

Minutes from Champion Schools

2016 STATE of the SCHOOLS FORUM

Wed. Jan. 20, 2016

Q. = questions the parent/resident participants discussed at the forum

A. = answers the parent/resident participants shared from their discussions

Q. What are the 3 most important issues that you want to see given the highest priority in the design and construction of the new PK-8 Building? What do you see in the building design that you think is critical to best help your child maximize his/her learning?

A. Reasonable space, 2 gyms, safe traffic flows and great technology, lots of sunlight, desks and chairs that easily move, clear handicapped accessible entrances, flexible learning areas, separate PK-4 from grades 5-8; one floor construction, energy conservation, excellent-healthy air quality in building; balanced heating and cooling.

Q. What are some of the ways you think technology should be involved in the building (for student learning, safety, parent school communications.....anything)?

A. Phones in all classrooms, public access to gym and cafeteria, tablets for every student, school wide universal use of email and website communication, security system/cameras.

Q. Many of the new school buildings are designing learning spaces that can be reconfigured "on a dime" to engage all types of learning and teaching. What are your thoughts on the types of classroom furniture and various learning spaces needed in order to allow for the various learning needs?

A. Larger rooms for cooperative learning, spaces for small group work, classroom spaces, organize classrooms in pods for more collaboration, have flexible-moveable desks and chairs. Allow for classrooms to have ways to move "walls" to create learning spaces so several classrooms can work together.

Q. What do you want to see as you move throughout this new building which you think is necessary to make the school inviting to all and especially help students feel as comfortable as they do at home?

A. Artwork displayed, inspirational quotes on walls, bean bag chairs for comfort during individual work time, technology for information for students, color, pictures displayed throughout building of student achievements, more living things like plants, commons areas for group learning.

Q. Revealing how “stuff works”-benefits of displaying some of the school infrastructure...how the duct work flows in the building, letting the ceiling be exposed in areas so students can see the trusses, wiring routes etc.

A. What about a wind turbine, solar panels on roof for energy savings? Monitor how the building uses storm water runoff, like idea of green house.

Q. What ideas to you have about the design of the school’s outside space?

A. Commons area, courtyards for extending classroom learning, garden area, greenhouse, benches, accessible playground, playground for community use also like we have at Central now.

Q. Designing with the community as a partner. What ideas can you offer?

A. Have on line scheduling for public use, public use of gyms, grounds, rooms, library for public use, some park like space, large digital outside sign broadcasting school information, benches, possible courtyards for learning outside, accessible playground, access for wetland learning.

Q. What are all the different ways your children learn at home that could be translated into the school environment?

A. They like comfortable chairs, they lay on the floor, lounge on the couch, work at tables.

End of Minutes.

Submitted by Pamela Hood, Superintendent of Schools