Evening Community Meeting

Three identical Community Educational Visioning Meetings were held on April 4, 2023, to begin the process of establishing initial educational and architectural priorities for MSD's Facility Master Planning effort. Meetings were held at different times of day to accommodate community members' schedules, with an early afternoon meeting taking place at Girls at Work, a mid-afternoon meeting held virtually, and an in-person evening meeting held at the Beech Street Elementary School. Approximately 10 community members attended the virtual meeting (see attendance list below). Project architects SMMA and educational programmer David Stephen (New Vista Design) presented a range of information about the master planning process and collected community feedback on what they see as the key educational and facility development needs of the MSD community. Topics covered in the forum included:

- An overview of the Facility Master Planning process and schedule
- Community Priorities Brainstorm
- Community Design Priorities Brainstorm

A digital polling platform called Mentimeter was used to view and assemble participant feedback. The following meeting notes present an overview of the community feedback collected during the meeting.

Participant List

1. Michelle Bailey — Parent
2. David Bailey — Grandparent
3. John F Bisson — Parent
4. Johanna Clasby — Teacher
5. Kelly Espinola — Principal Mansd
6. Chuck Gasson — Parent
7. Shauna Gragnon — Teacher
8. Shana Hawveylchoh — Non-profit ser. Prov.
9. Patrick Long — Resident
10. Selma Naccach-Hoff — Educator

Design Team

- Martine Dion — SMMA
- Lorraine Finnegan — Design Team Project Manager, SMMA
- Michael McKeown — Dennis Mires, TA
- Dennnis Mires — Dennis Mires Architects
- Andy Oldeman — SMMA
- Rosemary Park — Educational Planner, SMMA
- Phil Poinelli — SMMA
- Erin Prestiteo — SMMA
- Matt Rice — SMMA
- David Stephen — New Vista

Greatest Hopes

When asked to share their greatest hopes for MSD facilities master planning process, meeting attendees shared the following responses, which have been grouped thematically.

Long Term Planning and Real Change

- Develop a Master Plan that excites the Community and provides a path for the future of MSD
- We have been talking for 20 years, how about doing something
- There is an urgent need for change

Community Buy-In

- That this process is embraced by the whole community
- Good education at reasonable price to taxpayers

Equitable, Safe, and Spacious Facilities

- I hope to see facilities that are safe, spacious, and available to all students and community members, no matter where they live
- Security cameras and secure buildings
- Parking and exterior lighting. They should look like we care about education

Expanded Learning Opportunities

- Holistic learning
- Student-centered learning
- Facilities that address the curriculum and recognize that not all students go to four-year college
- Best education possible for the children of Manchester
- I would like to offer students of all learning levels alternative education opportunities. This includes elementary, middle, and high school students

Differentiated Instruction & Special Education

- More Special Education
- More special needs programs
- Hope that the facilities support all types of learners, including those with physical, cognitive, and emotional needs

Project Priorities

The following list of educational, architectural, and community priorities and considerations for the master planning of MSD programs and facilities were brainstormed by participants during the evening Community Meeting. Priorities have been grouped thematically. If you have additional priorities that you would like to add to the list, please email them to David Stephen at: david@newvistadesign.net

Educational Priorities

Student-Centered Learning

- Creating opportunities for our students who don't learn "best" in brick-and-mortar buildings
- Rigorous curriculum, varied course offerings to meet student interest but also teach skills
- Largest diversity in curriculum and learning environments to maximize child's potentials
- Offer culturally informed content e.g., African American studies in high school

Attracting and Retaining Educators

- Continuing to attract and retain great educators
- Need to attract and retain great teachers

Student Support

- Children can't learn if they don't have basic needs met
- Mentoring programs

Collaboration and Alignment

- Time for collaboration both within our own buildings, as well as with colleagues in other buildings
- Approved curriculum that educators are a part of developing
- Better communication between teachers about the needs of students

Architectural Priorities

Safe Community Use and Access
- Community access after hours
- Create community buildings that are available outside of the school day. Bring back the family feel
- Parking and exterior lighting. The buildings should look like we care about education
- Safe drop off and pick up

Safe and Friendly Entry Sequence
- Main offices that are user friendly
- Security Systems

Support for Differentiated Instruction
- Buildings that provide a learning space that is developmentally appropriate, and support differentiated learning
- Privacy between classes
- Chill spaces
- Create a space for students to go to when feeling stressed or overwhelmed
- Varied spaces for learning

Spaces for Movement
- Space for kids to move when they need to take a moment to get energy out to focus

Central Gathering Spaces
- A "heart" of all schools, especially high schools
- Adequate gym space to allow multiple activities especially in elementary schools

Kitchens in All Schools
- Kitchens in every school to allow for fresh food

Library Media Center
- Libraries that attract students to want to read

Outdoor Connections
- Plan for playgrounds at the middle school level

Ventilation and Temperature Control
- Better ventilation so schools can stay open during the next pandemic
- Making better ventilation so kids don't feel stuffed
- Natural light and ventilation to all learning spaces
- Windows that open in every room
- Good air quality during all seasons
- Temperature awareness
- HVAC (air conditioning)
- 4 season-ready HVAC

Transportation
- Buildings with transportation patterns that enable students to have various opportunities for transportation to school (bus options for families who may require it - improving student attendance)

Natural Light
- Natural light to every classroom

Flexible Furniture
- Furniture that allows flexibility for solo work and group project-based work

Community Priorities

Safe Community Use and Access
- Valuable space in every school that is an asset to the community

Follow Through
- Follow through! Since cost will always be an issue in our community, prioritizing most important elements will be essential
- Making meaningful progress even if it is incremental
- There is a real urgency to get things done

