

Community Meeting at Louisa Boren STEM K-8: Comments and Questions

The table below includes comments and questions from the Community Meeting on Oct. 24, 2017.

DATE	COMMENT OR QUESTION	ANSWER IF ANY
10/24	Dir. Harris: Is it true that SPS isn't in HALA?	It is correct that we were not included in HALA. It was a City of Seattle task force on Housing Affordability and Livability Agenda that we were not a part of.
10/24	Dir. Harris: Is it true that the city is required to work with us under the Growth Management Act?	Growth Management Act requires that King County meet with us monthly. The GMA inclusion of schools relates mostly to nonurban areas to be sure schools are appropriately sited. Since we are in a 100% urban area, we aren't impacted much. We do meet with the City monthly and update them about BEX.
10/24	Dir. Harris: What about impact fees?	We have talked to the city about impact fees. They are a legislative action that would have to be undertaken by the Seattle City Council. Currently there are no impact fees for the City of Seattle. If impact fees were levied and we received funds, those funds would have to be used for new square footage for new students, not renovations.

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10/24	Dir. Harris: For BEX V, are playground structures included, especially in a race and equity standpoint for those schools without strong PTOs/PTAs?	We have some playgrounds in BTA IV. A general budget for a playground is \$200-250,000. They have been on the initial lists of capital levies in the past, but during prioritization, they get dropped off. We will be looking at playgrounds as part of the Facilities Condition Report and using the Race and Equity Toolkit when considering projects for BEX V.
10/24	Dir. Harris: Is it required that BEX V go on the ballot in February 2019? The city is doing an education and veterans levy in Nov. and asking for a substantial increase. Voters may be seeing it as similar. Why can't we go first?	School districts can put levies or bonds on the ballot in February, April, August and November. Research and studies have shown that February is the best option because it isn't usually competing with a lot of other measures and thus remains on page 1 of the ballot. The School Board could certainly direct us to accelerate, it could be done in November, maybe August. We would not be ready for this February or even April, because there is a lot of work that has to happen first.

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10/24	Is this being considered as an interim site for BEX V?	<p>This is not an interim site. I do not consider this an interim site. This is the site of Boren K-8. This is your school. This is your building as much as any building in the district is for the school that is there. There are times when we renovate a building or build a new building. For example, Schmitz Park. We built a brand new building at Genesee Hill and Schmitz Park moved there – now they are Genesee Hill. That’s the only piece I see—I do not see or recommend that this school would be moved to another location unless it was to rebuild or build something brand new. That would be the only reason you would have to move to an interim building. It does matter. You wouldn’t move unless it was to an interim while this site was being rebuilt or if we were moving you to a brand new building specifically designed to meet the needs of Boren STEM K-8 students.</p>

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10/24	Can you clarify if Roxhill will move to E.C. Hughes or if we'd be moving again?	Yes. Roxhill will move to E.C. Hughes next year. There have been conversations about what would then happen at Roxhill. If we build a new school at Roxhill, then they might move back. It would not be fair to put a different school there. But that is not planned in BEX V. No change to the move of Roxhill to E.C. Hughes.
10/24	I understand that there are 20 or so schools proposed for BEX V. How many would you end up doing?	Two things will influence. One is the cost of the projects and the other is how much the Board approves to put on the ballot. We are in a white hot construction market, we're paying a premium for everything we build. The money doesn't go as far. A elementary new school could cost up \$40-45 million, middle school about \$70 million and high schools are \$100 million plus. So how much the levy is will influence how many can be done. Since the levy timeframe is 6 years, we hope to have the money go further during the timeframe. If after all the promised projects are done there is still money left, that gives us money that can be used for additional projects, such as infrastructure, but it's not usually enough for another school.

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10/24	<p>What happens when the boiler that has been here since the beginning since this building is now our permanent home. What happens to Boren? You mentioned levy fatigue, and every year it's become closer and closer to not passing, and this could be the year that happens. I feel like with the anger out there, the tax fatigue and the city in general having basics not being met for many families. What happens to us or Rainier Beach, etc., if this isn't going to be the interim site.</p>	<p>Condition of the building will be included in the facilities condition report to see what the condition is of HVAC, and other systems, to see if they need to be upgraded. I wouldn't agree that the levies are close to not passing. The last one passed at 72%, and the last one BEX IV, passed at about 71%. That's pretty good for a levy. Again, I don't take that for granted. Every year, every day we need to prove to the community that we are doing what we said we would do. I totally agree with the nervousness about levy fatigue and the asks from the City that are not school related. We have to keep explaining ourselves in clear ways as to the problems we want to complete and here is why. For the interim site, we are considering options. There are portables. There is the original Van Asselt site, which is a little closer to Mercer and Rainier Beach, which has problems, but it's closer than coming to West Seattle. We're considering a lot of different things. What's possible? What's doable?</p>

