

SEATTLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS BEX IV COMMUNITY MEETING

MARCH 12, 2015

LOYAL HEIGHTS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

#	<u>Comment/Question</u>	<u>Response/Answer</u>	<u>Responder</u>
1	Why would you priority play space for just Kindergartners? Why not take that space for general play? All ages should integrate as they do today.	It isn't necessarily just for the Kindergartners. There should be equal access to all of the students. It will be up to the administration as to the use of the courtyard.	LF
2	Is the interior courtyard going to be dark, cold, and creepy because it will be surrounded by 2 and 3 story walls?	It is the goal of the architect to avoid dark, cold and creepy in this space. Consideration to the 3 story is a factor. Getting as much sunlight in as possible is the goal.	LF
3	We should have more play space because: 1. People will be cramped and will tell other people how foul this school is because there is no play space. 2. We need play space to do team sports and team sports help us with teamwork and trust.	Curious as to how team sports happened on the oval. Looking for a creative way to solve different options for more flexibility on the play area – so that the play space can be designed for different zones.	LF
4	What is the interior play area going to include? Kindergartners need a <u>lot</u> of room to run around, as they are new to the fulltime school.	This needs to be explored. Kindergartens can also utilize the main outdoor play area.	SM
5	Will we have to fire and hire teachers? Which teachers will we have to fire?	No teachers will be fired. Hiring teachers will depend on program and demand.	WF
6	Why are all of your pictures of the existing play space all dark, gloomy, small, and of poor quality? Whereas your proposed play areas are all bright, sunny, large, colorful and of a high quality?	The boards presented examples of successful play spaces to explore what opportunities the new spaces could provide to the students and community.	Tom R.
7	It looks like, upon completion, we'll have a computer lab, art room, science room, OT/PT room, counselor, etc. That's great. Any though about hiring the staff that would be using these rooms for the 2015-16 school year instead of waiting until the new building is completed?	Staffing for each fall is done in the prior spring. We are not allocated funds to hire for years ahead.	WF

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8	<p>The decision discussed is based on premises that the community does not agree on. 660 students are not consistent with the growth of the current area served by L.H. (This introduces enormous issues on traffic management and safety, not to mention how it clashes with current storm water management plans in the area). Moreover, the word is that the max capacity (beyond the target 660) is closer to 800! We argue with the wisdom of trying to place such a large amount of students in an area so small, overloading the already “compact” open space (only) available within walking distance. It is not a matter of design; it is a matter of <u>program</u>. The impact on the community is simply too big. This meeting is “skipping ahead” and shifting the attention from what to how.</p> <p>Pietro Potesta – pietro@alcovaarch.com</p>	<p>JW- the project will expand Loyal Heights’ capacity to 660 students to assist in accommodating current overcrowding and future growth in NW Seattle. Expansions of other schools and re-opening of the Webster/Nordic Heritage site are under study and will likely be recommended by staff for future levies.</p> <p>While “the word” may be a new capacity of 800, the reality is 660.</p>	JW/RB
9	<p>What do we do about all community events - Jogathon, etc. with no outdoor space?</p>	<p>We will figure out appropriate alternatives case by case. Thinking out of the box it may have to be a combination of spaces like playground, gym and covered play.</p>	WF
10	<p>How are the homes around the school going to have their property values maintained?</p>	<p>Historically property values increase after neighborhood schools are improved.</p>	SM
11	<p>Monkey bars! We need them... our kids LOVE the abundance of them at this school.</p>	<p>Great suggestion, thank you.</p>	
12	<p>What are the plans for site design and outdoor play? How much of existing “green area” is being removed for future improvements not shown on your drawings?</p>	<p>In option One, we are saving a small play area and planter near the SE corner of the site. We hope to save planting around the perimeter of the field. The play areas are in the process of collaboration, and design and will be presented to the community, at each phase in the design.</p>	DP/TR

