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## MEETING MINUTES

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PARTICIPANTS: See sign in sheet

COPIES TO: All parties, File

PLACE/DATE OF MEETING: District Ops / Nov. 11, 2010

MINUTES BY: John Percy

PROJECT: HCISD PAC

PROJECT #:1027

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### Discussion Items:

1. Mr. Tapia introduced new attendees and Committee member proxies, as well as special guest Verna Young.
2. Next week will be a short holiday week and Committee will not meet again until December, at which point meeting may be moved to every other week instead of weekly.
3. Meeting proceeded according to agenda distributed. Notes are indicated below each major discussion topic/ agenda item.
4. A 'case study tour' will be scheduled to visit other facilities recommended by the committee. Current targets are: Hays ISD, Round Rock, Georgetown, Pace, La Joya, Weslaco, and UTB.
5. Project sites:
  - a. Mr. Tapia discussed each site and the previous scoring exercise presented by Mr. Villareal.
  - b. Each site will have an accompanying school facility– New Middle School at Rio Hondo Road, New Ninth Grade Campus at Fair Park, and Gutierrez Middle School at Wilson Road. With the exception of Wilson Road dimensions, each site has ample acreage for this project.
  - c. Wilson Road site is problematic due to the narrow dimensions and current traffic congestion issues.
  - d. Rio Hondo Road present great visibility and access. After discussing potential Environmental Noise Issues from airplanes, it is held that this may not be an issue. Architect to provide FAA decibel levels for the site at next meeting.
  - e. Fair Park Site present the possibility to help develop an Arts District. Potential drawbacks for this site will be environmental noise (baseball park and train) and potential traffic congestion if events occurred simultaneously at different facilities. If the PAC is located here, it may preclude any possibility that the New Ninth Grade Campus never be developed into a third high school.
  - f. Mr. Tapia discussed City parking requirements and how adjacent school parking may be used as overflow parking.

- g. Committee members expressed concern over access of trucks (loading dock) and buses during competition situation.
- h. While the scheduling goal dictates the committee's recommendation on a site selection be made to the Board at the January meeting, Mr. Tapia suggested that a decision be deferred until the next meeting in the hopes that all Committee members can be present and be heard.

6. Operational / Functional Goals:

- a. Committee discussed concerns raised by staff at Weslaco District Facility. Issues raised were the inability to utilize the facility to teach basic technical theater skills like operating the rigging and sound boards as part of the curriculum.
- b. Discussion of the purpose and use of the facility indicated that a desire was for a facility to host UIL and other competitions for South Texas. Other mandatory uses will be District Theater and musical performances and recordings. The desire for a convention / meeting space was not to be the 'driving force' behind the design.
- c. There were many questions about how schedules would be coordinated between the high schools for this facility, and a desire to be able to rehearse and perform in the same place was expressed. There was also concern about how the ninth grade campus would be included; bussed to high schools for rehearsals...?

7. Draft Program:

- a. Based on Bond Task Force information and industry standard rules of thumb for square footage estimates. Mr. Tapia made the committee aware of current square foot costs of \$250.00 to \$300.00 per square foot for facilities of this type, which dictates that the overall building square footage remain in the vicinity of that submitted in order to stay within Bond Budget.
- b. Committee raised concern over permanent costume and prop storage in the facility for each campus. This will require further discussion regarding rehearsals and storage at each campus, but the concern is adequacy of area and adjacency to Performance Space.
- c. A competition facility requires two warm up rooms and a sight reading room. Black box is not required, and warm up rooms are required to be same size as stage (1,500 - 1,600 s.f.). All these spaces will require sufficient acoustic separation while being connected to presentation space.
- d. Committee agreed that Concession/Storage was not required and that space should be shifted to more costume / uniform storage.
- e. Currently a percussion warm-up or competition room is not included in the program.
- f. Committee indicated that permanent instrument storage at this facility, in addition to the piano, should include choir shell, various large percussion instruments, risers, One-Act Play

sets, and chairs. Some of these areas could be configured in unused spaces to avoiding adding to overall square footage, such as under raised seating or under stage.

- g. Committee confirmed the requirement of the Orchestra Pit and liked the notion of lift system that eliminates the need for a Filler structure.
- h. After discussion of warm-up room serving double duty for music and dance, the committee liked the idea of a space with mirrors on one wall and an acoustic drapery to cover it when required.
- i. Committee felt that a stage of 1,500 to 1,600 square foot (not including wings, apron, or rigging areas) would be sufficient but concern was raised whether it was sufficient to accommodate 72 musicians. Architect to provide additional research regarding this.
- j. Based on research of similar facilities, 3 offices is standard accommodation for on-site staff.
- k. The idea of a separate storage facility, or campus based areas (after ninth grade campus is online space should be available) for uniforms or costumes with a less expensive construction type was discussed.

8. Aesthetics:

- a. Discussion centered on the committees duty to determine the architectural character of the facility. Discussion should be couched in terms of the type of image the District wants to display to visitors from all over the state and beyond. Sustainability or energy efficiency is a Design Objective all agreed was desirable.
- b. Committee to develop broad language to describe the facility, i.e.: Forward thinking, Historical, Regional, etc. Arena Stage in Washington was mentioned as a case study for a Contemporary forward thinking architectural language.
- c. All agreed that the facility should distinguish the District on a state level.

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Additions and/or corrections to these minutes should be sent to [mega@megamorphosisdesign.net](mailto:mega@megamorphosisdesign.net) within seven (7) days of receipt.

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