

St. Joseph's-Alexander McKay Elementary School

Steering Team (SST) Meeting

Meeting Minutes #5-via MS Teams

Date: February 7th, 2024

Time: 6:00-7:00 PM

Attendees:

Name	Organization
Cory Schlievert	Project Director, Capital & Operations, EECD
Tyler Bell	Project Executive, Capital & Operations, EECD
Ed Burley	Project Manager, DPW
Colin Carrigan	Design Team Lead, DPW
Cheyenne Gorman-Tolliver	Principal, St. Joseph's-Alexander McKay Elementary
Creighton Barrett	Parent & SAC Member, St. Joseph's-Alexander McKay Elementary
Omar Elsherif	Manager, Building Infrastructure, DPW
Matt Flewwelling	Capital Manager, Halifax Regional Centre for Education
Amy Hynes	Stantec Design Consultant
Kavita Khanna (Chair)	Director of Operations Services, Halifax Regional Centre for Education
Pedro Martinez	Stantec
Geoff Olsson	Coordinator of Maintenance, Halifax Regional Centre for Education
Paul Lenarczyk	Parent, Educator & SAC Member, St. Joseph's-Alexander McKay Elementary
Krista Ranahan	Director, Education Infrastructure, DPW
Roger Tulk	Project Manager, Stantec
Melanie Ross-Breen	Principal, Halifax Regional Arts

1. Call to order

- Kavita Khanna called to order the St. Joseph's-Alexander McKay Elementary (SJAM) SST meeting #5 at 6:00 PM on February 7th, 2024
- This urgent meeting was called to engage the SST on recent siding designs that were adjusted from the original vision shared with the SST last year.

2. Siding Options-Discussion

- KR: The tenders received for the new SJAM school were significantly higher than budgeted. There were significant savings by changing the original proposed siding,

however the overall façade look has changed. Following up on options generated are considerably different from those previously shown.

- RT: Stantec received the feedback on the overall look on the project, that the elementary look was lost. They tried to recapture the original look of the school, which is being presented in the meeting.
- KK: A considerable amount of work and thought has gone into this – recognize the time gone into work to develop the best options within the current constraints.
- Consultation with the community to get some feedback – CGT – suggested the opportunity to include inclusive ed coordinator.
- AH: Stantec presented the slide show (see attached). Stantec tried to capture the overall community look, which is inspired by nature – designed for students and faculty – built within a neighborhood – incorporating primary bright colours from the original design.
 - Proposal 1: White, yellow, navy colour blocks
 - CGT: Pleased to see the yellow and navy school colors – interested in stripes.
 - AH: Attempted strips but found the large color block was easier on the eye.
 - RT: Vertical bands become busier – to the point it's too visually contracted and hard on the eyes, getting down to the wire to make these decisions with the contractor.
 - CB: Thinks the design is beautiful and can appreciate the issue with the vertical lines – appreciates the opportunity to look at this – personal opinion is nice – concerned re longevity of material – how long is this material expected to last as compared to the previous material?
 - RT: Original panel system is an insulated metal panel – not the most robust or aesthetically pleasing product – this product is tried and true – a better lasting product – the vertical lines introduced a design challenge to match the original design.
 - CC: large brick wall is a potential venue for a mural – a great canvas opportunity.
 - KK: Connected with Halifax Regional Arts to consider the project for after the school is built.
 - AH: Identified spots around the school that would be suitable for a mural – not currently in scope of this project – community process.
 - KK: Is Halifax Fine Arts is facilitating a community engagement of creating a mural inside the school once the school has been handed to us in its warranty year?

- CGT: Early on there was a proposal for logo on gymnasium floor, mosaic art piece in the front lobby, and a 'living' mural going up the main wall that extends 3 floors built that would "tell the story of the community". Then we learned that the budget for these items would come with fundraising on the school's part. It was determined that the logo on the gym floor was beyond our scope of fundraising. Halifax Regional Arts confirmed they would partner with school in terms of budget for the mosaic and the inside mural and we hosted school & community consultations on the ideas for both pieces. HRA is on our SST and are ready to begin the next phase of planning.
- KK: Follow a similar process for the outside mural.
- CB: Is there an opportunity to put some yellow on the back of the school (Kaye St. side) to compliment a potential mural on that side?
- RT: Agreed that would be a good idea to investigate and we can consider putting some yellow there to tie things together.
- AH: Remember there will be lots of trees in front of the grey brick façade.
- CB: What about the Kaye Street entrance?
- RT: There might be an opportunity to consider a slight accent – but don't want to make too busy to compete with front of school – possibility to put colour on the metal louvers on the large grey panels in the back.
- AH: Opportunity for design on glass in the back entryway – try to get the best bones to build from – support opportunities to build on all three levels.
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- The SJAM Façade Presentation was shared with SST Members on February 8th, 2004

Questions about the presentation:

- CGT: Question- Inquires who is at the table when the design changes are being proposed?
- RT: Answer-It is a round table discussion between Stantec/DPW/Contractor and HRCE & EECD.
- CGT: Question- Inquired if any community members were at the table as the sense from the community is that they have not been included. It will also be great to ensure even diversity consultants are engaged during the design phase.
- KK: Answer-Want to clarify that HRCE was not at the design table when the options were being discussed. HRCE was asked to provide feedback in January on the colors and the feedback from the Principal was also incorporated
- CB: Question-Overall it's a good design. Concerned about the longevity of the material, would this support sustainable future renovations?

