

Brown School Meeting Notes

December 11, 2018 | 6:30-7:30p

Feedback:

Garden/Green Space

- Include the Garden in the Design- Place it in the sunniest spot.
- Plant more street trees and replace trees being cut down on Willow (lots of Ash trees)
- See if there are ways to plant trees with large canopies on edge of blacktop.
- Outdoor classroom with nature and trees
- Community garden should be in sunny space
- Garden- access to water
- Trees. Natural feeling space. And/or shade sails.
- Benches/Trees
- Keep some nature. Trees, etc.
- Maximize natural materials.
- Passive recreation
- Garden walking/fitness trail
- Mindful/meditation walking path or labyrinth
- More (same!) natural features in blacktop space (more value in there than play structures)
- Enjoy the natural look ie. The sand box at Lincoln Park
- Wood Chips
- Maximize the grass area for play

Multipurpose, Functional Space

- Space serves as the gym and multi-purpose gathering/event space for the school.
- Outside classroom space
- There was a design shared a few years ago with an outdoor classroom (sloping wall for seating) on kiddier side, worth a re-look!
- Outside eating space
- Good space for gym classes
- Don't forget about physical education classes.
- Concrete stairs/ amphitheater in the alley
- Small space, so leverage all areas efficiently and make multiuse

Imagination Space

- Incorporate low playing structures that can add creative thinking.
- For younger children, imaginative play props play houses, outdoor building materials, tunnels, balance beams.
- My kids to a lot of imaginary games during recess.
- Earth phase of the project from planning to construction should be maximize imagination and creativity, for example, when considering the "kit of parts" that comprise the schoolyard and project, design, wow best could all elements be

Flexibility of Space

- Maximize open space area.
- Maintain open space.
- Keep play structures to a minimum- kids don't play on them once they're older than 2nd or 3rd grade and they take up valuable space.
- Exercise equipment are efficient with space. Pullup bars etc.
- Keep space open and flexible.
- The openness of this small space is great. It's a set of Legos/Blocks not a specified thing.
- Movable equipment that can be brought out on blacktop
- Flexibility is the key.
- Think about all space around the Brown, not just the blacktop.

Fences that aren't like prison

- Chain link fence seems like a prison. New ideas to improve that in terms of aesthetic? Perhaps integrate art and nature?
- Iron fence on kidder seems dangerous as is.
- Wall/fence mounted activities.
- New fencing around green space- it's currently dangerous with sharp tops.
- Remove the fence along willow and Josephine or set it back.
- Ability to go from playground to garden- add a gate.
- Replace the low fence (not the chain link) the edges are very sharp. Kids get but by it.
- Raise fences (or use nets) on Josephine and Willow
- Fencing high enough to block balls, but pretty not cage like.
- Increase height of gates
- Ability for student to get to playground without having to go on the sidewalk next to busy willow ave.
- Connect willow door to space- without going to sidewalk.
- "no holes" for balls to roll out our get stuck
- Higher fence on the short sides for balls (just a little higher).

The Arts

- Public arts projects
- Incorporate the back wall of school in design (murals, etc.)

Adjustable basketball hoops.

- Hoops that lower
- Basketball hoops that adjust
- Keep basketball- improve it for a full game.
- Basketball hoops that adjust or at least the same height
- Dome climber with slide, monkey bars, pull up bars, adjustable height basketball.

Use vertical space- climbing tower/wall

- Climbing structure (narrow that fit space)
- Jungle Gym/Climbing Structure
- Climbing/parkour structure in alley
- Climbing wall along building or turf as safety surface
- Vertical structures with two or more levels.
- Climbing wall on side of building
- Climbing wall around the outside of the building.
- Recess ideas: climbing structures (just not on physical education side)
- Wall climbing, vertical structures
- Safe and level playing surface
- Any new structures additions need to keep that in mind.

Parkour Course

- Parkour structure in the side yard
- Adventure space.
- Running/gym space

Inclusion

- Include adolescents and young adults in design.
- Appropriate for ages 1-25
- Don't waste space with features that will only be used by a few kids.
- ADA access to building
- Avoid the primary colors/baby look
- Allowing the children's ideas to be considered and allowing them to interact with the process and architects.
- Early years (K – Second grade) need play structures

Lighting in the afternoon/evening

- Lights
- Lighting with timed switch that neighbor can use when school is closed
- Better winter lighting
- Better lighting
- Lighting for outdoor evening events and after school program

Outside community access is important

- Open to community not just during school hours
- Remember afterschool program use
- Playground is used by whole community. Keep counts for basketball. Allow baseball games.

Turf field

- Turf Field (don't let a vocal minority get in the way of this.)
- Could a play structure go in front (where the garden is now) so that the main yard could be more open for turf/gym/basketball?
- Make sure if artificial turf is used its guaranteed safe.
- Even leveled hard top
- Softer surface for blacktop
- Need dedicated "gym" space with appropriate flooring.
- Place to bounce balls and run, play 4 Square
- Keep running space, but make it safe by flattening to make the ground leveled

Bicycle parking for kids who ride to school

- Good bike parking- add a roof? Maintain a non-playground side.
- Bicycle scooter storage/locking space
- Need more bike parking
- Bike and scooter parking

Water fountain

- Water fountain and water access for garden
- Water fountain
- Water fountain idea great

Use others as an example:

- Other playgrounds have come out great at Lincoln Park, Winter Hill etc.
- Asking other kids' at Argenziano what they loved, and which features are the best. (Take note of other city park areas like Lexington, hoyt- Sullivan).

Space for parents/teachers

- More space for partnets to gather at pick-up/drop-off.
- More seating for parents/checkerboard tables.

Ideas for parking:

- On snow days- a few dedicated street spots. If cars can park on the lot we need some spaces in the neighborhood.
- Dreams: parking garage with turf field on top
- Will it still need to be used for parking @ anytime?
- What's the deal with police parking at school? Do they have to take up that space? Also ask them not to park on sidewalk in the morning.
- Re-parking for teachers in the winter- could we make a block of Kidder one way and have angled parking (like ___ Swaure in front of Block 11) for teachers only (public on weekends/evenings)

Games/Structures

- Ball sports, bikes, rec.
- Chalkboard picture frames, tic tac Toe (things often mounted on walls of play structures).
- Giant Chess Board
- Logs and Rocks
- Swings/ Rope Swings
- Twisting Pole/Fireman Pole
- A Nice Big Sign of Rules
- Zip line
- Balancing Bridges

Atrium in the alcove

- Atrium in the alcove (two requests)
- Mezzanine- 2nd level
- Canopy
- The nook where there are three sides of the school building surrounding it are heavily used by kids-a surprisingly effective resource.

Weather Considerations

- Create safer space be aware of ice/snow falling from roof in severe weather.
- A method to keep the snow off the physical education side
- Snow is fun to play in- maybe you don't need to remove it.
- Including sever weather instances (avalanche off roof)
- Bubble to put up during winter

Educational

- The graphic studies on child play needs to be represented and understood
- See saw with weights for balancing -can teach physics with this feature

Technical considerations

- Consider drainage, storm water management, heat islands.
- Electrical outlet

Conceptual

- RFP needs to prioritize movement. A landscape architecture firm that maximizes movement.

STEM PROJECT

- Great opportunity for children to see process as a STEM project.
- This is a great opportunity for the whole school to participate in a design challenge- so many great chances for math, engineering and science and for kids to feel empowered and included. Many parents can help.

Where would gym class and recess be during construction?