

"... if you don't know where you are going, any road will take you there".

~Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, Lewis Carroll

Or, "The Importance of a Master Plan" the first in a series...

A campus master plan is an important document which acts as a roadmap for future enhancements of school facilities. Although the product of the master plan, the map itself, serves a useful purpose in planning for incremental improvements, the process of developing the master plan is often one of the most meaningful exercises a school community can undertake to contemplate and plan for its future. This journey will give the school an opportunity to think before it acts, to celebrate the unique qualities of the school in order to ensure that those things we cherish will not be lost, and to imagine how the natural and built environment might better support the type of teaching, learning and "connecting" that makes The San Francisco School so special.

Master planning, like strategic planning and financial planning, is an essential community exercise that most schools undertake every ten – fifteen years. The last SFS Master Plan was completed in the Fall of 1996. The 2007 -2012 Strategic Plan "A Broad and Adventurous Look at the Future" sets the stage for this process by stating: "Campus improvements are envisioned that will support the overall student experience, including celebrations, events and performances, indoor and outdoor work and play, and the general well-being of teachers and students."

Over the past three years, the Building and Grounds Committee has prepared the necessary background information to ensure that this process moves along smoothly. In our conversations with many of the staff and faculty we have identified the following as preliminary, programmatic needs to consider in the master plan:

- Middle School Spanish room
- Gym/PE and all school gathering space
- Art, music and drama spaces
- Library/technology space
- Dedicated daycare space
- Centralized administrative offices and storage
- Staff lounge
- Renovations to preschool and daycare class rooms/bathrooms and kitchen for lighting, heating, plumbing and structural improvements
- Preschool north playground freeway noise mitigation

We look forward to an official launch of the master planning effort in the spring of 2008 with the selection of an architect and landscape architect to guide the process. We anticipate that all members of our community will have ample opportunity to be involved in this important effort. To be successful, this process will need to be transparent and inclusive. It must balance our needs and desires with our financial ability to implement them and must reflect the values and founding principles of our school. We believe that with the enthusiastic and open participation of our entire community, this journey will lead us to a learning environment that celebrates our mission, is healthy and safe and allows each teacher and student to fully realize their goals both inside and outside the classroom.

Please look for upcoming TNH articles on this subject!

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On Behalf of The Site Committee**