



April 14, 2015

**ROCK CREEK SCHOOL ED SPEC/FEASIBILITY STUDY  
KICK OFF MEETING WITH THE FCPS ED SPEC TEAM  
21513/075**

**ATTENDEES:**

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**PROJECT INFORMATION:**

- \* Before an item in bold face indicates a correction to the meeting notes.  
[ ] Indicates an item which occurred subsequent to the meeting.

Meeting Notes:

**SCHEDULE STATUS:**

1. Kickoff meeting for Ed Spec phase
2. Architect presented a preliminary outline for future Ed Spec phase meetings
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**OLD BUSINESS:**

No Old Business

**NEW BUSINESS:**

PD1.1 Ms. Pasierb gave an overview of the Rock Creek Center project. The Design Team (Grimm + Parker) introduced themselves and gave a description of the Ed Spec and Feasibility process.

PD1.2 The Design Team defined the roles and responsibilities for all parties involved in the Ed Spec phase.

PD1.3 The Design Team asked that everyone write down a few things that were working well at the existing Rock Creek School and a few things that were not. Then everyone was directed to introduce themselves and read one of the items, either positive or negative, written about RCC.

- Some of the positive comments relayed, including but not limited to:
  - RCC feels like home
  - There is good professional development at RCC
  - RCC is inclusive with good parent involvement
  - The staff is resilient, adaptive, tech savvy, and family oriented
  - There are good comprehensive services provided that are holistic
  - RCC has the happiest staff with a great reputation
  - RCC provides good life skills experiences to students
  - RCC includes technology up to same standards as all FCPS schools
  - It is a good place for parents to connect
  - The facility has a pool and a nice playground
- Some of the negative comments relayed, including but not limited to:
  - There are more programs needed at RCC
  - There is not enough spaces for all the equipment required in the facility; equipment is currently stored in the hallways when not in use.
  - There is little opportunity with inclusive practice with other non-disabled peers
  - RCC needs more accessibility with the latest communication technology and technology training
  - The health suite is too small
  - There is no emergency generator at RCC
  - The building systems are old, which may be negatively affecting the indoor air quality
  - The RCC building can no longer support new innovations
  - There are site constraints, parking issues, and storm water management problems with the current location
  - RCC needs to be completely accessible
  - The RCC site isn't well utilized for outdoor educational opportunities
  - There is a lack of storage and a confusing layout; there can be better wayfinding through the architecture
  - The facility is ill suited to meet changing needs
  - RCC is aesthetically unpleasing and the architecture is non-sensory

PD1.4 The Design Team then described in general what an Ed Spec is and what the process is for a successful Ed Spec development. This was followed by a discussion of trends in progressive educational trends and trends in special education. At this time everyone was invited to react to some of the trends and discuss how they relate to the Rock Creek Center

- Some of the comments include:
  - Classroom clusters and the typical method of clustering might not be appropriate. At Rock Creek Center every year the format changes because the demographics change drastically. The ages are already very blurred, most students are put into one of three groups (grades 1-5, 6-9, and 10+)
  - It's important that there are new inclusive opportunities and that we think about the appropriate users when developing the Ed Spec.
  - Flexibility might be an issue. If spaces are too flexible and meet too many needs, then the physicality of transitioning from one space to another will be lost. This transition from one space to another is important.
  - All of the information in these meetings should be available to the current Rock Creek Center; RCC is currently re-visiting its vision statement and this information could be helpful in their endeavors.
  - The Design team should look more at materiality in the building and explore the different ways that disabled students get around and interact with the space. The Ed Spec team should include a lighting/vision specialist.
  - Benchmarking is important for this process. It would be helpful to tour a new FCPS non-disabled school and understand the trends/philosophies that their school is implementing.

**PD1.5** The Design Team concluded the meeting by discussing the future meeting schedule and the next steps involved in the Ed Spec development. The next few meetings will be focused around visioning and benchmarking before getting into specific topics and programming.

#### **NEXT MEETING:**

1. The next design meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, April 28, 2015, at 9:00 a.m. at Frederick County Public Schools Board of Education Room.
2. Due at next meeting: Meeting Agenda

*THESE MEETING NOTES ARE THE OFFICIAL RECORD OF THE MEETING AND REPRESENT THE UNDERSTANDING OF THE WRITER OF ITEMS DISCUSSED AND DECISIONS MADE DURING THIS MEETING. **WE SHALL ASSUME OUR UNDERSTANDING TO BE CORRECT UNLESS WRITTEN NOTICE TO THE CONTRARY IS BROUGHT TO OUR ATTENTION WITHIN SEVEN DAYS.***

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