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10/24	I don't want to come back next year and have the rug pulled out from under us, again and again. I just want some stability.	I hope that our answers tonight will give you that feeling of stability. By saying this is your spot. The only reason we'd move you is for those things we already talked about; if you were moving while we renovated or rebuilt or if we were moving you to a new building constructed for your needs.
10/24	When considering BEX V, would you consider putting Boren on that list? Or constructing a completely new building? Will you add it tonight?	The district needs to balance investments in each region, because we hear regularly that investment isn't equitable. We built two brand new buildings in SW. We also need to balance capacity and building conditions in each region and we'll consider if Boren fits into one of those categories.
10/24	Just to clarify, Boren is not currently on the study list?	No. it is not, but there are "unspecified buildings."
10/24	Dir. Harris expressed concern that the decisions would already be made by the time it gets to the board (cake will already be baked) and if they then ask to go back and talk about the "unspecified" buildings, they will be told "I'm sorry, we didn't study that option." Thus making the Board look like micromanagers.	We aren't trying to put the Board in the position of micromanagers. We won't be bringing you a baked cake. That is why we are coming to you in December with a preliminary list and will go through several months of process. I want to set up the Board to see it as it goes along.

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10/24	In June, you talked about Alki and Lafayette needing to be moved to interim site. Where will they be put? Is that part of BEX V or is that some other project that's a done deal? Can you clarify?	Those are schools on the preliminary list of 20 for both capacity and building condition. If we use Schmitz Park for the interim site, they would go one at a time.
10/24	You said you would post the questions and comments from the earlier meeting and I haven't seen them.	I don't know why they weren't posted. I know I saw and answered them. We will get them posted by the end of the week.
10/24	One of the past questions what about equity. Is there some consideration of equity in how much we've sacrificed vs. how much we've benefitted in how you make your decisions? (Clarified to looking for concession on the impact of co-location and the sacrifice of that impact.)	Capital investments don't come back on a per pupil basis. We'll take a look at what has happened since Boren STEM has been here. We will consider that feedback. That impact is hard to quantify but we'll do our best.
10/24	There is an order of magnitude here. The BEX V preliminary document has really big numbers. STEM is listed for \$240,000 for a sound system. In the 2014 Meng analysis, this was one of 15 schools that had more than \$10 million in capital work needed. 14 of those schools got something in BEX IV. We were not one of them. A majority were north of Spokane Street. I know not everything works out on a per pupil basis, but there has been a lot of impact here. We would like to ask for consideration of that impact.	Again, we'll look at that impact and try to quantify it. I'm taking all this feedback and incorporate it as best we can, but please keep communicating with us.
10/24	Question about the BEX Oversight Committee's meetings. I don't see any parents, just community members, like architects, etc. Where is the parent representation? When is the next meeting?	Meetings are monthly and just had one last Friday.

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10/24	Dir. Harris: Would you consider putting parents on the BEX Oversight Committee and publishing those minutes? On the website. (After response from Dr. Herndon, Dir. Harris said "resolution to come.")	BEX Oversight has a charter. We have some openings, but we have certain criteria. The Board actually appoints those members based on that criteria.
10/24	When you talk about options for our building, is that in BEX V so we're talking 4-5 years down the line or is there funding from somewhere else before that?	I don't anticipate any other funds coming that could be used for STEM. The current levy funded projects are identified and allocated. There is some contingency funds, but bids have been coming in higher than expected.
10/24	Last meeting Dir. Harris proposed putting an interim school on the old Denny site. I have also heard that you might put an elementary there. What is the plan for the old Denny site?	My recommendation would not be to build an interim location there. You would be spending \$40M plus and then using it as an interim. That doesn't mean it couldn't happen, but it would not be my recommendation. I don't see an elementary school being likely because we have E.C. Hughes just a few blocks away. But it is land we have. Personally, I don't believe school districts should sell land ever because of how hard it is to come by, but we currently don't have plans for that land. I would rather lease it, but I know things were in a different place years ago.

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10/24	If there was a potential rebuild for STEM, where would it be if not the Denny site? What other locations would you be looking at if it's not the Denny site?	If a building for STEM K-8 was built on the Denny site, that would not be an interim school. It would be a brand new school. It would be your new building. We have to go through a process and figure out what our long term plan is for our land. Once you build something, that's what you have. We'll look at trends to see where we might need more schools.
10/24	I don't know what kind of enrollment studies you do, but I have a four-year old and a lot of my friends have young children, and I know a lot of pregnant people. I don't know what type of studies you are going to do. Genesee opened over enrolled. Other schools are full. Just from what I see, you are going to need a lot more seats.	We see changes to enrollment with density changes and with changes in zoning. We want to look at what is happening, but we also need to be careful that we don't equate new housing to new students. It's not a 1-to-1 ration for new units-to-new students. We track where students are, use housing studies, look at trends for areas, etc.