



Summary of Driscoll Staff and Community Feedback Summary (Last Updated: 10/29/18)

Please note that this is a summary of the input gathered from a number of staff and community forums during the Fall 2018. It is not intended to be comprehensive or capture all comments and input provided during these events and meetings. This summary was distributed to community members during a Neighborhood Community Forum on October 29, 2018.

Educational Visioning

Priorities from Driscoll families and Driscoll Staff

- Flexible, creative spaces that invite collaboration within classrooms, within grades, across grades, and among teachers
 - Welcoming space that celebrates diversity and allows all students to feel safe, regardless of background
 - Design a building that can serve as a dynamic community resource hub, used and appreciated by all
 - Organize school into smaller learning communities that foster belonging, curiosity, and inspiration
 - Foster indoor/outdoor connections and provide areas for autonomous, age-appropriate movement and play
 - Not just an open field and blacktop, but something that is connected to nature and environmentally friendly
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Educator and Staff Input

Educational Programming

- Classroom size restricts teaching methods
 - Cannot provide small group instruction; Some students forced to work in hallway
 - Small gym size limits Physical Education and Health curriculum
- Environment is not conducive to learning - frequent distractions and noise level is generally too loud
- School building and learning being together, not building vs. learning
 - Classroom flow and routines disrupted with spaces carved out from storage spaces
 - Nowhere to put lab materials for science, instruments for music
- Minimal spaces for collaboration or inclusion
 - Sometimes students and groups can feel very isolated

Safety, Health, and Physical Plant

- “Second gym” space was previously a woman’s showering area
 - Bathrooms are unpleasant areas and create privacy challenges
 - Science classrooms not meeting minimum safety guidelines
 - Need dedicated Safe Spaces for students to de-escalate
 - Overall humidity, lack of ventilation and air-conditioning
 - Entry into the building is very awkward; People don’t know where to find the main office
 - Lack of small spaces in Nurse’s office for private conversations with parents
 - Drainage after inclement weather is a problem in some areas
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Community Feedback

Design

- Clarify how much of the project is renovation vs. expansion
- The Coolidge Corner School is the new standard for Brookline. Make it like Coolidge Corner, but not as big.



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- Building should allow opportunities for developing the school community involvement (e.g. Playspaces that invites families to hang around after school, spaces that can be used by the community)
- Make fiscally responsible decisions that addresses town-wide problems
- Design can inadvertently create longer walks within the building and disconnection
- Open space is a priority in design

Communications and Outreach

- Need Comparisons between current Driscoll projects to other schools
- Be clearer about the problems that PSB needs to solve
- Provide greater context and background on any numbers/projections made

Traffic

- Continues to be serious concern about how the existing traffic will be impacted by the school's renovation
- Concern about narrow existing streets and improving drop-off opportunities

Survey Responses

In what ways would you like to see the Driscoll academic program and school community grow and evolve over the next 10 years?

- Keep the sense of community, class size, conservatory program, and unique programming (Art, Chinese, etc.) will continue to be as strong as it is today.
- Create a stronger middle school model, with many more opportunities for hands-on, project based, and applied learning.
- There needs to be an increased diversity of learning options for children in the lower grade.
- There needs to be an expansion of pre-K and after-school options.
- The environment of the school needs to be designed to be more community-friendly.

How do you see the design of a renovated and/or new Driscoll facility supporting the school's growth and evolution?

- It would be good to have outdoor classrooms, a roof garden, a maker space, an energy efficient building and lots of natural light.
- The new Driscoll renovations should be as ecologically friendly as possible; make greater use of passive solar and other sustainable energy options.
- The outdoor space needs more shading options for parents, teachers, and children. The outdoor space is widely used by the community - some seating should be provided that makes socializing and face-to-face interaction more possible.
- It should include adaptations for children with disabilities (improved speakers, graduated lighting schemes, better signage).

What are the three most important things Jonathan Levi Architects need to know about as they move forward with design development?

- Make sure teacher voice is at the center of the new design. Trust that teachers know what is needed.
- Green design, that is community focused, and handicapped accessible (not just mobility - but vision, hearing, and sensory too)
- Community ownership is essential.