Open Community Forum
May 2, 2017
1. **Welcome**  
   introductions / why we’re here

2. **Setting the Stage**  
   process overview / what to expect

3. **Exploring What’s Possible**  
   learning spaces in the 21st century

4. **How You Can Help**  
   we want to hear from you!

5. **Next Steps**  
   stay tuned!
Metropolitan School District of Washington Township

Project Leadership & Oversight

BrainSpaces, Inc.

pK-12 Educational Specifications

CSO Architects

Architect for New Elementary Schools
MSDWT Teaching and Learning Division

Championing Educational Needs

MSDWT Special Services & Student Programs Divisions

Representing Student Needs

MSDWT Human Resources & Business Services Divisions

Supporting Staff & Financial Needs

MSDWT Operations Division

Maintaining Facilities/Physical Needs

MSDWT Community Members

Representing Community Needs
MSDWT Students

A variety of Focus Groups to gather ideas and insights from our most important experts!
BrainSpaces - Who We Are:

- Architects & Educators
- Planning for Brain-Based Learning Environments
- Collaborating with Clients around the world
- Internationally Recognized for Holistic Design
- Award-winning school designs
Setting the Stage
Metropolitan School District of Washington Township

1. What are Educational Specifications?
2. Why do we need them?
3. How will we develop them?
4. What will they include?
5. How will they be used?
What are Ed Specs?

Educational Specifications

Vision
Collaboratively developed principles which will guide decision-making throughout the project.

Who
Students
- Business Partners
- Teachers & Staff
- Leadership & Administrators
- School Districts & Agencies
- Funding Sources
- Community Members
- Parents & Siblings
- Neighbors
- etc.

What
Spaces
- Quantitative definition of spaces
- Qualitative definition of spaces
- Multi-Use opportunities
- Adjacency requirements
- Required space attributes
- Technology requirements
- Design considerations
- District design guidelines

How
Functions
- (current & future)
- Curriculum
- Educational Activities
- User Characteristics
- Flexibility goals
- Community Use
- Administration
- Future programs
- Technology Use
- Adaptability
- Partnerships

Design
Why Ed Specs?

20th Century Schools
(an analogy)

“Ed Specs”

21st Century Schools
“Givens”
- accommodate capacity
- support teaching & learning
- safety / security
- code compliance
- healthy systems
- technology

Interpret “Givens”
- translate needs into spaces
- define educational effectiveness
- connect facilities and learning
- consider future adaptability

Road Map for Design

Why Ed Specs?
how will we develop ed specs?

timeline designed for efficiency & effectiveness
benchmarks include:

- quantities
- qualities
- adjacencies

**what will be included?**
**what will be included?**

**description of exhibit:**

**BENCHMARKS** shown in spreadsheet format

**BENCHMARKS** shown in graphic format

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**CORE LEARNING:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th># Rooms</th>
<th># Students</th>
<th>Student (+/-) NSF (+/-)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PK/ECE Classrooms</td>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kindergarten Classrooms</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Grade Classrooms</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grades 2-3 Classrooms</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grades 4-5 Classrooms</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FLEX Classrooms</td>
<td>1-2</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bilingual Classrooms</td>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**SPECIAL PROGRAMS:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th># Rooms</th>
<th># Students</th>
<th>Student (+/-) NSF (+/-)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Self-Contained Classroom</td>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resource Classrooms</td>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading Classrooms</td>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sensory/Calming Room</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELL Program</td>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEAP Classroom</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kinder Intervention</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**ACTIVITY SPACES:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th># Rooms</th>
<th># Students</th>
<th>Student (+/-) NSF (+/-)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Art Room</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music Room</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer Lab</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library/Media Center</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gymnasium</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cafeteria/MPR</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stage/Performance</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Flexible Classroom
Many Possibilities
with one furniture package
Ed Specs will be used to develop 2 new elementary schools

(example)
High School “Givens”
- 9-12 school for 3,500 to 4,000 students
- spaces conducive to conversation & dialogue
- space for small group work & professional collaboration
- improved sites & traffic flow
- safety & security
- code compliance, healthy systems, technology
- **Effective Educational Environments**

Educational Specifications will Interpret & Fine-Tune Your “Givens” into Specific Facilities Benchmarks

**how will ed specs be used?**
Middle School “Givens”
- 6-8 schools for 800 to 1,050 students
- spaces conducive to conversation & dialogue
- space for small group work & professional collaboration
- improved sites & traffic flow
- safety & security
- code compliance, healthy systems, technology
- **Effective Educational Environments**

Educational Specifications will Interpret & Fine-Tune Your “Givens” into Specific Facilities Benchmarks
Elementary School “Givens”
- K-5 schools for 650 to 725 students
- support space to meet program needs
- improved sites & traffic flow
- safety & security
- code compliance, healthy systems, technology
- Effective Educational Environments

Educational Specifications will Interpret & Fine-Tune Your “Givens” into Specific Facilities Benchmarks
Educational Specifications will be used as guides to develop specific facility plans for each school in the district.
1. Research in Education
2. Planning for the Future
3. Creative Examples
what's possible?
ENJOYABLE ACTIVITIES
Enjoyable activities elicit dopamine release which enhances learning naturally and chemically, while also reducing the secretion of stress hormones which can impede learning and increase anxiety.

