

# The Akron Architectural Group

Braun & Steidl Architects ■ GPD Group ■ Hasenstab Architects, Inc. ■ Moody Nolan, Inc. ■ TC Architects, Incorporated ■ URS

## AKRON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

### Community Introduction Meeting Regarding Robinson Community Learning Center Thursday, March 10, 2005 - 6:00 p.m.

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#### In Attendance

|                   |               |
|-------------------|---------------|
| J. Wheeler.....   | AAG           |
| T. Long.....      | City of Akron |
| T. Tatom.....     | City of Akron |
| B. Ford.....      | City of Akron |
| J. George.....    | APS           |
| J. Beal.....      | APS           |
| D. Bent.....      | APS           |
| K. Martin.....    | APS           |
| R. Hotchkiss..... | APS           |
| D. James.....     | APS           |
| T. Bialota.....   | APS           |
| K. James.....     | APS           |
| J. Naidu.....     | APS           |
| M. Campbell.....  | APS           |
| M. Ambrose.....   | APS           |
| T. Collier.....   | APS           |

*Note:* There were at least two public members with students in school that did not sign the attendance sheet.

#### Distribution

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|--------------------|----------------------|
| M. Salopek.....    | AAG                  |
| D. Mitchell.....   | AAG                  |
| D. James.....      | Akron Public Schools |
| J. Beal.....       | Akron Public Schools |
| K. Balchak.....    | Akron Public Schools |
| R. Jones.....      | Akron Public Schools |
| L. Duncan.....     | City of Akron        |
| T. Long.....       | City of Akron        |
| M. Williamson..... | City of Akron        |

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A welcome was given by J. Naidu, the Acting Principal, with an introduction of the APS staff, AAG Architects, City of Akron Officials, and D. James, Executive Director of Business Affairs. D. James gave a brief introduction of those in the audience from the APS Staff, T. Long of Urban Planning and Development, L. Jennings of Burgess and Burgess, and J. Wheeler of AAG.

A video presentation was given by APS as a description of the process by which the Community Learning Centers will be developed, along with an explanation of the partnership between the City of Akron and the Akron Public Schools and how Issue 10 provides funding for the new construction projects.

J. Beal and T. Long presented partnership possibilities via a Power Point presentation and stressed the critical role that residents play in identifying program requirements for the Community Learning Center in their neighborhood.

The status of the APS master plan was reviewed with a description of those schools involved in Phase 1A, that should come on-line in 2006, and Phase 1B that we are currently beginning at Robinson. Important items discussed were the need for everyone present to do as much as possible to encourage additional participation from the community and surrounding neighborhood for future meetings. It is imperative that everyone provide input to facilitate the design of a program that accommodates the needs of the local community.

Also reviewed were the project timeline and the need to move forward in the next three months with this Program of Requirements (POR).

J. Wheeler explained the beginning program for Robinson Community Learning Center. Currently, the design is scheduled for 450 students and a proposed building size of 54,842 square feet. This new building is to be constructed on the existing site utilizing the existing school during construction as swing space and then moving into the new school and demolition of the existing building.

J. Wheeler reviewed some of the basics for a 450-student school design, noting a number of classrooms, special education classrooms, and additional locally-funded initiatives above and beyond what the Ohio School Facilities Commission standard funded amounts provide for a 450-student model.

J. Wheeler reiterated points made by D. James in the video about the Ohio School Design Manual (O.S.D.M.). He stated that this manual is the "Bible" or "Cookbook" for the standard classroom and educational spaces within the school. He also noted that it is important for teachers and parents to become involved in the upcoming meetings to help decide beyond what is in this manual what should be incorporated into this school.

The slides showed examples of classroom spaces, media center, art rooms, music rooms, and assembly spaces. J. Wheeler then opened the meeting for design questions and provided answers to the audience.

T. Long and J. Beal finished the slide show with a review of the definition of Community Learning Center and the fact that input is important because residents and community leaders need to assess community desires and the City of Akron, Akron Public Schools, and Burgess and Burgess will identify and recruit potential providers and partners. The City and Akron Public Schools will evaluate and adjust the design to accommodate additional programs developed.

T. Long and J. Beal explained Locally Funded Initiatives (LFI) and the need to identify design elements that are not part of the State requirements for education spaces. They noted that the community must take responsibility for working with the City and Schools to identify and recruit partners able to assume the costs. An example of potential partnerships was given....Helen Arnold Community Learning Center and the Urban League. Other potential partnerships with the YMCA, Boys and Girls Club, and healthcare providers were noted.

At the conclusion of the slide show, D. James asked for additional questions and noted that there will be a site visit to Allen Elementary, part of the Canton City Schools, on Saturday, March 19, 2005. All should meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Board of Education at 70 N. Broadway.

The next Community Planning Meeting will take place on March 24, 2005 at 6:00 p.m. Volunteers are needed for the Community Planning Team as well as the Roll-Up-Your-Sleeves Team that will facilitate the design and programming of spaces.

Follow-up questions and discussions indicated potential community service outreach items that could be included in this school. Comments were noted as follows:

- Community service providing a dental clinic.
- A weekend backpack of food.

- Complementing programs currently provided by Joy Park.
- A potential summer food provider.
- Connection to or cooperation with Joy Park CSB, East Akron Community Center, Butch Reynolds Program.
- Childcare during the next meeting so more can attend.

D. James thanked everyone for their attendance and encouraged all to bring another person to the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:00 p.m.

The preceding is AAG's interpretation of the meeting. Any changes, additions, or clarifications should be forwarded to our office as soon as possible. Unless these changes are furnished within ten (10) working days, it will be understood that all parties are in agreement with the preceding statements.