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NEW BIRDVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
BIRDVILLE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Birdville ISD

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Dolores Webb   Board Vice President
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Fort Worth, TX

Interior Design
Huckabee
Fort Worth, TX

Food Service
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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS
**Introduction**

As part of the 2014 Bond Program, a replacement campus for Birdville Elementary was planned to serve 750 students. Over the summer, Huckabee met with Birdville Elementary staff and BISD administration to develop a program of spaces similar to the existing BISD elementary prototype and spent three days in a design charrette working together to study various options for the site design and the building layout. The charrette process allowed the staff to share how their space needed to function and be engaged in the design process as it happened. The design solution conceived at and resulting from this charrette is presented herein.

**Existing Site Conditions**

Placing the new building on the existing site poses some challenges, all of which can be overcome with some advanced planning. First, the existing school will remain occupied and in operation while the new school is being constructed adjacent to it. Careful coordination will be taken with BISD and specifically Birdville Elementary staff to prevent the construction of the new building from impeding on the day to day functionality and instructional delivery at the existing campus. Daily access will be maintained for parents, staff and buses.

Second, the new facility is well beyond the required clearance of the adjacent gas well site that is on the west side of Bewley Street. This is equal or better when compared to the location of the existing campus.

Third, addressing current drainage issues and preventing future drainage issues will require thoughtful design within very tight site constraints. The existing site slopes down from the high northwest corner where the existing facility is located toward a point 10’ lower on the southeast corner where the new facility will be located. A substantial amount of fill dirt will be required to bring the southeast portion of the site up to grade and allow for proper drainage around the new building. This will result in a retaining wall along the southern property line. An upgrade of the underground storm drainage system and on-site detention will also be required to correct current drainage issues on the site.

**Site Development**

The new elementary school will have a prominent presence on Carson Street. The main entrance will face Carson along with the library, administration suite and two-story academic wing. The cafetorium, kitchen and gym will extend along the southern boundary of the site. Parking will be provided at the front of the site for visitors. The majority of this lot will be designated for the Shannon Center across Carson Street as it is used currently. Staff will park in the back inside of the bus loop. Overflow parking for events is still available on the district-owned lot immediately north of the project site that is currently used by Birdville Elementary staff.

Overall site circulation keeps parents and buses separate for peak drop-off and pick-up times. Parents will enter on the north end of the site off of Carson and travel south along the front of the building and around the south side of the building to the cafeteria to drop off their children and then exit onto Bewley Street. This maximizes stacking space on site to eliminate or greatly reduce any potential back-up on streets surrounding the site. The buses will have their own drive separate from the parents and will enter from Bewley and drop off students in front of the gym before looping back around to exit onto Bewley. The service drive for the kitchen is also located on the south side of the site at the end of the parent lane.

A play area for students on the southwest portion of the site can be accessed from the gym without students having to cross any driveways.

**Building**

The new facility will be two-stories totaling 90,000SF, designed for 750 students. The main entry provides direct access to the administration suite for visitors to check into the office before being granted access to the campus. The main entrance also provides direct access to the library after hours for community use. This center will be self-contained including a single restroom so that no one will need to enter the remainder of the building. The library is intended to be the learning hub of the school with flexible furniture and technology throughout to accommodate multiple learning settings, formal and informal, for large or small groups or individuals.

The two-story academic wing is designed for Kindergarten through second grade on the first floor and third through fifth grade on the second floor. One Pre-kindergarten classroom and two ABLE classrooms are also on the first floor near the administration suite. Both floors have a science classroom and computer lab for shared use. Due to site constraints, no future additions are planned. However, two extra classrooms on the second floor will allow for some flexibility and growth.

While similar to the current elementary prototype, a few modifications have been made. First, every classroom will have windows for natural daylight. Each grade level is designed as a pod of five classrooms with a central collaboration area. The collaboration area when compared to other campuses has been reduced to the size of half of a classroom and will be more clearly defined and suited for small group activities. This area will have visual supervision from each classroom. It will include a sink with cabinet storage, writable wall surfaces and a projector. These spaces will also gain from natural light through a second story clerestory or through a light well to the first floor below.

Down the corridor from the library are the gym on the north side and the cafetorium on the south side. The cafetorium will be supported by a kitchen of the same design as the current elementary prototype. There is convenient access from both the parent drop off/pick-up lane and the bus drop-off/pick-up area for use before and after school. A stage will front the cafetorium for assemblies and performances and can also be accessed from the music classroom behind for student entry.
New Birdville Elementary School, Birdville Independent School District

PROPOSED SITE PLAN

Outline of Existing Elementary School

Parking Summary

- Visitors: 19
- Faculty/Staff: 81
- Shannon Learning Center: 66
- Total: 166

Play Fields
New Birdville Elementary School, Birdville Independent School District

WEST EXTERIOR VIEW