

Feedback Received at 7/20/2023 Community Meeting					
	Comments, Questions and Suggestions		City Response		
1	A large communal table with seats or benches situated somewhere in the shade would be really well used by parents and for community events.		<i>Design Team will look for opportunities to incorporate group seating/tables in the playground design.</i>		
2	The benches currently in the paved circle are primarily used to store clothes and backpacks so they are rarely used for sitting by parents or caregivers. Additionally, their location in full sun and amid pavement makes them very hot in the summer.		<i>Noted.</i>		
3	The school's orchard is treasured by the Green Team and community. It is also used by PreK.		<i>The design team will prioritize protecting the orchard trees and zone and maintaining it as primarily a PreK space.</i>		
4	The plastic retaining element along the outer edge of the playground allows kids to hide from caregivers - a perceived safety issue.		<i>This will be considered while exploring more durable options for retaining grade to provide flat area for the playground. Design options will include a couple different approaches to managing the slopes and flat areas in the playground.</i>		
5	The new playground design needs to balance good sightlines with the kids need for hiding spots.				
6	The perimeter fence is low enough for kids to jump over it when going after escaped balls.		<i>The perimeter fence is outside the scope of the playground improvement project but this concern may inform any suggestions the design team provides for future replacement or upgrade of the perimeter fence as a separate improvement effort by the Portland Public Schools.</i>		
7	Snow is plowed into an arch along the paved circle perimeter with water draining into a depression near a tree. Kids use the pile of snow for sliding and tunneling.		<i>Snow storage and its potential play value in design will be considered.</i>		
8	There is more paving in today's playground than is necessary.		<i>Design will take into consideration a more optimal proportioning of unprogrammed paved space, play equipment area, open field and natural play environments.</i>		
9	Kindergradeners use the garden more than the playground because the playground is closed off during recess.		<i>Design team will coordinate with the school leadership on how best to accommodate Kindergarten and PreK aged kids.</i>		
10	The playground is usually used by one grade at a time: 50-80 kids. When multiple grades use it, 150 or more kids are out there at once.		<i>Noted</i>		
11	During recess, kids are supervised by 3-4 staff (when it's just one grade) or 7-8 staff for multiple grades.		<i>Noted</i>		
12	Older kids tend to look for social spaces to hang out and talk OR play more active sports like soccer. When the spider climber was still up, older kids would congregate within it.		<i>Play equipment and settings for older kids will be addressed in the playground redesign process.</i>		
13	People take shelter and sleep in enclosed parts of the playground and garden currently. Charlie Marengi has to ask people to leave in the mornings. School leadership prefers for the future playground to minimize enclosed areas that could serve adults hiding/sheltering - tunnels for example.		<i>This topic has received mixed feedback with some parents advocating for enclosures and hiding spots while other parents, staff and school leadership feel strongly that there should be no enclosures, tunnels or hiding spots in the future playground. Based on feedback from the Reiche School Principal, the design team will not propose any tunnels or enclosures in the design options.</i>		
14	Currently, the garden does not have an adequately sized space for a class to gather and sit. Perhaps the future playground can incorporate a gathering space sized for a typical class.		<i>The Design team will work to incorporate a gathering space into playground design options.</i>		
15	There is an existing memorial (Picnic Table). Unclear if it should be preserved in the future design. There is another memorial for Bestie in the works- possibly a bench but this has not yet been confirmed, nor has the location.		<i>Design team will stay tuned for more information about future memorial and direct feedback from the School leadership about existing memorial.</i>		
16	Though there are many swings in the existing playgorund, during recess, there is enough demand for them that kids wait in line for their turn.		<i>The design team will explore opportunities for adding more swings to the playground.</i>		
17	School leadership would like to see gates replace the chains currently used to close off the playground during school hours.		<i>This will need to be part of a separate discussion of playground and school security and possible solutions. If gates are to be provided, this would be through a separate improvement proejct.</i>		
18	Will the presentation be available to the PTO?		<i>Yes!</i>		
19	For the next community meeting, a 3:30 pm timing (right when kids are being picked up) and/or 5 pm could work well. Earlier is better for parents picking up kids in-person. Later is better for parents who rely on buses and work until 5.		<i>The next meeting will be held 3:30-5 and presentation materials will be posted online for anyone who wishes to view them outside the meeting time.</i>		

20	Raised beds in the kindergarten area get trampled and the garden plants do not do well there	<i>Design will consider alternative use for this space and better opportunities for accommodating kindergarten raised bed areas.</i>
21	The site currently lacks tactile elements for younger kids	<i>Noted.</i>
22	Digging is very popular at the edges of the playground under the trees abutting Spring Street but sightlines are not great	<i>Design team will propose more visible digging areas and aim to keep those areas out of trees' critical root zones in order to support tree health/longevity.</i>
23	The idea of play away from adults is popular, but the new playground needs to balance parents' and teachers' needs for lines of sight	<i>Noted</i>
24	Kids loved the modulars and the trail network made by the ramps	<i>Design will explore ways to accommodate this use of topography and circular routes.</i>
25	Staff and some members may not favor water play which leads to wet and dirty kids	<i>This topic has received mixed response: some parents desire water play while other parents and many staff expressed hesitation on offering water play in the playground. Parks prefers to locate higher maintenance and more expensive water play features in Parks Playgrounds rather than community school playgrounds.</i>
26	The dismissal process works well and will remain at the east side of the building. Bus pick up is at the main entrance off Brackett Street	<i>Noted.</i>
27	The new playground has an opportunity to integrate plantings and spaces with nature-based education program	<i>Agreed.</i>
28	Older kids often play on the toddler swings. It may be good to have separate areas for the younger children (safer)	<i>Noted, design team will look for opportunities to spatially separate toddler swings from school-aged play equipment.</i>
29	Parents reported significant interest / preference for aspects of the Pond Cove, East End, and Waynefleet playgrounds	<i>Noted. These are all projects that landscape architect Sashie Misner designed and she will apply similar design principles in developing options for the Reiche Playground.</i>