

AUHS Facilities Community Task Force

Meeting Minutes:
February 15, 2011
South Campus Library

Minutes recorded by Steve Bailey of Donovan Group LLC

- I. Joe Donovan (Donovan Group LLC) provided an introduction and an outline of the goals for the meeting.
 - a) The goal is to create some general consensus regarding the six needs categories established in the previous meeting, go through some of the specifics of the items, and have a clearer picture of the needs categorization.
- II. The group worked to find consensus on the general needs categories, which were narrowed down at the previous meeting to the following:
 - 21st Century Learning
 - Theater
 - Storage
 - Traffic/Parking
 - Special Education
 - Pool/Gym

The task force then approached each category individually to consider the possibility of consolidating or prioritizing the needs. The discussion was as follows:

- a) 21st Century Learning
 - i. Curriculum in the future may be dependent on the types of learning spaces available, so the issue the task force needs to address is what a 21st Century learning environment might look like.
 - What does 21st Century learning mean to the school district?
 - Does this concept apply to everything the task force is addressing in terms of facilities?
 - ii. The role of technology plays a major role in 21st Century learning, so the school's infrastructure may be an important component. It is a fiber that runs through all of the facilities.
 - The group discussed the fact that technology is already a priority for the district, and might not be part of the charter for the task force
 - iii. The task force resolved to rename this category "Learning Spaces."
- b) Theater
 - i. This might be too specific for a needs category, as it implies performing arts only. There are many types of arts, including visual arts.
 - ii. The task force resolved to change the name of the category to "Educational Fine Arts"

c) Storage

- i. The group discussed the idea that storage probably fits in with all facility upgrades, and might not need to be its own needs category.
 - A concern was that if it was not its own category, it might not carry as much weight as something that needs to be addressed. During the tour the task force took in October, it was an obvious problem. The storage issue has impacted the function of various activities; it might remain a problem even after other areas are taken care of
 - Storage was a need driven by safety because of the dangers in the hallways (not enough space, students tripping over equipment, etc.)
 - Could storage be combined with safety as something that impacts all categories?
- ii. The group resolved to keep storage as its own category for the time being.

d) Traffic/Parking

- i. The task force discussed the fact that logistical services (like service vehicles, delivery trucks) also use the parking area. Ideally, the traffic situation outside the school in the mornings and afternoons should not interfere with the operations of the school.
- ii. Pedestrian traffic also needs to be considered, as the lack of walkways between buildings creates a safety hazard.
- iii. The group resolved to keep it as a needs category, but to rename it "Traffic/Parking/Logistics" to take into account all aspects of the need.

e) Special Education

- i. This need might fit into the new "Learning Spaces" category, as it seems to be more of a subset of a learning space need in general.
- ii. It is apparent that the special education department needs more space.
- iii. The task force resolved to place Special Education in the "Learning Spaces" category.

f) Gym/Pool

- i. The term "field house" might better communicate the fact that the area can be used for more than just a gym.
- ii. The field house has the potential to generate for the district, so should it stand on its own?
- iii. The task force resolved to change the category name to "Field House/Pool"

g) Additional discussion:

- i. Should technology be a stand-alone need category, as well?
 - Through a discussion, the group concluded that it should be weaved through all of the needs categories, just like safety issues.
 - It applies differently to different areas, so it might lose its meaning if it is its own category.

- ii. Where does community collaboration fit? Should it be its own need category?
 - Community groups and members will be using the facilities at the school, as well. This is particularly true for the theater space, field house and pool.
 - This might not be a need, but is certainly an added benefit for both the school and community groups. That being the case, it likely fits within all categories.
- III. Based on the discussion in item II, the task force re-addressed the categories to clarify the general needs.
- a) Learning Spaces
 - i. These should be functional spaces that fit the needs of the teachers and students. A good term for this is “purpose-based space,” which means that the spaces fit the purposes for which they are used.
 - ii. The space should be technologically sound and supportive.
 - iii. It should be flexible and able to be used for a variety of purposes and to accommodate different types of learning.
 - iv. Space should be determined based on the needs of special education students. There is currently in inadequate amount of space, and logistically some students must be transported across the school for a variety of purposes. The space is not efficient at this time.
 - Accessibility to certain areas of the school is also an issue for some students (e.g. the library does not have automatic doors)
 - b) Educational Fine Arts
 - i. Practice/Teaching space
 - Includes where equipment is stored and the students practice band, choir, orchestra, etc.
 - ii. Performance space (theater, art display area)
 - The theater is used for a variety of purposes unrelated to fine arts; it serves as a place to bring a large number of students together.
 - Has an impact for students beyond the performers; also serves as a learning opportunity for those who want to learn about the technical side of theater (lights, props, etc.). A modern theater is one that has the capacity for an audience and facilitates components of the performance arts
 - For art students, there is currently no space to structurally display student work, which impacts students’ motivation for creating art pieces. Visual arts students need a place to showcase their work.
 - iii. Storage space
 - iv. Prep space
 - Most performances at the theater require prep time to set up the stage and rehearse; this takes up a lot of time/space, and displaces other groups that might need to use the theater.
 - The limited amount of space in general right now means that the school can only sustain a certain number of events at the theater.

- c) Storage
 - i. Storage seems to be a component of every other category, so should it be its own stand-alone need? Or should it be intertwined with the others?
 - ii. Bob Vajgrt (Eppstein Uhen Architects): Storage is a by-product of facilities upgrades in most cases; having more efficient use of space can take care of storage issues so that a school does not have to set aside a certain area for storage space.
 - iii. The task force resolved to remove storage as a need category and instead make it an intertwined part of each need.

- d) Traffic/Parking/Logistics
 - i. The group was in agreement that this remained its own need category
 - ii. The name of the need was changed to “Traffic, People and Parking” to account for the fact that pedestrian traffic is an issue.

- e) Field House/Pool
 - i. The group resolved to change “pool” to “aquatic center” because of its functional use (category now called “Field House/Aquatic Center”)
 - ii. Aquatic center issues:
 - The pool is only 6 lanes (should be 8), and so it can only hold small meets; there are also limits on how many kids can practice in the pool at once
 - Spectator seating is limited
 - Logistically, there’s a flow issue as kids lining up for races get in the way of those trying to get to the locker rooms
 - Some special needs students also use the pool for programs
 - iii. Field House issues:
 - Capacity is an issue, as it does not allow for sufficient space if graduation needs to be held indoors
 - If students are added to the school as projected, the space will likely be inadequate; the field house is already very heavily used (e.g. in May, AP testing takes place there, requiring a great logistical effort)
 - Throughout the school, there is not a space to hold an all-school assembly

IV. Compilation of needs categories:

- a) At the end of the meeting, the task force had gained consensus on the following for its overall needs categories:
 - i. Learning Spaces
 - ii. Educational Fine Arts
 - iii. Traffic, People and Parking
 - iv. Field House/Aquatic Center

- b) The group also decided that the following needs are intertwined with each of the needs categories:
 - i. Safety
 - ii. Storage
 - iii. Community collaboration
 - iv. Technology

V. Other business

- a) The next meeting of the Facilities Community Task Force will be Tuesday, March 1, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the South Campus Library.