



“It’s our campus – have your say”

BRPS Campus Master Plan – Summary of feedback from consultation

In February 2016 School Council through the “It’s our campus – Have your say” initiative sought feedback from the school community on the Campus Master Plan – Stage 1.

The aim of the master plan is to guide future decisions in relation to the requirements for new buildings, capital expenditure on existing buildings, and other infrastructure projects that will affect the school in the long term. In addition, it provides data that will inform decisions regarding priorities for expenditure of funds held separately by the school and the P&C.

Thank you to all those who have provided feedback as part of the consultation process in Term 1. Our teachers provided collective feedback; many students provided feedback and some great ideas for improvement around the school were provided; and 30 submissions were received from parents.

The Building and Grounds Sub-Committee has evaluated feedback from the parent community and teachers and a summary is provided below.

Teachers

Feedback from teachers was positive with agreement to the senior school ‘precinct’ with general acknowledgement that the new demountable location was working well. In regard to the proposed multi-purpose building, teachers indicated the preferred location is the current OSHC location for its proximity to junior school amongst other reasons. The larger size of the proposed building would afford opportunities for larger group sessions e.g. all of year 5 and a variety of curriculum based activities to be undertaken. There was overall support for the proposed building and recognition that it offered many opportunities for use during school hours.

Parents

Thirty submissions were received from parents and many valuable insights and ideas were put forward. In summary:

- 20 of the 30 submissions positively supported the masterplan, and 17 of those supported the proposal to build a facility that better provides for OSHC in the current location.
- Only 1 submission was against the masterplan.
- 3 submissions were received in relation to a proposal to convert the existing Bristol classrooms into a new OSHC facility.
- 6 submissions expressed a desire for more shade to be provided.

- 3 submissions each requested improvements to power supply, A/C to the hall, and provision of other OSHC activities.
- Other good ideas included covering the queueing area of the canteen, more playground equipment, and improving disabled access.
- 2 submissions raised concerns with relocating the existing demountable adjacent to the library with potential disruption to current classes.
- Some submissions noted that cost estimates were not included in the Plan and this precluded a fuller comment on the Plan.
- It was noted that not all themes indicated in the masterplan were fully developed.
- Concern that the size of the multi-purpose building would not fully satisfy the DEC guidelines for OSHC so other rooms would still be required to supplement the building.

All of the feedback has been taken on board by the Sub Committee and amendments have been made the masterplan site map.

In relation to some items of feedback the sub-committee considered:

Funding of the masterplan

It is acknowledged that funding was not part of the masterplan, however it is not the intent of the masterplan to provide the financial plan for delivery. School Council has a role to develop a budget plan in line with the broad budget priorities of the school taking into account all funds available to the school from government, parent and community sources. School Council will establish a Finance Sub-Committee to progress the budget plan taking account of the priorities identified in the master plan.

Whilst an estimate for the multi-purpose building is sought it should be noted that funding sources currently available include \$140,000 in the school budget derived from rental income from the previous OSHC provider (YMCA); future rental income from the current OSHC provider starting at ~\$58,000 per annum; a NSW Government grant for \$30,000 that the school has applied for under the *Before and After School Care Fund - Phase 2* and ~ \$46,000 held by P&C from the previous Beaumont Road OOSH.

Other themes

It was noted by the Sub-Committee that this Stage 1 plan intentionally focussed on the building infrastructure and the campus footprint for major assets. Other themes indicated in the plan would be considered in a further planning stage.

Design suggestions for the multi-purpose building

Suggestions in relation to the building design and potential removal of features such as uniform storage, disabled toilets and the moveable wall to ensure maximum usable space is made available will be re-assessed in the design phase and will be taken into account in budget planning.

It is acknowledged that the size of the proposed building would not fully satisfy the DEC guidelines for OSHC when it is operating at full capacity. The Sub-Committee considers the current proposal of a

200+ sqm building would offer a far larger and more suitable home base for OSHC and would reduce the need for additional spaces such as classrooms to be provided for OSHC.

Alternate options – Bristol room conversion

A proposal was put forward to convert the Bristol rooms to a multipurpose room that could be used for OSHC. The proposal included the purchase of demountable buildings to accommodate the classes currently using those rooms and the conversion of the room by removal of the main internal wall and the addition of a kitchen.

An evaluation of the proposals to convert the 'Bristol' rooms raised a number of concerns including:

- The building is old and is towards the end of its lifespan, it is not desirable to invest in old infrastructure and the plan nominates this building to be removed in the longer term.
- If the building were to be removed in future years, a facility to accommodate OSHC and extra-curricular activities would need to be sourced. This proposal therefore moves the issue to future years rather than solves the issue.
- Two demountable replacement classrooms would be required to accommodate the displaced classes and the onus would be on the school to fund those demountables.
- Advice provided in District P&C guide on asset management to P&Cs states that "if they [P&C] pay for a demountable to go on the school site as a band room, OOSH or clothing pool room, it becomes the Department's property not the P&Cs, and may be taken, removed to another school or used as the Department considers appropriate". This indicates that any investment in a demountable for use as classrooms could be lost in the future. Whilst the same risk applies to a large pre-fabricated building the risk is considered to be less.
- The existing location blocks the line of sight to other school buildings. Opening up the existing space where the 'Bristol' building is located would likely have greater long term benefit for the school site.

In summary it was considered that any advantages offered by this proposal in terms of time taken to implement and potential cost savings were outweighed by the above points.

What's next?

The Sub-Committee will update the Campus Master Plan for submission to Council.

Council will consider the plans at next Council meeting currently scheduled for 3 June 2016.

Council will establish a Finance Sub-Committee to determine the budget plan for the school that will include all funding sources available including, government, parent and community sources.

P&C will develop further proposals for consideration.

School Council

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