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13	I like your playground design that has 1/3 hardtop, 1/3 play structure, 1/3 field best. L.H. is amazing right now because it has so many monkey bars and the kids are so active. Please don't make them lose that! Also, I know there is a lot of modern and different playground equipment, but please put in the equipment that makes kids move – monkey bars rock! I would also like a full court basketball court. Maybe 2 baskets could be turned opposite each other so that kids could play a game, even if it is a short court.	The 1/3 scheme has been a preferred option by a number of people, and we will look into that in more detail in the next phase of design. We will also look into equipment for kid movement and consider safety and play surfacing as part of the design. We had a number of comments on the basketball court and will consider all the options for games as well for basketball court design.	DP/TR
14	How will the school attendance boundaries change? Will 50% enrollment growth be occurring in the current L.H. zone?	JW -The Board approved an expanded attendance boundary for LHES on 11.20.13. It can be viewed by selecting Loyal Heights at: http://bit.ly/GrowthBoundaries-future-maps .	JW/RB
15	With the additional 310 students coming from a further distance from the school, a much higher percentage of them will be driven or bussed in. Have you considered this in your traffic planning?	JW - All but the far northeastern corner of the expanded boundary will be in the school's walk zone.	JW/RB
16	Originally, the expansion was going to happen at North Beach Elementary. They have a <u>HUGE</u> lot. Why did the plan change?	I don't know that it did change. Don't think North Beach was ever considered as being part of BEX IV. It may have initially been discussed, but it was never analyzed as being part of BEX IV.	RB
17	Are the funds for building the new school already procured?	Yes, they're part of our BEX IV Levy Program. We do have funds to build this school.	RB
18	Why can't North Beach Elementary absorb some of the population growth with an expansion of their school?	JW – Loyal Heights is geographically closer to the areas where enrollment growth has and is projected to occur (Ballard, Crown Hill).	RB
19	What will happen to existing play structure?	Depending on the play structure's condition, components may be re-used or it will be recycled. After a certain age or condition, play structures can no longer be certified.	SM
20	Why not add another story to the building?	This is the proposed design	SM
21	What is the district doing to consider other options like the current Nordic Heritage Museum building?	JW – Staff is developing data (cost estimates, space planning etc.) for re-opening the Webster/Nordic Heritage site as a neighborhood elementary school.	RB

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22	Kindergartners need more play space. They should be in the large area with the other kids.	Agreed. Play is an important part of our educational program. We will look at trying to maximize play space for Kindergarten through 5 th grade.	RB
23	Is there money allocated for the play area – specifically, the field? We need it upgraded!!	We have a project budget that does allocate dollars for the play area. SPS always partners with our PTA to help get some playground equipment and will likely do for Loyal Heights E.S. as well.	RB
24	You say Seattle is expanding, but this neighborhood isn't (single family housing). How many of the new 310 students will live in the existing boundary?	Most of the new 310 students will live in the existing boundary and most will walk to this school. The boundaries of this school are in the walk zone and the future boundaries of this school are within the walk zone.	RB
25	Why don't you consider building larger schools on the larger lots? Adams, Whittier, North Beach, etc.	We are considering building similar size schools. The elementary educational model for SPS is either at three classrooms at grade level or four classrooms at grade level with some flex spaces.	RB
26	Why add so many students here? Why not split between here and North Beach? Or put all 200 at North Beach and expand it as the site is much larger?	We have future expansion plans for North Beach as well. They are not part of BEX IV, but they are part of our long-range in our expansion facilities plan.	RB
27	What is being done with the building that now holds Nordic Heritage Museum? Owned by SPS.	We are looking at bringing Nordic Heritage Museum back online. Current occupants are building a new facility and will be vacating in about two years. We are planning on renovating immediately after that happens. A \$23mil request is in front of the legislature to bring Magnolia back online as well as \$5mil request to bring E.C. Hughes back online.	RB
28	How likely is any feedback or input we give tonight likely to influence or change the plan as it stands?	Yes, there will be an impact on the plan as it stands. Community Meetings are occurring because we want to hear the concerns.	RB
29	In 50 years the population will most certainly be greater. I encourage you to imagine this property preserved as much of an open space as possible, because it will not exist.	Agreed. We have tremendous capacities problems today.	RB