- RT: Answer- The original panel wasn't an insulated designed panel. A new product is tried and has very good material, a better end product, downside is the vertical line into the design.
- CB: Answer- The ground level on the north side elevation is gray area, which would be a potential opportunity for a mural.
- CB: Question-Could there be more color added to this elevation in the design?
- KK: Question-Would it add conflict if a mural was approved?
RT: Answer-The presentation with the final design will be shared to gather additional information from the group. Getting feedback promptly is extremely critical to ensure that it doesn't impact the schedule of the project.

3. Project updates-Discussion

- EB: The project has been awarded to the Marco group– able to navigate challenging construction environment and respond to current weather – SJAM Milestone Schedule
- RT: Large milestone for local authorities to begin systems inspections.
- KR: Important to have the building weather tight before the next winter-season arrives.
- CB: Playground is an important component for school start.
- KK: Accessible design standard – need to be compliant with those standards.
- HRCE is requesting DPW to add the requirements from the joint accessibility plan to the playground design
- RT: Confirmed landscaping and playground is part of Marco's work contract. Sloped outdoor play space is an opportunity, slide built in, seating – still have the basketball courts, and first in NS a rooftop play area
- RT: Will provide final proposal-flag Kaye St side, potential for the mural.

Questions about the project updates:

- KK: Question-HRCE would like to have the building handed over by the end of June 2025 to ensure that we can be ready to welcome students in September 2025
- EB: Answer-Discussions are ongoing with Marco on the possibility of a phased completion of the building.
- PL: Question-There is a big gap in milestones. Building weather-tight (Nov 24) and Start Furniture Installation (May 25), what happens between weathertight and install furniture?
- EB: Answer-There's a lot of work that goes on in between that time which includes electrical, mechanical and finishes within the building interior.

- CB: Question-will the playground design have the opportunity for community input?
- KR: Answer-Contract includes a standard playground – equal for every school – some communities decide to fundraise and enhance community – was this considered?
- CGT: Question-is the playground accessible?
- KR: Answer-Not wheelchair accessible – DPW is looking into this in future builds.
- CB: Question-When can we expect the landscaping and playground to be completed?
- EB: Answer-This will be all completed as a part of the Substantial Completion milestone, which is all under Marco’s contract. Substantial completion is when the landscape and playground work are completed.
- RT: The rooftop is to support additional space as the current playground is the main challenge. There was a consultation with the community about the playground. Some concerns were raised that it was a standard playground that doesn’t meet accessibility standards and there is a sloped outdoor play space.
- CGT: Question-Roof top play area, how will it be fenced? Is there an option for clear fencing? What about snow removal?
- RT: Answer: Safety considerations have been incorporated. There will be no chain link fencing and the fencing will not be climbable. Also need to consider surfacing to ensure those in wheelchairs can access it. Removable gates will allow for snow removal.
- KK: Question-Is there a field?
- KR: Answer-No space to add a new field for this school.

SJAM Milestone Schedule	
SJAM - Project Milestone	Date
Mobilization	Jul-23
Earthworks Start	Jul-23
Foundation Start	Sep-23
Superstructure Start	Feb-24
Foundation and substructure complete	Mar-24
Structure complete	May-24
Envelope Start	Jun-24
Building Weather Tight	Nov-24
Start Furniture Installation	May-25
Commissioning Start	Jun-25
Substantial Completion	Jul-25
Total Completion	Aug-25

4. Next Meeting

- During the construction phase the SST will continue to receive report updates to monitor progress. Ad hoc meetings may arise to discuss a deviation from previously discussed (similar to this meeting to discuss the design change of the external façade).

5. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned by Kavita Khanna at 7:00 PM on February 7th. 2024

Post meeting follow up

- Please see the attached presentation shared with the SST members after the meeting on February 7, 2024 with request for their feedback.

Department of Public Works
Saint Joseph Alexander McKay Elementary School

Façade Strategy



A coastal landscape featuring waves crashing against a rocky shore. In the background, a steep hillside is covered with a dense forest of evergreen trees. A road with a guardrail is visible on the right side of the image. The overall scene is captured in a muted, slightly desaturated color palette, giving it a serene and natural feel.

INSPIRED BY
NATURE



DESIGNED FOR
STUDENTS & FACULTY

BUILT WITHIN
NEIGHBOURHOOD



An architectural rendering of a modern school building, St. Joseph's - Alexander McKay School. The building features a facade of white vertical slats with a prominent yellow vertical section and blue accents around the windows. In the foreground, a man and a young child walk hand-in-hand on a curved concrete path. To the left, a basketball court is visible with several children playing. To the right, a colorful playground structure stands on a grassy area. The sky is blue with some clouds, and trees are scattered throughout the scene.

THE DESIGN

ST. JOSEPH'S -
ALEXANDER MCKAY
SCHOOL



ST. JOSEPH'S -
ALEXANDER MCKAY
SCHOOL



ST. JOSEPH'S-
ALEXANDER MCKAY
SCHOOL



SOUTH ELEVATION



EAST ELEVATION



NORTH ELEVATION







WEST ELEVATION