

COMMUNITY TASK FORCE

Needs Assessment Group

ELEMENTARY (K-4) COMMITTEE

- Co-Chairs
 - Chris Davis
 - Karie McDowell
- Parents
 - Marc Heitter
 - Denna Sandoval
 - Venise Shaw
 - Gladis Contreras
- Staff
 - Jen Mitchell
 - Krissy Womack
 - Brian Thornburg
- Resources
 - Leanne Bush
 - Dr. Beth Ray



BUILDING DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS

- Model after Scott Elementary in Frisco, Texas with POD design
- Design classrooms for 20 student capacity
- Cubbies located in hallways outside of classroom freeing up more classroom space. Pods are open with no doors.
- Add work room with storage for each pod to allow each grade to have a storage room to eliminate the storage required currently in each classroom.
- There is currently only one conference room available in the front office for ARD meetings, etc. This can cause scheduling issues trying to accommodate everyone's schedule.



SCOTT ELEMENTARY - FRISCO, TX



BUILDING DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS

- Need assessment room for counselors, speech and occupational therapists. This room should be secure and safe with padded floor and walls, and a one way observation window. This could also serve as a guidance counseling classroom.
- Need to keep teacher private mailboxes separate from the general work area where visitors & volunteers are continually coming in and out.
- Need a separate “Cool Off” room in the front office area – the current area used for this is in a hallway and doesn’t provide a way of isolating the child
- Provide a secure courtyard in the center of the school that can be used as a play area for children with special needs but also as a picnic or outdoor sitting area for all students.

CAFETERIA

- The cafeteria is currently used for all parent meetings and student shows that incorporate using a projector or other visual affects. The ability to control natural lighting in this space is essential for projected video and other video affects to be used effectively.
- The impact of excessive natural lighting (glare) also impacts video surveillance/security in a negative manner.
- If the cafeteria is the main location where the stage is going to reside, there needs to be a larger space for parents/audience. Currently there is simply not enough room for all parents, so many end up standing in the back of the cafeteria.

CAFETERIA

- The size of the stage will also need to be increased to accommodate an entire grade, currently it is a very tight fit.
- Table selection to be considered. Feedback on the folding octagon-shaped tables was positive. Students were capable of storing tables after use.



LIBRARY

- Library should have a lounge area in the middle to allow children to grab a book, sit down in a comfortable environment and read. This area could also be used for watching movies during inclement weather.
- Library should include a performance stage for Reader's Theatre, Writer's Workshop and Story Time.

TECHNOLOGY

- Dedicated iPads for each classroom (Currently we have 50 for the entire school)
- Smart boards
- Dedicated computer lab for each pod area



SECURITY IMPROVEMENTS

- Scott Elementary model allows for improved safety for lock down situations – Hallways leading to pod areas are automated to easily lock down in the event of a situation.
- Pod areas can double as Storm Shelters.
- Audible alarms should indicate when exit doors are used, currently there is no indication if a child exits the building.

OUTDOOR PLAY IMPROVEMENTS

- Outdoor play area should be secured with fences and free from service deliveries or delivery vehicles
- The outdoor play area needs more activities for the children such as basketball goals, four square, gaga pit, etc.
- Coverings are needed over playground areas to keep students cooler during outdoor play
- Two separate play areas are needed to provide more specific grade appropriate play activities
- Play areas should be separate from building services such as electrical panels, dumpsters and other building features not related to the play area

TRAFFIC FLOW IMPROVEMENTS

Carpool is a very big issue and considerable thought needs to be given to the traffic flow when choosing a location and designing a new school. Careful consideration should be given to separate traffic types (carpool, school parking, bus, pedestrian/walker, other).

- Carpool - Students should be dismissed from the exit point of each pod. Older students transfer to the youngest student's pod.
- The design should also consider “walker” paths to minimize the interruption of carpool traffic.
- Use technology to facilitate car pool flow. Smart phone apps are currently available that improve efficiency in car pool traffic.
- Awnings or coverings are needed to improve loading during inclement weather.

TRAFFIC FLOW IMPROVEMENTS

- Bus drop-off/pick-up located away from carpool and pedestrian/walker traffic. (In a pod design, bus students would be released through cafeteria or gym)
- Multiple lanes for concurrent bus drop-offs/pick-ups.
- All service deliveries should have a separate point of entry for children's safety.

SPECIAL NEEDS

- Recommend a dedicated room for students with special needs to work on gross motor skills
- There should be both an indoor playroom in addition to an outdoor environment to allow the student to jump, ride bikes, climb, etc. These play areas should provide additional safety such as padded flooring and walls, places to secure the equipment.
- All special education rooms should be equipped with changing tables and showers to allow the staff to teach the necessary skills for children to provide care for themselves and to allow teachers to easily take care of any accidents without having to completely leave the classroom.

SPECIAL NEEDS

- Would like doors to allow them to open the top portion of the door, but leave the second half locked for the children's safety.
- It seems we do not have enough classroom space to accommodate all of the special programs the school supports. Each of these programs should have their own classroom so that full-sized classrooms are not underutilized such as:
 - Gifted & Talented
 - PPCD/PRE-K
 - Dyslexia/Take Flight
 - Structured Teaching/Life skills
 - ESL
 - Speech
 - ISS