

## NBISD Administrator's Meeting - Feb. 24, 2015

### Questions to ponder for Visioning Meeting

Please answer with **brief notes or bullets**-not intended for extensive narrative. This is to guide visioning discussion as we think about building new elementary schools and updating current elementary schools.

- What is special about **NBISD**? Your campus identity? What are implications for future planning?
  
- **Nature/character of school spaces**? All classrooms? Breakout areas? Classroom furniture, wall coverings, open areas: large, small, individual spaces? Teacher work areas? Visually open? Physically flexible? Displays of info of interest to students, related to studies, work by students? Varied, flexible instructional spaces? Large, small varied groups? Collaboration areas? Maker/project spaces? **Challenged based and/or** project based learning—tools, spaces, schedules? Where should students do the **important work of learning**—at various grade levels? Spaces for **Music, art, science labs, computer labs**?
  - A Day of Glass - All walls interactive, surfaces and tables interactive. All furniture has plugs. New schools must be built with interactive technology and furniture.
  - Example Rolling Oaks – grade levels in L configuration – with common areas for group projects. Lights, texture and sound (with internal microphone system). Each grade level had different textures. Outside courtyard.
  - Flexible furniture and space. Adaptability.
  - NBMS group center spaces and media space.
  - Versatile layouts that can change daily, yoga ball chairs, standing desks.
  - Environments that have comforting, organic features – not sterile looking environment.
  - Natural lighting very important to educators.
  - Tall ceilings important.
  - Flexible spaces need to be finished out, KRE outdoor science lab was a concept on the plans for was left to the school to figure out how to fund
  - Open space areas where teachers can see students from classrooms, pods for grade levels.
  - NBMS uses outside spaces with picnic spaces, gardening and amphitheater (needs sound systems added).
  - 9GC uses internal courtyard spaces for free time for students.
  - Open concept areas, glass walls dividing room where kids can move

- within, doing project based learning and technology.
  - Multi-purpose cafeteria spaces with adaptive furniture.
  - Several science labs.
  - How will we change existing campuses for future – classrooms currently packed with non-flexible furniture. Need more flexible furniture. Look at how forensics has changed the dynamics of the classroom using more flexible furniture.
  - School built around playground area (outdoor learning) – concrete areas on edges – chalkboards on walls – grass on playground – teachers could see playground area from hallways and classrooms.
  - Sinks outside the bathrooms to prevent congestion. Like KRE
  - Place restrooms in pod areas. Like KRE
  - Kindergarten classrooms have classroom bathrooms.
- How does **teaching and learning** look different in next 5-10 years **thoughts** re: individualizing, self-pacing, blended learning? Spatial implications?
    - NASA presentation engaging students in interactive learning, using iPads from their desks to follow presentation.
    - Multi age and project based learning.
    - Blended learning at elementary campuses – currently using labs – more classroom blended learning in future?
    - New apps becoming available for more classroom learning.
    - More personalized learning for students.
    - More choices.
    - Self-paced learning.
    - What does a future classroom look like when foreign language is available electronically. – more of a MS/HS discussion found in the article
  - **Dining.** Should kids enjoy eating/lunch time? Make dining spaces useful all day? How should dining relate to other areas such as outside space, gym, and/or library? Dining only in 1 area of school or multiple areas?
    - Eating environment have tables placed in pods, groupings, promote sense of community.
    - On-site food preparation in elementaries?
    - Adding choices to student menus.
    - Large space for dining.
    - Accordion doors dividing cafeteria/gyms to use as larger multi-purpose room.
    - Courtyards with glass windows for monitoring students.
    - Bistro tables for faculty to eat outside.
    - Outside space for students to eat.
  - **Hallways**-Can space be interesting and instructional?

- Less is better.
  - No lockers.
  - Larger hallways.
  - Handicap accessibility in hallways during passing times.
  - Glass tunnels to cut down on hallway space. Someone said they saw this in a school
- What are district's plans for **libraries**? Paper? Digital? Learning Commons? Implications for both new and existing schools?
    - Open spaces used more for interactive learning with librarians.
    - More collaborative spaces.
    - More lighting.
    - Group spaces.
    - Librarians helping students with more scholarly research instead of just Google search.
    - Sci-brary.
    - How to convince parents that school's library is mainly ebooks, not hard copy books.
    - Use visual reminders of what is available for ebooks.
    - Ways to showcase student work/projects.
    - Interactive videos in common areas of student collaboration and class projects.
    - Combining libraries to increase available books at each campus and use an intra-loan system between schools.
    - Times school library is open other than school hours, so it can function as a public library if we went to a common library of paper books with an intra-loan system
    - Make libraries more comfortable, booths, comfy chairs, etc. Look at how the public library has shifted it's thinking.
- What are district's plans for **technology**? Grade levels for 1:1? General purpose computer labs? Role of technology in teaching/learning at various grade levels? Anticipated in next 5-10 years? Online/blended learning?
    - White Boards – are they used? Reflector app used more frequently.
    - Computer labs will phase out in the future. 9GC uses computer lab mainly for CTE courses that don't run on iPads.
    - Charging stations – very important – furniture with charging capabilities, but still be flexible for different configurations
- **Security**? Any general issues across the district/ individual campuses? Directions for future schools?

- Welcome center at schools
- More open front office, vestibule area
- Need security systems at campuses.
- Cameras on exterior elementary doors.
- Cameras in cafeteria areas.
- With one-to-one initiative, cameras might prove useful.
- Each elementary classroom needs a stationary charging cabinet to lock up iPads at night.
- Security features – cameras, access keys with tracking information