? Does it increase sense of bonding with your grade?
 - *Separating grades by floor is a very common practice*
 - *Helps with a sense of belonging*
 - *Middle school is a time of transition; 6th graders are very different than 8th graders physically and mentally*
 - *Separating grades can help make families feel more comfortable*
 - *Open to reading articles, research that the community can share on this topic*
- Is there any common space in academic section?
 - *Yes, there will be common spaces in the academic section*

- *It's very important to provide informal learning spaces*
- *MCPS is supportive of providing informal learning spaces*
- **Omar:**
 - Could you please elaborate on what measures you will be taking to ensure safety and security of students during the transition phase while construction is still going on?
 - *When a contractor/builder is added to the team, they will assist with a phasing plan that will better address this question*
 - *As architects, we can plan the future building in a way that gives the contractor/builder adequate space to construct the building and provide enough buffer between the existing and new*
 - *Some of these concepts may work better than others in that regard (for instance, Cascades will need to be further analyzed as it has the closest adjacency to the existing building)*
 - Also will there be a different access point for heavy machinery and vehicles- how will be access to pick up/drop off and school buses be affected?
 - *A second entry to the site will help facilitate construction and pick up/drop off*
- **Stewart:**
 - Can you please elaborate as to how the "Cascades" Scheme overlaps with the existing building and/or how close is to the existing bldg.? (during construction phase)
 - *It is planned to not overlap with the existing building. It is very close, and that's something we would need to study closely as we proceed if that is the preferred option*
 - *While this option does not overlap with the existing building, it does overlap with the Infants and Toddlers building – we would need to find a temporary home for that program during construction*
- **Karen:**
 - Also what is the timeline? Is there any way you can take advantage of the fact that classes are not on-site now?
 - *Unfortunately, we are early in our approximately year-long design process and can not begin building anything. However, visits to the existing school building and site will need to occur and with few students, faculty and staff on-site, there is a lower chance of any spread of the virus between our team and the school stakeholders*
 - Will Ms. Parcan have enough staff to cover dual entrances?
 - *New facilities require that the school leadership reassess operations*
 - *If a dual-entrance option is selected, the ability to cover both entrances will need to be addressed from an operational perspective*
 - Will PEA provide an overlay between New and Existing buildings to have a better idea as to how close the new construction be to the existing building?

- *PEA will provide an overlay with more contrast for the following Community Meeting*

Comments:

- **Principal Lake-Parcan**
 - Very exciting for us to finally be in a place where we're talking about a new school
 - County has heard our students, parents and staff concerns about the current facility
 - Joined by Assistant Principal Melissa Sibley, PTSA President Silvia Ramirez, Parent Norm Gordon (one of the individuals that has kept us all on track with this process, ensuring that our voices are being heard as far as the needs for our students)
 - Students deserve the best
 - Excited to be on this timeline – 4 years will fly by
 - We miss our building, wish we could be back there
 - So excited about this project and the fact that the amazing group of students will have a facility they can be proud of
- **Norm:**
 - One of my daughter's favorite parts of campus is the stunning views of Germantown from outside bldg. north campus is a must!
 - Killer view from windows on west side!
 - Neelsville Church is a church! I think you mean Neelsville Church Road
 - Funding? (Fielded by MCPS)
 - BOE has a high commitment to keep this project going on-track
 - School stakeholders can continue to advocate for the project as always
 - Next milestone will be approval of construction funds – this will be provided by the County Council
 - Construction funding will be given in FY 2023 (so construction can begin in 2022)
- **Jennifer:**
 - I need to leave at this time. Thank you to you and the presenters. Very exciting new school construction plan.
- **Principal Lake Parcan:**
 - I like the idea of having an alternate entrance that is not Neelsville Church Rd...avoiding the cemetery.
 - I like having this bus entry from Germantown Rd. It helps alleviate traffic on 355.
- **Melissa:**
 - I definitely like the separation of car traffic and bus traffic.

cc:

Attachments: