

# cox graae + spack architects

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**memo**

**no.02**

project: Suitland High School Feasibility Study  
project no: 1817  
meeting date: June 29, 2018  
location: Suitland High School - Media Center  
subject: Minutes of Visioning Meeting  
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**cox graae + spack** architects facilitated this visioning meeting to gather input from PPC members regarding their thoughts on the current campus and what they would like to see on the future campus. **Cg+s** opened up with a brief introduction of the project scope. The remainder of the meeting was divided into two main visioning activities:

1. Exercise 1: Site – This works! / Not so much...

Attendees were presented with two site plans of the existing campus. On one site plan, they were asked to note elements that were working well on the campus. On the other site plan, they were asked to note elements that were not working well.

This Works:

- The Annex is in serene location
- CVPA on the same campus as high school
- Beautiful skylights in dance studio

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- Opportunity to separate middle school from high school at back of site
- Buildings are only two floors (easily navigable)
- Nice open green space
- Bus drop off and pick up is central to site
- Courtyard at high school is an opportunity
- The Drew façade is pleasing with interesting architecture
- High school and middle school have a community feel
- Auditorium is easy to see from Silver Hill Road

Note So much:

- Annex building is too small to accommodate CVPA programs
- CVPA is isolated and too far away
- CVPA not visible from Silver Hill Road
- Annex is old
- Too much unused space
- Football field needs turf
- Current building configuration isn't conducive to student movement, traffic patterns, general safety
- Auditorium nowhere near CVPA
- Trees: unused space and breeding ground for mischievous behavior
- Hard to get to athletic facilities
- Outdated academic spaces
- Reimagine courtyard
- Library serves as a hallway
- Site too small for all the athletic facilities
- Parking hard to find
- Front entrance of school is hidden from street
- The auditorium is the first thing you see
- Auditorium hides the school and is separate from the main building
- One point of ingress and egress
- Parking in front of site needs better organization

2. Topically Breakouts: The group was presented with 3 topic areas and asked to give feedback on each.

**History + Culture** – *What does the design team need to know about who you are, where you've been and where you want to go?*

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- Suitland HS spans generations
- High school is the hub of the community
- Major events: Homecoming, Alumni Gala
- Multifaceted- A lot of opportunities and variety of academics offered; CTE options, CVPA options
- Suitland is the (hard)working person's high school
- Suitland is a special school
- Campus is like a mini city
- Community has changed over the years and continues to change
- Forestville and Suitland relationship
- Words to describe the school: community; thriving community; progress

**Right Here...Right Now** – *How can the project positively impact the community and vice versa?*

- Serve as professional gathering space for community use
- Be a safe space for visitors and younger students
- Support collaboration between high school and middle school
- Support collaboration between teachers
- Provide a community lecture lab
- Support students as the matriculate
- Provide public green space and activity space for the community
- Serve as a safe shelter/relief space (i.e. Red Cross location)

**Needs, Wants + Dreams** – *Have to have, would be great to have, and this might sound like a crazy idea BUT...*

- Pool
- 2<sup>nd</sup> field – practice field
- Pond/water feature
- Amphitheater – outdoor performance space
- Lights on the football field
- Turf field(s)
- Larger art wing
- 4 lunch rooms – 2 for middle school and 2 for high school
- Spaces that are large and well lit (easy to monitor)
- Balcony in auditorium/theater

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- A theater that feels professional
- Food court
- Professional art installations
- Student support services are located together
- Create spaces for kids to feel “home”
- Multiple auditoriums
- Multiple smaller recital halls
- Multiple black box theaters
- Huge areas of storage
- Storage near auditorium
- Improv performance areas
- No locker lined halls
- Exhibit space for all types of work

**Cg+s** closed the meeting with a review of the project schedule. The next meeting is scheduled for July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018 and will be the first review of the design concepts.

**End of Minutes**

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