

**BALTIMORE CITY DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING
URBAN DESIGN AND ARCHITECTURE REVIEW PANEL
MEETING MINUTES**

Date: December 14, 2017

Meeting #250

Project: Calvin Rodwell E/M School – 21st Century Schools Initiative

Phase: Discussion #1

Location: Liberty Heights

Presentation:

Michael McBride of 21st Century City Schools briefly introduced architect Meredith Sullivan and landscape designer Emilie Carter of Design Collective who described the overall project and its proposed conceptual design. The new P-K through 8th grade facility of approximately 760 students will be constructed on the existing site of the current school facing Liberty Heights Avenue at the corner of Hillsdale Road across from the Shop Rite super market and parking lot.

Comments from the Panel:

During the course of the general presentation and discussion, the following issues, primarily site related, were raised by Panel members, as follows:

Site

- Study the possibility of creating a stronger relationship for drop off and the main student pedestrian entrance from Liberty Heights Avenue itself, rather than depending on Hillsdale Road which invites conflicts with both entry and exit from the super market parking lot. De-emphasize the importance of the corner entry plaza and the Hillsdale connection for a more “frontal” expression.
- Strengthen the pedestrian edge of Liberty Heights Avenue to create a safer and more attractive environment for the project and its students and to provide a clearer separation of pedestrian and automotive zones.
- Although saving certain existing mature trees on the site is admirable, consider reorienting the angled larger building mass to become perpendicular to Liberty Heights Avenue and strengthening the sense of entry, arrival and through movement between the two masses.

Building Design

- Look for ways to strengthen the “entry link” of the building including studying ways to have the “outside” space continue thru this link as well.
- Study 2nd level connectivity and create a stronger visual relationship with the primary movements of the students within.
- The massing diagrams presented by the design team appeared to represent a reasonable starting point, notwithstanding the comments above, but have not advanced to a level of specificity regarding materials or fenestration to warrant comments by the Panel at this point.

Panel Action: Discussion only, no action required.

Attending:

Michael McBride, Alicia Thomas –City Schools

Tim Cober –MSA/State of Maryland

Meredith Sullivan, Emilie Carter, Emily Lodato - Design Collective

Chaquetta Wallace – City Council – 5th District

Bowden*, Burns, O’Neill - UDARP Panel

Tom Stosur, Anthony Cataldo, Mary Colleen Buettner, Chad Hayes, Jennifer

Leonard – Planning Department