

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

Date:	January 25, 2018	Meeting No.: 251
Project:	John Ruhrah Elementary/ Middle School	Phase: Discussion #2
Location:	Rappolla Street and Foster Avenue East Baltimore	

PRESENTATION:

Architect Paul Bradshaw, representing Grimm and Parker Architects, presented proposed design and site planning changes in response to previous Panel comments.

The proposed site plan changes included:

1. Relocating the Public Wing closer to the recreation center,
2. Relocating the Academic Wing to the north side of the existing building,
3. Increasing the size of the soccer play field,
4. Removing loading and parking along Foster Avenue; and,
5. Relocating the service area to allow access from Fait Avenue

Proposed Building design changes included:

1. Providing a secondary entrance from Foster Avenue,
2. Providing a prominent ‘After Hours’ community entry from Fait Avenue; and,
3. Shifting the Academic Wing addition to the east in order to allow the historic front façade of the John Ruhrah School to stand alone.

PANEL COMMENTS:

The Panel appreciated the responsiveness of the Design Team and supported all proposed site and building changes. The Panel felt the pedestrian circulation and the organization of outdoor rooms/activity zones was thoughtfully and rationally executed. The relocation of the Public and Academic Wings and the organization of the program elements were viewed favorable.

The Panel offer the following comments for careful consideration:

SITE:

1. Provide a pedestrian path on the north edge of the site, adjacent to the soccer/play field.
2. Consider eliminating some of the trees in the outdoor classroom zone so that it is visually more open or addressing any potential safety concerns with tree type/planting/pruning.
3. Consider incorporating some trees in the hard surfaced playground area.

ARCHITECTURE:

1. Maintain the view corridor from the main entry out to the playground.
2. Restudy how the proposed new additions connect to the existing historic buildings.
3. Restudy the façade fenestration of the Pubic Wing to be more sympathetic and sensitive to the historic buildings. Extending existing horizontal regulating lines and brick rustication into the new architecture should be considered.
4. Consider providing more natural light into the gymnasium. Windows on the north façade, along with additional brick detailing/fenestration, would provide scale to an otherwise large, blank gym façade facing the playground area.

PANEL ACTION:

Discussion only.

Attendance:

Michael McBride – 21st Century Schools

Dawn Sanders – MSA

Sharon Bradley – Bradley Site Design

Paul Bradshaw – Grimm + Parker Architects

Messrs. Bowden, Burns*, Ms. O’Neill and Ms. Ilieva - UDARP Panel

Anthony Cataldo, Carmen Morosan, Jessica Leonard - Planning