Promote Community Pride
- We need to share all the good our district has to offer. This may help with community buy-in and will celebrate our kids

Equity and Access
- Eliminate the great disparities in terms of facilities across the city
- Ensure consistency across schools

Student and Family Resources
- Having after school opportunities available with transportation home to build community within a building
- Facility / shower access to those in need

Pre-School Programming
- Pre-schools distributed across the district

Creative Programming
- Have kids do an outline of their bodies and do different designs in the outlines along with making cooking fun from preschool to high school

Outdoor Maintenance
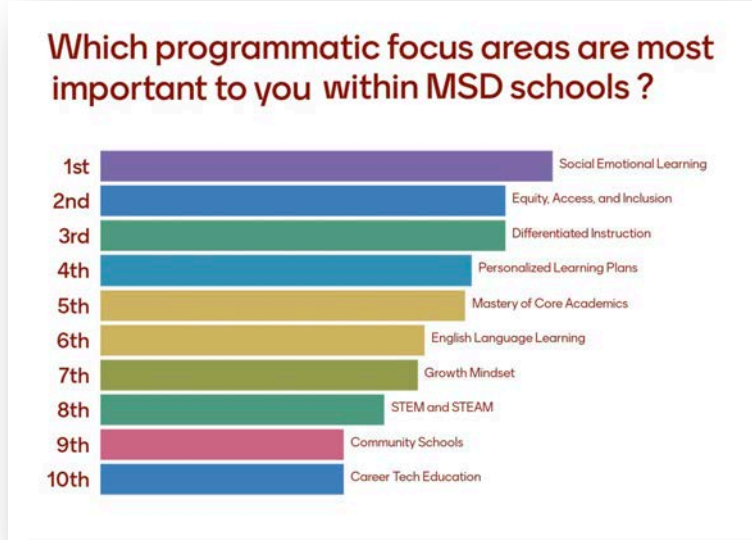- Playground upkeep

Renovation of Schools
- Redevelop Parkside and Southside to properly accommodate four grades

Community Priority Educational Focus Areas

During the Community Meeting, the design team introduced a variety of educational focus areas that have been identified by the district as being of key importance to programming within MSD community School. Participants then had the opportunity to rate these focus areas based on their own priorities, resulting in the following priority listing.

1. Social Emotional Learning
2. Equity and Access
3. Differentiated Instruction
4. Personalized Learning Plans
5. Mastery of Core Academics
6. English Language Learning
7. Growth Mindset
8. STEM and STEAM
9. Community Schools
10. Career Technical Education

Which programmatic focus areas are most important to you within MSD schools ?

1st	Social Emotional Learning
2nd	Equity, Access, and Inclusion
3rd	Differentiated Instruction
4th	Personalized Learning Plans
5th	Mastery of Core Academics
6th	English Language Learning
7th	Growth Mindset
8th	STEM and STEAM
9th	Community Schools
10th	Career Tech Education

Additional Community Priority Educational Focus Areas

When asked to share additional educational focus areas that are most important to them, meeting participants shared the following focus areas which have been organized thematically.

Differentiated Instruction and Supports
- Keeping class sizes small so that personalized learning can occur
- Recognize that not all students go to traditional four-year college and teach them too
- Special Ed student inclusion
- Special programs for "Slife" students, refugees, and education interrupted students
- Trauma resiliency

Digital Literacy
- How to use a computer
- Digital citizenship
- Introduce E-Sports in athletics

STEAM and Hands-On Learning
- More emphasis on STEAM not just STEM. The Humanities — art, music, literature — I inform the human condition
- Home economics, kids need to learn how to run a home. Shop, so our kids know a little about a lot. With high homelessness it's more important than ever

World Languages

The Arts
- Increase Arts programming
- Introduce and dance in the arts

Blue Sky Ideas

When asked to share their Blue-Sky aspirational ideas for renovated and/or new MSD school facilities, meeting participants shared the following ideas which have been grouped thematically.

Student Centered Programs and Buildings
- I love that everything tonight has been student centered

Connections to Nature
- Design with nature, biophilic design
- Enclosed courtyard for students with free classes to relax and study
- An area in the middle of the building, off of the cafe for the students, just like West High has
- Trees and green space in all schools

Technology Equity
- Equitable technology in every space and building

Safety and Welcome
- Making the kids and educators safe and welcomed

Improved Food Service
- Full kitchen in every elementary school

Natatorium

Performing Arts Spaces

Priority Design Patterns 1.0

During the meeting, the group was introduced to 16 "Design Patterns" that represent priorities for and approaches to the design of 21st century school facilities. Participants had the opportunity to vote for and then collectively prioritize which design patterns they thought were most important to consider when renovating or designing new MSD school facilities. The following listing is in priority order based on the number of "votes" it received. It is notable that the relatively small difference in votes from the top and bottom vote-getters indicates that all of these design patterns are meaningful to meeting attendees.

1. Welcoming Arrival and Drop-Off (18 votes)

2. Media Center Learning Commons (18 votes)

3. Enrichment Spaces (18 votes)

4. Heart of School (17 votes)

5. Maker Classrooms and Makerspaces (17 votes)

6. Outdoor Learning and Play (16 votes)

7. Agile Classrooms (15 votes)

8. Professional Work Areas (15 votes)

9. Safety and Security (14 votes)

10. Safe Community Use and Access (14 votes)

11. Career Tech Spaces (14 votes)

12. Natural Light (14 votes)

13. Sustainability/Building as Teacher (14 votes)

14. Wayfinding and Streetscapes (12 votes)

15. Extended Learning Areas (10 votes)

16. Classroom Neighborhoods (8 votes)