FUN + CHALLENGING
Effective approaches combine FUN with progressively increasing CHALLENGES.

EXERCISE IMPROVES LEARNING
Exercise, which increases pre-frontal cortex activity, is a great way to build cognitive ability. Though some worry that physical education takes time away from classrooms, studies find strong evidence that PHYSICAL ACTIVITY improves academic performance.

THE WHOLE CHILD
Programs to enhance SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL development accelerate school achievement as much as interventions targeted at academic subjects.

A child’s INTERNAL MOTIVATION is one of the most powerful tools for learning.

source: Sandra Aamodt (editor “Nature Neuroscience”) & Sam Wang (Professor of molecular biology and neuroscience, Princeton) authors of “Welcome to Your Child’s Brain: How the Mind Grows From Conception to College”
how do kids learn?
Top 4 Traits of “Future Proof” Employees, According to 1,709 CEOs — Forbes

- Collaborative: 75%
- Communicative: 67%
- Creative: 61%
- Flexible: 61%
- Opportunity seeking: 54%
- Analytical/quantitative: 50%
- Technology-savvy: 41%
- Globally oriented: 41%
- Assertive: 25%
- Disruptive: 16%

planning for the future
**FROM THIS**
create alone
present
right answers
bring solutions
perfection
introverted
closed / think quietly
appearance
information gathered
memorizing

**NOW ADD THIS**
create together
design
right questions
seek / develop solutions
mistakes allowed
extraverted
open / think out loud
authentic
knowledge generated
understanding

**shift is happening**
65% of the children in preschool today will work in jobs that do not yet exist.
what we want for our kids

creative, engaged, focused, brilliant, independent, intelligent, collaborative, interactive, healthy...
passive, dull, uninspiring, predictable, regularized, lifeless, crowded, controlled, cold, inflexible, boring...

spaces we give them
- assumes all teachers teach the same way
- assumes all students learn in the same way
Physical Characteristics: 21st Century Learning

- varied selection of learning environments available
- learning extends beyond the school building
- student-centered, students as focus
- rooms accommodate various furniture layouts
- hands-on projects are supported
- visibility into classrooms
- easy access to student support services
- technology considered one of many tools available
- natural light is critical
- learning extends outdoors
Thornebrooke Elementary School’s teachers lounge boasts an institutional feel prior to its PTA-sponsored makeover by several savvy parents.

In honor of Teacher Appreciation Week, the teachers lounge at Thornebrook Elementary School is transformed into a cozy retreat that exudes an ambience of tranquility.
before

thoughtful vs expensive

after
Creative Examples

With your child,
learn about angles.
How You Can Help

1. Research in Education
2. Planning for the Future
3. Creative Examples
4. What do you think?
A Survey of Reactions:
For each of the images shown, answer the following:

1) Do you have this type of environment in your schools?
   - Yes
   - No
   - Not sure

2) Would you like this type of environment in your schools?
   - Yes, here’s what interests me:
     ______________________________________________________
   - No, here’s what concerns me:
     ______________________________________________________
   - Not sure, it could be cool, but I worry about:
     ______________________________________________________
Amy’s NOTE:

I’m thinking that we select 5-10 of the following images per table group. I’ll create handouts for each table to record their responses for us to collect.

We could include all images in the on-line version (possibly grouped by ES/MS/HS). This could encourage folks to complete the survey on-line after they leave the session... The on-line version will also gather some demographic info we can use to sort responses.

I would also suggest having blank “comment cards” available for people to offer additional ideas via handing in the cards.
Image #1

Experiencing Daylight
Image #2

Window-Seat
Image #3

2-Story Commons
Community library
Freeman Kennedy Elementary School
New Elementary School | Norfolk, MA

Image #5
Community Fitness
Image #7
Community Commons
“Learning Park”
Soaring Heights Elementary, Joplin, MO

Image #8
Collaborative Commons
Image #9 Multi-Function Classroom
Collaborative Labs
Tinkering Space
Multi-Use Space

Image #13
The Barrie School
Hord Coplan Macht

Image #15
Hallways for Learning
Collaboration Space

Image #17
Image #21

Flexible Spaces
Image #24 Visibility Among Spaces
Westtown School Science Center
SMP Architects

Image #26

Tinkering Space
Marysville Getchell High School Campus, WA
BrainSpaces, DLR Group & Architects of Achievement

Image #28

Views to Nature
Next Steps:

- **Staff & Student Focus Groups**
  discussions of specific spaces needed for teaching & learning

- **Space Benchmarks**
  translation of needs into spatial parameters

- **Conceptual Planning for Elementary Schools**
  Conceptual site and building design

- **On-going Communications**
  The District is committed to a transparent process, stay tuned!