

Columbine Elementary School Building/Facility Visioning Process

Design Principles
January, 2009

Instructional Facilities

1. The New Columbine Facility design provides classroom/learning spaces and meeting spaces that have the flexibility to accommodate a variety of class/group sizes, while providing adequate storage space for student supplies and possessions, and teacher materials and resources.

Specific Considerations:

- Flexibility to arrange classrooms for various numbers of students, possibly with movable walls to arrange break out space.
- Doorways between classrooms to facilitate grouping and re-grouping.
- Doorways with outside access, as feasible.
- Restroom facilities attached to ECE/Kinder classrooms.
- Storage spaces organized for daily use instructional items, monthly use items, and infrequently used items. Some spaces could be outside of the classrooms.
- Central storage spaces for materials used by multiple teachers/classrooms.
- Meeting space large enough to accommodate the entire staff (with chairs with backs!).
- Adequate and creative front office and health offices spaces.

2. The New Columbine Facility is a “green” facility designed and constructed to provide timeless appeal as a community asset that maximizes energy efficiency and sustainability of natural resources.

Specific Considerations:

- Use local, natural materials, possibly sustainably-harvested or recycled.
- Recommend Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification process.
- Use of solar electric, passive solar, geothermal Heating, low-flow motion sensor since faucets.
- State of the art heating and ventilation systems throughout the building, with particular attention to effectiveness in large spaces.
- Install displays showing energy usage, CO2 offsets, and signage (English and Spanish) explaining technology and savings.
- Extensive use of natural lighting, with operable windows.

3. The use of technology for learning is fully and seamlessly integrated throughout the entire Columbine Facility.

Specific Considerations:

- Separate designs taking into account technology use for Pre-school through grade 2, and grades 3-5.
- Design for computer use in the classrooms in addition to separate computer lab(s).
- Library designed for extensive use of technology, including projection areas.
- Consider scalability for future technology, e.g. conduits, materials that do not inhibit wireless, etc.
- Current equipment to consider includes LCD projectors, SmartBoards, and Document Cameras.

4. The New Columbine Facility is designed to provide ease of movement between classrooms and the other dedicated, core spaces such as the library, gymnasium, performance areas, and cafeteria. These other core spaces are designed and located so as not to disturb the classroom learning environments.

Specific Considerations:

- Cafeteria is large enough to allow all students to have recess before lunch (with 30 minutes for eating), with acoustic design to dampen noise.
- Cafeteria is designed to prepare fresh foods, with ample storage for a Farm to School program.
- Dedicated room(s) for music.
- Separate gymnasium and cafeteria.
- Auditorium, or a space(s) with a stage for performance.
- Consider a separate building for the larger spaces such as gym and/or auditorium.
- Library large enough for “story” space(s), teaching areas, and books.
- Teacher work room with space for multiple copiers.

Outside Areas for Recreation and Learning

5. The New Columbine Facility design incorporates a courtyard that supports student and adult gatherings for both learning and community meeting/social events.

Specific Considerations:

- Strong preference articulated by many for a courtyard space(s) with outdoor amphitheatre and/or other meeting/performance spaces.
- Courtyard space contained for ease of monitoring of students.

6. The grounds of the New Columbine Facility incorporate such features as an outdoor learning laboratory/classroom and community garden/greenhouse.

Specific Considerations:

- Outdoor learning facilities have easy access from classrooms.
- Pursue collaboration with the University of Colorado for learning activities utilizing the outdoor space.
- Perimeter “fencing” that provides ease of access for community members to the grounds.
- A more “walkable” facility.
- Development of community garden space and student garden space, with convenient access to kitchen/cafeteria.

7. The grounds of the New Columbine are graded and landscaped to support safe student recreation and play activities.

Specific Considerations:

- Design/install extensive playground areas, with age appropriate equipment and facilities (consider design such as Foothills Park).
- Use of natural materials for play (as opposed to “spongy” asphalt).
- Use of xeriscape designs.

Community Activities, Events, and Meetings

8. The design of the New Columbine Facility provides facilities such as classrooms/meeting spaces, the library, performance spaces, and gymnasium that encourage community involvement and participation. These facilities are located in a manner that encourages access and participation while at the same time providing safety and security for the building as a whole.

Specific Considerations:

- Gym, library, auditorium, and cafeteria should have separate access to the outside to avoid conflict with academic areas.
- Consider separate building/structure to house community use facilities such as gym and auditorium (repeated above).

Safety and Traffic

10. The design of the New Columbine Facility organizes and disperses approaching and departing transportation in order to minimize the impact on any particular street/location adjacent to the facility.

Specific Considerations:

- Provide spacious drop off/pick up areas that are located away from designated parking areas and provide convenient and safe access to building entrances or playground areas, as appropriate.
- Emphasize and encourage walking and biking lanes as alternative means of transportation to Columbine.
- Explore alternative routings or development of new traffic lanes to ease flow and increase safety and convenience. Coordinate with Safe Streets to School Initiative.
- Pursue joint agreement with City of Boulder when developing signage around the facilities, streets, etc.

Other Comments and Considerations

- Interest in on-site child care for staff
- Identify and in some fashion maintain or save important items from the existing building that maintain the “legacy” of Columbine. Examples mentioned include murals and the cement hand prints by the ball wall in the park.