

April 7, 2009 – Minutes of SIT Facilities Committee

The newly formed Janney School Improvement Team (SIT) Facilities Committee (composition below) met with representatives from the Office of Public Education Facilities Management (OPEFM) to discuss plans for Janney's slated addition and modernization. (See SIT Minutes, March 17, 2009).

The role of the Janney SIT Facilities Committee will be to "participate in the development of the education specification and schematic design" for the Janney addition and modernizations scheduled to begin in 2010. The committee is "expected to continue through the end of construction and be available to receive updates, consult on issues that arise during construction, and disseminate information to their peers." (Per guidelines provided by the Office of Public Education and Facilities Modernization).

Members of the OPEFM team included: Tony Robinson (Communications Director), Mel Butler (Program Manager) Richard Smith (Planning Officer), Deanna Newman (Facilities Planner), Donny Gonzalez (Construction Program Liaison).

Tony Robinson provided an overview of the project, scope, and expected timelines. Mr. Robinson communicated that he Mayor has this project on a "fast track," with ambitious goals and timelines for design, build and completion project. The current goal is to break ground on the Janney addition by January 2010. Mel Butler provided some additional background on the budget for the project, which is projected to be \$9 million (\$1 million for "soft costs" and \$8 million for the build). Mr. Butler reckoned this was a reasonable and manageable project (at \$1 million per month for an 8 month project). Later, when provided the per square foot dollar amount (\$238), it was acknowledged by Mr. Butler that this budget would not be sufficient to execute the project, and that OPEFM will need to look again at the budget numbers.

Deanna Newman provided an introduction to the education specification process, and a draft (template) education specification, which was reviewed and discussed. The total gross square footage being managed to is 33,758 sq. ft. This, when combined with the existing 43,000 sq. ft would leave Janney with roughly 78,000 sq. ft after construction. *(NOTE: This draft education specification, along with other documents referenced here, will be posted to the Janney SIT Facilities section of www.Janneyschool.org within the .pdf within the week)*

Richard Smith provided an overview of three site plan options (to be posted to www.JanneySchool.org). Option 1 placed the addition on the Western side of the Janney school. Option 2 placed the addition at the rear of the building, with low classroom facilities extending into the existing playspace; Option 3 also placed the addition at the rear, with the addition stacked higher to allow for more play space.

The project will be a "design-build" using two separate contractors. Mr. Butler noted that the date for submissions is currently slated for late April 09, but will soon be pushed back. The RFP for this project has been released, and request for information sessions have already been held, with attendance from 28 different firms.

Discussion items revolved largely around:

- Design constraints: These included: a) Ensuring that PK, K and 1st grade classes have access to ground level, for fire egress routes (code), b) the large oak tree on the west side of Janney was discussed, c) discussion of the historical preservation of the large stairwell windows.
- Additional Design Options: In addition to the 3 schematics provided, two additional design options were discussed, and will be mocked up by OPEFM: 1) an extension of Janney addition Westward, which utilizes the downward slope for additional classroom space, particularly for the PK and K classes providing egress at the “next level down”. 2) a multi-story addition on the same footprint as the existing Janney multi-purpose room.
- Program – Number of students assumed for enrollment. The Ed Specification template begins with an assumption that the new Janney will have capacity to serve 550 students. It was confirmed that this is a placeholder number, and that input from the Janney community could voice to influence this number downward. It was unclear whether the budget for the project was directly tied to this number.
- Phasing and scheduling: It is not yet known how the modernization to the existing Janney facility will be phased in, and whether budget dollars will be available in summer 2009, summer 2010, or a combination. The breadth and depth of the modernization of the existing facility (Phase I, Phase II, Phase III – or “Full Modernization”) is not yet known, and will impact the scheduling and phasing. The ambitious nature of the overall timeline was called into question. The question of whether and how students would ever need to ‘swing’ to new space during construction was raised. It appeared feasible that swinging out of space could be avoided. Also called into question was the phasing of other projects on the same block (Library build, Bon Secour build) and need for sequencing and integration.
- Parking: The group discussed several ideas for how the Janney facility and acreage can be optimized for teacher parking while maximizing play-space for Janney students. Ideas included trying to secure parking for teachers at other local establishments (BestBuy/City parking; WholeFoods); and/or placing some parking underneath a Janney addition on the North and West side of the plot.

Current list of teacher, parents, and community members on the Janney SIT Facilities Committee. Members were nominated by the LSRT and reviewed by Dr. Crews for final invitation. The key criteria used in making the ultimate selection for the committee: For teachers: high-levels of interest in participating, in addition to adequate role representation across teachers, staff, specialists, and administrators; For parents: high-levels of past engagement with Janney facilities issues for parents, and key areas of content expertise.

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