

Date December 9 and 16, 2009

Subject Central Catholic High School 75th Anniversary Master Plan Student Meetings

Present Central Catholic students, faculty moderator, Boora team

Mapping exercise

- The campus is very active: all exterior doors are used and students circulate across the courtyard and east parking area.

What about the school works well?

- There are two ways to get everywhere
- The science & library intersection; the science classrooms because they are big and nice
- The courtyard; it acts as a secondary path through the school and is a good place to eat lunch
- Performing Arts Center; it isn't huge but works well for plays and class meetings

What could work better?

- Cafeteria; it is overcrowded, with students sitting in the hallway, courtyard, on the stairs.
- Gym entrance; This is one of the main entries to the school yet it is congested and not welcoming.
- Library; it fills up fast for study hall and it closes at 4pm

Are there spaces or amenities that are missing?

- Student store
- A common room: See additional brainstorming at end of notes.

What features would improve your learning experience?

- Better desks; more comfortable, larger sized, and easier for left-handed students to use.
- More natural light; it was noted the east wing is dark and many windows have cages on them.
- Larger classrooms
- Projection equipment, especially for social studies, English, and language courses
- Larger white boards at the front of every classroom; maybe smart boards

Sustainability:

Boora introduced the major sustainability features that can be incorporated into the Master Plan: transportation management, on-site power generation, water reclamation, recycling/composting. The students were aware of most of the strategies and enthusiastic about implementing them. They felt the student body would be supportive, especially if the intentions were explained and publicized. They thought the science faculty would be eager to incorporate these strategies into their curriculum.

The students were asked to develop a “program” for a Commons Room. They indicated it should allow for: art shows, study halls, workspace, lunch, after-school hang-out, and a student store. They suggested the room have big doors that open onto a plaza, pin up walls and movable art walls, display, a mini café cart, couches and sectionals, and a fireplace. They thought the best location for this space would be adjacent to the counseling center for easy access of those resources.

The students also brainstormed possible uses the lots adjacent to the school. A waiting area could be created along 24th street (preferably covered) for use before sports practices or rides home. It was noted that this area is close to the front door and the gym entrance. The lot could house a large garden, water collection ponds, educational space for a science classroom or a place for a class about personal choices, a fountain, a plaza, benches, and bike racks (would need to be secure). The vegetable garden could be open to the community or used for growing food for the school salad bar; alternately, all the produce could be donated to the Blanchet house. There could be a compost program.

END OF MEETING NOTES