



On October 1, 2020, approximately 25 Joseph Sears School faculty members participated in a 1.5-hour long late afternoon workshop that focused on presenting highlights from the Sears School Master Plan Visioning Workshops that have taken place between March- June 2020, as well as reviewing progress and eliciting feedback on Master Plan Option 7 that is in the process of being developed by the architectural team of DLA Architects and New Vista Design in collaboration with Sears School leadership.



All Joseph Sears School faculty members were invited to attend the workshop, during which they were given the opportunity to offer real-time feedback on the plans presented, as well as participate in breakout group meetings to further share their excitement, questions and concerns.

The workshop was facilitated and presented by Joseph Sears School leadership, the Kenilworth Board of Education, New Vista Design, and the DLA design team. Agenda items included:

- Master Planning Overview (10 min)
- Visioning Highlights (20 min)
- Plan Review & Feedback (30 Min)
- Park District /Townley Field Campus (10 Min)
- Small Group Discussions (20 Min)
- Next Steps and Q&A (10 min)

Due to COVID-19 social distancing measures, the workshop was held virtually on a Zoom platform. The following notes offer highlights from individual participant responses. A recording of the workshop, as well as a PDF copy of Master Plan Option 7 documents can be found at: www.kenilworth23.org/visionsears. For additional questions about the Master Planning process and progress, please visit with website above, or contact visionsears@kenilworth38.org

What Faculty Members are Most Excited About

Modern, Open and Innovative Spaces

- Plan provides flexibility with creativity and innovation
- Love the modern opening welcoming spaces
- The open feel of the rendering feels fresh & open
- The open feeling of commons
- The back of the building looks transformed and provides community access to the Library Tech Center (LTC)
- Wide open spaces
- Open collaboration spaces for students
- Open space!

Community Use and Access

- Great collaboration with Park District! Love the Community Hub!
- Community hub in the back; nice for community to have designated space attached to school
- Like the idea that after hours the community uses cafeteria, practical arts, gym
- Like the improved access from front and back areas
- Community & Park District programming collaboration opportunities



What Teachers are Most Excited About *Continued*

Common Areas/Atrium

- Really like the common areas
- Atrium conducive for collaboration
- Openness of atrium...feels more connected
- Love having the new atrium space

New Entries

- Great use of space...wow factor on both entrances
- Love the entries
- I like the skylights and the entrance design for the back of the school

Learning Hubs

- Excited about learning hubs and extended learning space
- Hubs, with a more open feel are good
- Like collaboration spaces for grade level bands

Science Classrooms

- Having science classes together is nice
- Love the three science labs together
- Building monitoring systems near Science Labs
- Visibility to students and to Science and sustainability curriculum

Outdoor Spaces

- Love the outdoor spaces
- Green spaces and sustainability focus

Sustainability

- Goal for LEED Gold
- Thermal comfort!

Enrichment Spaces

- Excited that there are dedicated arts spaces

Library Tech Center

- Love the LTC on the first floor close to community access
- I like the LTC – with two Learning Studios/Labs (Panther Lab; Makerspace)
 - Soundproofing (Audio recording, podcasting, greenscreen, news report)
 - Permanent Green Spaces (Pull down green screens)

Parking

- Like additional parking spaces

Natural Light

- Lots of natural light
- The atrium will bring much needed light into the west side
- I like that the skylight is kept





Questions and Concerns from Faculty Members

Cost and Scope

- Can you share the dollar amount that you were working off of?
- What kind of budget are we planning for?
- Is there another plan and other options that we can see?
- Some years we have larger-sized groups of students, has that been taken into consideration when creating the classes? There are only 3 sections for 3rd, 4th, and 5th.
- It is important that we carry the project into 2025 to update all parts of the building – Over the next 5 Years

Cafenasium

- Will all the students K-8 be eating in the cafenasium?
- Will hot food service be available in the cafenasium?
- Concern about lunch scheduling and setup and takedown
- Suggest having garage doors on existing gymnasium for supervision during recess
- Kids will be eating in the gym?
- A concern is the how many periods will lunch cover and the quantity of students in the room at one time. Acoustics will be important to design properly

Indoor Recess

- What indoor space is available on rainy days if the gym and cafenasium are used for eating? Where will kids have indoor recess?
- We typically have indoor recess in the gym and the auditorium
- Where will indoor recess occur?

Outdoor Learning and Play Spaces

- Concern about the loss of the existing outdoor classroom location and the loss of donated plants
- Concern about the location of the new outdoor classroom for supervisory purposes
- How do you access green roof? All ages can use?
- Won't the JK/K playground be distracting to the kids in the 1st grade classroom facing that area as well as the 2nd floor classrooms?

Auditorium

- Loss of the Auditorium is an important concern... it is great for all-school events throughout the year
 - 8th grade play (precursor to moving on to New Trier
 - First day of school
 - Graduation
 - Performances
 - Community choir
 - Scamper, etc.
- Would acoustics be as good in gym or cafenasium?
- Concern about loss of auditorium as it also functions as an addition music teaching space
- Trickle effect for PE if it is set up for another activity
- Auditorium is an important part of school morale, traditions, school climate, etc.
- Where can the entire student body and faculty meet at once?
- Teachers may be OK with the loss of the auditorium in lieu of classroom space, however community may not view it in the same manner
 - There may be "emotional" push back from the community about the loss of the space
- If we don't have the auditorium, what else can we use as a formal performance space?
- Where will there be a space for large performances now?
- Where will large viewing activities like graduation and plays be held if the auditorium is repurposed?
- Where would gatherings for the entire school take place?
- "As the person who taught in the auditorium and has directed many performances there, I think there is some merit to invest in the teaching spaces and not worry so much about this loss

Thermal Comfort

- Will central air be in the whole building?
- Will Heating and Cooling be addressed throughout the building in its entirety?
- Windows that open in baker building??!!



