

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

Date:	February 15, 2018	Meeting No.: 252
Project:	Calvin Rodwell E/M School – 21 st Century Schools Initiative	Phase: Discussion #2
Location:	Liberty Heights	

PRESENTATION:

Architects Scott Vieth, Meredith Sullivan and Emilie Carter, representing Design Collective, presented design revisions based on previous Panel comments. Revisions to the design included:

1. Improvements to the arrival sequence,
2. Reduction in size and impact of the parking area,
3. Improvements to the drop-off zone along Liberty Heights Avenue; and,
4. Improved connectivity from the “entry link” to the exterior courtyard, outdoor learning centers, and playgrounds.

PANEL COMMENTS:

1. SITE AND LANDSCAPE DEVELOPMENT

In general, the Panel was pleased with the continued development of the site and landscape plan. The Panel viewed favorably the organization of outdoor functions and the utilization of surface micro-bio retention areas as opportunities for learning. The Panel offered the following comments for careful consideration:

- A. The shifting of the four-story academic wing off of the existing urban grid objectified the wing, heightened its importance in relation to the overall campus; and, highlighted the scale and size of the mass. The Panel strongly urged the Design Team to reorient the wing consistent with the urban grid.
- B. The Panel urged the Design Team to continue to improve the pedestrian safety along Liberty Heights Avenue and to reduce pedestrian and vehicular conflicts. To that purpose, the Panel suggested the cadence of trees extend along Liberty Heights to the intersection at Hillside Road.

- C. The Panel urged the Design Team to screen the western edge of the parking lot thru the use of a landscape buffer and or continuous row of trees in order to visually separate parking from pedestrian circulation leading to the school entry point. It was discussed to think of the entire zone along Liberty Heights as one area with different program areas that utilize landscape to the maximum potential.

2. ARCHITECTURE AND MASSING:

The Panel felt the massing and façade fenestration of the non-academic functions (administration, gymnasium, cafeteria and media zone) was thoughtful. The use of multiple colors and texture of masonry, together with a variety of window patterns and sizes, provided visual interest and effectively reduced the project scale along Liberty Heights Avenue and Hillsdale Road. The Panel offered the following comments with respect to the orientation, scale and façade fenestration of the academic wing:

- A. Reorient the academic wing to be consistent with the existing urban grid, respecting context and de-emphasizing its object importance to the overall building composition.
- B. Continue to study ways to reduce the scale of the four-story wing. The introduction of a more prominent base treatment and/or the utilization of a tri parti expression of base, middle and top would help to visually reduce the scale of the wing. A more playful expression of window sizes and patterns is encouraged. Utilize stair towers as corner elements to erode or dematerialize the “box.” Whereas the façade treatment of the non-academic building components appear visually playful and “non- institutional”, the academic wing facades appeared rigid and institutional.

The Panel expressed confidence in the Design Team’s ability and commitment to advance the design.

PANEL ACTION:

Discussion only.

Attendance:

Scott Vieth, Emily Lodato, Emilie Carter, Meredith Sullivan – DCI

Tim Cober – MSA

Michael McBride – 21st Century Schools

Bowden, Burns*, Ilieva, O’Neill – UDARP Panel

Anthony Cataldo, Chad Hayes, Jennifer Leonard – Dept. of Planning