Neighborhood Watch: Designing for Community and Security in the Modern World

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Portland, Maine
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ARCHITECT
• Harrison Lyseth Elementary School
• Portland, ME
• 110 mi North of Boston
PROJECT CONTEXT

• North Deering Neighborhood
• Shares Campus with Lyman Moore Middle School
• K-5
• 500 +/- Students
• 1960
• 50,000 sf
Who is the Community?

- Neighborhood
- Organization / Groups
- Parents / Families
- Teachers / Admin / Staff
- Students
What makes a Neighborhood School?

- Site Connections
- Location
- Campus Features
- Building Presentation
- Landscape
- Extracurricular Use of the Facility
- School Policy
What makes a School a Community School?

- Transparency
- Welcoming Entrance
- Social Emotional Spaces
  - Nest
  - Cave
  - Watering Hole
  - Connections to Nature
  - Play Spaces
- Learning Occurs Everywhere
- Displays
- Grade-Level Community Nodes
- Culture
- Policy
SAFETY/SECURITY

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• List 5 Safety/Security Strategies you believe are important in K-12 School Design
SAFETY/SECURITY

Community List

Top strategies from group exercise

- Visibility / Transparency / connectedness – strategic approach
- Single point of entry
- Welcoming / not prison feel
- Process of design / align with policy / align with first responders
- Pride of ownership / define public and private
- Social / emotional connectedness
- Layers of access control / visibility – cameras/ authorized access
- Feeling of safety
- Diversity of learning spaces
- Integrated communication plan
- Education around safety and security policy / features
- Place within the classroom that provides a sense of safety
- Design safety through architecture
Security Strategies
Strategies Utilized in the Design of the Neighborhood School

- Building Organization (Private / Public / Vulnerable Areas)
- Single Entrance
- Visibility
- Layers of Security
- Technology
  - Access Control
  - Communication (Internal / External / Authorities)
- Site
  - Lighting
  - Barriers
  - Guiding Behaviors
  - Flow
  - Protected
- Policy and Procedures
- Cameras
What makes a Neighborhood School?

**Attributes**
- Site Connections
- Campus Features
- Building Presentation
- Landscape
- Extracurricular Use of the Facility
- School Policy

**Tension**
- Multiple Access Points to campus
- Identifying folks that belong
- Unwelcoming vs. Embracing
- Visibility / Hiding Places
- Public access after hours / Boundaries between programs
- Rigidity / Shared resources
## COMMUNITY vs SAFETY/SECURITY

### What makes a School a Community School?

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Attributes</th>
<th>Tension</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Transparency</td>
<td>• Vulnerability</td>
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<td>• Welcoming Entrance</td>
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### Attributes
- Transparency
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### Tension
- Vulnerability
- Hardened entry
- Exposure / Visibility / Dispersed Population
- Visibility
- Exposure / Visibility / Dispersed Population
- Vulnerability
- Vulnerability
- Vulnerability / Access / Dispersed Population
- Privacy
- Exposure / Visibility / Dispersed Population
- Trust vs. Suspicion
- Flexibility vs. Rigidity
Designing a Neighborhood School
COMMUNITY

CRAFTING LYSETH’S DESIGN STATEMENT

STEP 1: 3 WORDS OR PHRASES THAT CAPTURE THE ESSENCE OF LYSETH

STEP 2: 3 IMAGES THAT CAPTURE THE ESSENCE OF LYSETH

STEP 3: 1 DESIGN STATEMENT THAT CAPTURE THE ESSENCE OF LYSETH
COMMUNITY

Neighborhood Connection / Safe Place (physically, emotionally and creatively / acceptance) / Learning Campus / Natural Light
COMMUNITY

“A nurturing community garden where everyone grows, learns and explores.”
The Project Scope

- New secure entrance
- Welcoming Lobby
- Expanded Admin / Nurse
- Remove Portables
- Separate Gym
- New Library / Learning Commons
- Updates / Renovations
- Sprinkler / Fire Alarm

“A nurturing community garden where everyone grows, learns and explores.”
Lessons Learned

• We need to continue the conversation and continue to learn from one another
• Continually explore the tensions between community schools and safety and security to create welcoming and safe schools.
• Alignment of building design and policies and procedures
• Educate occupants
COMMUNITY + SAFETY/SECURITY

Questions?

“A nurturing community garden where everyone grows, learns and explores.”