Questions and Concerns from Faculty Members *Continued*

Atrium

- Are the Science classrooms next to the atrium the only classrooms exposed to the community/atrium area?

Science Spaces

- Will the science lab have glass windows to the atrium? Do any other classroom spaces have the same?
- For science rooms, it's great to have them together. However, has it been considered to have them with their grade levels so that they have the opportunity to collaborate with their team?
- Science separated from everyone; difficult to collaborate with grade level teachers
- It would be great to explore having science labs with the rest of middle school classrooms
- For the science rooms, is the size being adjusted or considered? For more student-centered learning, it's nice to have a larger space with a specified lab area and specified classroom area in a singular classroom.

Small Group Services

- Can you explain the small group student services spaces?

LTC

- Does the LTC space allow for a JK-8 students? Such as a picture book room?
- Will the LTC have any natural light or views out?

Learning Hubs

- Are the learning hubs large enough for entire grade levels?
- Like the middle school hub. Hope Baker Building can be disguised

Classrooms

- What enhancements will be made to all classrooms and when?
- I see there are 2 JK rooms, one is in the old space for JK. Has that room been enlarged in this plan?
- Our class sizes change from year to year. I noticed that 3rd, 4th, and 5th only have 3 sections
- Is there room for larger class sizes?
- Will the second-grade classrooms be more equal in size?

Teacher Collaboration Areas

- Faculty Hall was a space during the last renovation that honored the faculty
- Where is the Teacher work room with laminators, binding, poster maker etc.?
- Where is Faculty Hall?

JK-2nd Spaces

- Like that there are two JK classrooms
- Would prefer that JK classrooms be located closer to the other side of the classroom wing where the younger kids are dropped off.
- Concern over the loss of the existing play area and that the play area in the courtyard could be disruptive.
- Would like the book room to be located near the JK-2nd classrooms

Village House

- So village house is now gone? No more refurbishing?

Storage

- Is there one book room for JK-2? It is far from classrooms
- Concern for the need of more general storage space
- Custodial Needs
- Has more storage space been accounted for in the additions and remodeling?
- More needed!

Parking

- Lighting in Parking Areas - When you work late at Sears, there is no lighting in the parking lot; safety concern – can we add floodlights?

Music Rooms

- Don't we need 2 music rooms -younger and older grades
- Is there a music room for primary and JH or just one for everyone



Questions and Concerns from Faculty Members *Continued*

Display and Exhibition

- Please consider how the school's art collection can be showcased as a collection.

Bathrooms

- Will there be gender neutral bathrooms?
- Will there be additional faculty bathrooms?
- Are the bathrooms being updated and more added?

Sanitary Measures

- Hand washing areas in classrooms or other sanitary measures?

Athletic Spaces

- Are there any additions to the gym or indoor space for PE classes?
- Concern about losing some of the Athletic Spaces originally considered
- Park District considering creating a Field House – Turf Area for Baseball, Lacrosse, Football
- Concern about losing outdoor play space around Townley Field

Administrative Spaces

- Are admin offices still in same area?

General Questions and Concerns from Faculty

- Is there a change to the nursing office?
- Where can clubs occur?
- What about the Faculty Hall and Panther Courtyard?
- What is the difference in square footage between the proposed and current plan?
- Will windows be redesigned to provide better airflow?
- Where are the world language classes located? Are they with the Arts?
- Is World Language on the 2nd floor?
- Where are the World Language classrooms on the 2nd floor? Will they be easy to access for JK-2 students?
- Is there a playground for older students?
- Is the Baker Building going to be renovated or demolished or left intact?
- Where is the Industrial Arts classroom located?
- Is there only one music room in the music wing?
- Where are the 6th - 8th classrooms?
- Where is the teacher work room?
- Where are student services / special education classrooms?
- What has covered the small interior park?
- Have we gained or lost parking spaces?
- What is the white space between art and music?
- Additional bathrooms in basement level?
- Can we get a paper copy of plans? It is tough to follow on small laptop screen



Faculty Participants

1. Andrea Drangsholt
2. Barbara Rodriguez
3. Bill Gordon
4. Blythe Szafoni
5. Catherine Lucas
6. Elisabeth LeBris
7. Emily Hayden
8. Enza Fox
9. John Scheidt
10. Julie Fontana
11. Katie Nahrwold
12. Katie Spangler
13. Kim Goff
14. Kristin Rydholm
15. Laurie Sahn
16. Lisa Lehman
17. Margo Parkes
18. Martin Heffner
19. Michelle Harradine
20. Moris Q.
21. Samantha Valsamis
22. Spencer Frie
23. Terry Oquendo
24. Toulia Sideris
25. Tracey McDowell

Presenters

The Joseph Sears School Leadership

Kate Donegan
Mia Sachs
Stephanie Helfand
Joe Bailey
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Kenilworth Board of Education

Stephen Potter
Evan Lukasik

Park District

John Hart

DLA Design Team

Tracy Biederstadt
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Steve Wright

New Vista Design

David Stephen