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30	Dr. Herndon, SPS Assistant Superintendent, stated that the flex classrooms would be used to absorb population bubbles. Have you changed your mind?	No, we haven't changed our minds. Flex classrooms will definitely be used to handle the populations bubbles. They will also be used to address some queries about what K-3 may look like.	RB
31	Are there safe routes to school measures being taken with this project?	The Safe Routes to School Committee will be engage on this project.	SM
32	A good way to increase the play area would be to close 77 th St. between 26 th Ave. and add the R.O.W. to the playground. This could be done without much disruption to traffic patterns and could add approximately 16,000 sq ft to the play area. Has this been explored? - Martin Crahan	This idea will be explored with the City. The decision to vacate a street is up to the City Council. There are standard policies available to view online. As this is a residential street in a single family zone, they generally do not approve vacations. Also, they do not like to vacate streets that cause dead end or dog leg alleys.	TM
33	What can we, as a community, do to potentially expand the play area to the south? Buying sidewalk from the city, perhaps decreasing the parking strip width/sidewalk width?	This will be explored with the City	SM
34	How are we going to accommodate the increased traffic and parking? Neighbors are already upset with parking problems.	Evaluations are continuing by Heffron. Information obtained from these studies will provide more information to see what will happen to the local operations around the school.	TM
35	How will traffic be managed during school hours? It's already congested.	Evaluations are continuing by Heffron. Information obtained from these studies will provide more information to see what will happen to the local operations around the school.	TM
36	Will there be an Environmental Impact Statement and Master Plan study with opportunity for community input done? And when?	There is an Environmental Impact Statement currently being drafted. There will be a notice from the Department of Neighborhoods regarding opportunity to publically discuss departures on this project. The notice should be received in the next month.	SM
37	Will the project <u>for sure</u> be complete for students to move back in at the proposed date?	Yes	SM

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38	After construction of the school, are there plans to repave and improve the surrounding streets and sidewalks?	The conditions will be reviewed by SDOT and requirements identified in the Street Improvement Plan.	SM
39	Considering how small and congested the streets – 26 th , 77 th , and 27 th are, why would the buses and delivery trucks use 26 th ? Why not keep buses on 80 th for ease of accessibility and safety of families walking to school?	The loading and unloading of buses on 80 th will be explored. Trucks already use 26 th to access the waste and recycling containers for the school.	SM
40	Have you explored closing 77 th and absorbing that space into the playground?	The decision to vacate a street is up to the City Council. There are standard policies available to view online. As this is a residential street in a single family zone, they generally do not approve vacations. Also, they do not like to vacate streets that cause dead ends.	TM
41	Are the dawn redwood trees being removed at the bus drop off? Are these a “significant grove” per City of Seattle exceptional tree ordinance?	The dawn redwood trees are significant per the City. The removal or salvaging to these trees will be discussed with City arborist. The trees are causing damage to sidewalk and street.	SM
42	There are rooms for programs we don’t have now. Will we have those programs in the new school and who is funding them?	Again, that funding will be place the spring prior to the fall of those programs. SPS will fund most and PTA may supplement some.	WF
43	Does the “childcare” area mean that there will be a preschool with children there all day or just the same before and after care?	The childcare facility will support before and after care as it does currently but will also house preschool during the day.	SM
44	What does art/science mean? Will it be an art room with art equipment and an art teacher? Or science? Not sure how it can be both.	The rooms are labeled because they need a title. The needs of our school in three years will be considered and staffed appropriately. It could be either or neither.	WF
45	Will the play area be open? Have big open spaces for sports? If you stay after school/during your will see how many kids play self-organized games.	Everyone is encouraged to stop by and review plans. There are possibilities for that.	LF
46	Will the building/gym be open for use on the weekends?	The building gym is not open now for weekends, but if someone wanted to use it they could contact the district.	EB
47	Where are all the teachers/staff going to park?	Presently, there is no parking for the teachers onsite. Teachers will continue to park on the street.	LF

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48	What would be the possibility of getting historic status revoked?	The district negotiates with the Landmarks Committee as much as possible so that the best program is made available. It doesn't seem likely that it will be revoked.	EB
49	How is the historic character of the building going to be preserved?	The building has been nominated and most certain will be designated. The district negotiates with the Landmarks Committee as much as possible regarding controls and incentives so that the best program is made available.	EB
50	Has anyone considered a playground on the roof of the new floor to be added?	Yes, it has been considered. There are some urban sites that have playground areas on the roof; this means more additional structure plus a high wall or fence with a fenced roof.	LF
51	Have you considered adding a 3 rd floor instead of expanding across the playfield? Is this or is this not possible and why?	Yes, a 3 rd floor has been considered. Also examining if they can expand further. City code requires specific areas to be located on the 1 st floor.	LF
52	What trees on campus are being saved?	Refer to site plan. Tree Solutions, the arborist, has done a tree assessment. They have categorized every tree on site by caliper and size and type of tree. We are required by the city to do that. If the trees that are significant have a diameter of at least 24; trees that are 36 or larger are considered exceptional and are difficult to cut down. There are approximately 6 exceptional trees in the front of the building.	EB
53	I compliment the architects on honoring the historic façade and pulling back the 3 rd story. Also making entry through arched part of the building. Adjacencies of program elements are good. Like idea of larger space of gym and lunchroom. (Only concerns are site issues)	Thank you for your comment	

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54	Can bus drop off happen without removing significant planting of dawn redwood trees?	These trees are considered significant. Conversations with the city about these trees as there are impacts to the sidewalks and street panels (heaving). We will discuss further about keeping or removing those trees.	SM
55	Consider one way loop of streets – could potentially have street trees on both 25 th and 26 th if pullouts not installed.	One way loop of streets will be investigated with SDOT, but unlikely. Installation of street trees is a condition of the Master Use Permit / Street Improvement Plan.	SM
56	Consider bus parking at curb and limbing up trees.	Will be reviewed	SM
57	Consider 80 th St. as bus drop off.	Will be reviewed with SDOT	SM
58	Consider trees in new play area. One of the nice things about the current playground area the large pines the kids play underneath. Bring nature in! Consider water play. Consider compost and urban agriculture.	Good suggestion	
59	Consider using the central courtyard as quiet contemplative play area with nature (native plants) to give students and opportunity for a variety of experiences outside.	Good suggestion	
60	Do you have outdoor lab/discovery play?	There are opportunities to have outdoor labs in the courtyard, roof top planting bed, and throughout the site.	SM
61	Thank you. This is not easy for the consultants.	Thank you	
62	With regards to the courtyard, are there classrooms that have windows facing it – and are there kids playing in the courtyard at the same time? It seems that this will be a big distraction for the teachers and the students.	We will need to be thoughtful and careful about is the types of activities that we promote out there as well as the timing and the adjacencies. Whatever use you put in the interior of the space where there’s adjacent learning going on, you have to be very thoughtful and careful considering acoustics and distractions. There are things that can be done on both sides of the fence.	LF

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63	Bus unloading zone – a resident who lives on 26 th . It’s already congested with the loading dock, delivery trucks, buses loading and unloading. Has 80 th been considered?	The idea behind what’s on the plan right now is that we want to have an entrance to the school on the east side and the west side. That makes good sense. It makes good sense to have the main entrance and main vehicular access for drop off on both sides. Depending on how many buses are servicing the school, the impact may be minimal.	WF
64	With the increase in traffic, are there ways that the infrastructure can be designed to encourage walking and biking – perhaps moving the cars away from directly in front of the entrance and making that a more pleasant way to walk or bike in?	The space that we have to build is minimal. A big strategy will be to minimize the building footprint as much as possible so that we have the least amount of impact to the playground. Going east/west makes sense as it preserves playground area. Likely, the drop off zone is going to be a dedicated zone in front of the school. Are we going to put things out in the right-of-way? We will not be allowed to.	DP
65	With increase the new plans reflect, in 2018 approximately ½ to 1/3 of the students will not be within walking distance and will have to be bused in. It will not be just the immediate neighborhood as it has been.	Recent review of the 2015 and 2019 boundaries show that the walking areas outside the boundaries – with one exception of an area being added outside the walking area. But for the most part, the boundaries for this school are in the walking area. We are expanding the boundaries, but most of it is within the walking boundary.	RB
66	Is there a plan for where bike racks are going to be – that isn’t on the playground?	Yes. We will have bike racks on the site. We are currently in design. Do we know where at this time? No. But on another project (Genesee Hill), covered storage is being provided. We may do something similar. Further discussion is occurring. It will be wherever the kids have the easiest and most secure access.	TR
67	Would the design issues be easier to solve if the boundaries were written so that the buses weren’t necessarily so important and that the quality of children that are being provided for here would be less – and all the other issues would simply resolve themselves?	The task is to build a school for 660 students. This was approved in the BEX IV Levy. This is the direction that has been given and communicated by the voters. Promises made; promises kept. We are going to work with you to minimize the impact on your neighborhoods. But we have been given direction for 660 students.	RB

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68	Resident living near the loading dock – very narrow street. How do you plan on addressing the fact that there are trucks coming in and out, backing in and out of that area? Because this will impact the area where there will cars will be parked.	This will be part of the design process – how that loading and unloading zone works with the building and how the trucks will maneuver in and out. The typical delivery truck is around 40 feet, about the length of a school bus.	EB
69	There are currently two rooms for computer labs. Over a 50-year time frame, it doesn't seem that computer labs will be helpful. Likely, students will carry their own devices with them into the classrooms.	This question has been posed before. The answer that is given is that these spaces are necessary for testing and the way that tests are done. These spaces are also built as a flexible space, so the use could change in the future.	DP
70	Follow-up to a comment regarding traffic and delivery trucks – have seen trucks come down the streets and then drives ON to the playground and across the playground. This is a safety issue.	Separation of playground and service yard is very important.	SM
71	If everyone is going to be in the walking zone except for a small portion, what are the 5 school buses for?	There is 1 bus with the current student enrollment. We are probably overestimating the number of buses, just for planning purposes. There will be Special Needs buses that come along with the other buses.	EB
72	Childcare program – the size of it. Is there going to be an expansion of the existing before and after care, or is there also going to be a preschool like some City of Seattle elementary schools, such as Addams where the students are there all day?	Yes. This will be in addition to the 660. They will have their own play space. They are generally certified for 25 children, but in other schools both spaces are not utilized for the all day care but are used more for before and after programs. So one classroom will be used for before and after and the other will be used for all day.	EB
73	With two art rooms or art/science, I assume that will mean that there will be an art teacher in an art classroom with art as an existing part and not as an adjunct?	The schools are staffed according to the population that they have, so they are allocated teachers based on the number of students. So an art teacher would be a specialized teacher (a curriculum choice). Presently, there's Spanish, Music and P.E. so it could be added but three years from now it's hard to say what will be allocated as far as staff.	WF

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74	<p>With regards to the target number, the growth to 660 does not seem to be consistent with the growth of the area currently served by Loyal Heights. This is pointing the finger at the fact that we are bringing in more people from driving distance. There doesn't seem to be a plan to address traffic issues brought by the increased number of students that will be from farther than walking distance. The One-Size-Fits-All 660 model plopped on a lot of this size in a community of this size does not seem to be a good fit for this community. A meeting of this size with this many people to handle it is a way to divert the attention to how we achieve the 660 goal vs. WHY are we going for a 660 goal? It is too high for this community and for this specific space. It is bringing problems in this area that you're not ready to handle – simply have not coordinated enough with all of the city departments to handle.</p>	<p>Seattle Schools is growing by 1,000 students on an annual basis – on an elementary school level. This will mean a need for seats at middle schools and high schools. We're looking for bringing Lincoln High School back online in 2019. We're looking at making additions to multiple middle schools. There are several schools that we no longer own that have been turned into different uses. There are several schools that we have leased to other organizations that we're looking to bring back online. Magnolia is closed and we are looking opening that up and a request is before the state legislature. We are also looking at bringing E.C. Hughes back online. It is currently being used by a private school. We have tremendous capacity problems. Many years ago, classroom sizes were significantly smaller. There is more information being gathered by the consultants and more information will be provided to the community once additional studies are done.</p>	RB