



September 16, 2013

**MEETING MINUTES NO. 2**  
**VILLA PARK HIGH SCHOOL**  
**CORE GROUP PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING NO. 1**  
**LPA PROJECT NO. 13130.10**

**DATE: September 11, 2013**  
**TIME: 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM**  
**PLACE: VILLA PARK HS CAFETORIUM**

This report of the meeting's events, if not corrected within seven days of transmittal, shall be acknowledged as accurate and deemed as if accepted in writing by the addressee(s).

**PRESENT**

Ed Howard, VPHS  
 Gary Slump, OUSD  
 Kerrie Torres, OUSD  
 Wendy Rogers, LPA  
 Don Pender, LPA  
 Samuel Lim, LPA  
 Core Group Committee (Sign-In sheet attached)

**DISTRIBUTION**

Kate Mraw, LPA

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**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

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ACTION	ITEM NO.	
<b>INFO</b>	<b>2.00</b>	This was the first Villa Park HS Core Group Planning Committee meeting. The purpose of this meeting is to engage collaboratively in a process that will establish guiding principles for the framework of the Villa Park High School Facilities Master Plan.
<b>INFO</b>	<b>2.01</b>	Principal Ed Howard began the meeting with a summary of what participants might expect from the FMP process. Don Pender, Wendy Rogers and Samuel Lim introduced LPA and the firm's integrated design approach, outlining a collaborative process with an estimated duration of 6-7 months. LPA reviewed the Orange Unified School District's strategic plan, the core elements of a successful FMP, a schedule of future meetings and workshops, and involvement and commitment necessary to support the FMP process. LPA provided a brief description of the deliverables that will be produced from the process, and presented examples of projects that were developed through similar FMP's.
<b>INFO</b>	<b>2.02</b>	LPA showed five schools that have been transformed as the result of a successful Master Plan process, demonstrating how every school has unique needs to be defined and explored during these meetings. To introduce ideas on 21 <sup>st</sup> Century Learning, LPA presented a video on <a href="#">21<sup>st</sup> Century Education</a> . Initial thoughts from the group at the conclusion of the video focused on the excitement level – both for students and parents – in being able to bring this type of environment to VPHS. The idea 'What's Next'? became a theme to build upon.

LPA then led two interactive exercises with the group, which are summarized below.



**ACTION            ITEM NO.**

**INFO                2.03            Exercise 1 - What will make this project a SUCCESS?**

Building on the ideas of the video presentation, meeting participants were asked how at the conclusion of this Facilities Master Plan meetings, they would define success. The responses are summarized below.

1. The vision must excite students, instructors, parents, and the surrounding community.
2. It is vital that the community embrace this project. In order for this to happen, the project must have a compelling and engaging story. This is critical because many community members are no longer involved with VPHS.
3. Communicate clearly. Share the message with both the Orange and Villa Park communities in an open and transparent manner.
4. Listen carefully. Everyone must have their voices heard in order to have a sense of ownership.
5. VPHS is already a hub within the community today; can it play a more vital role by engaging local business and creating educational partnerships? These connections must be understood and explored.
6. The community needs to trust not just the school but the School District as well.
7. To achieve greater buy in - let's make a big deal about student success and achievements. Let's get alumni to come back and be proud of their school. Let's get parents that aren't involved (or don't know how) to be involved with VPHS.
8. Kids today embrace technology, but how can we provide 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Environments when our equipment and facility is 50 years old?
9. VPHS has always been proud of its students' academic performance: the FMP must be driven by this idea. The facilities should support the academic program.
10. Academics and the well-being of its students are paramount to VPHS: the facility and its infrastructure should come second. But consideration should be given to having a facility that welcomes the surrounding community to take advantage of VPHS's resources.
11. Explore Career Technical Education options that are relevant to student interests and 21<sup>st</sup> century careers.
12. VPHS has parts that feel like a park, and many community members use the campus (tennis courts, track and field, green open space, exercise groups in the breeze way), and its use as a community resource could be increased.
13. The community will stand behind good investments. Value is not measured solely in terms of cost, but more often in terms of how it can improve the experience of its users.
14. This committee must make responsible fiscal choices.
15. Be aware of how (\$) and when (schedule) the vision is delivered. Make sure this can be implemented successfully.
16. Demonstrate where the money will come from to make this possible. Will it take money away from other schools or services?
17. Long-term value requires long-term commitment. Rather than defining a 20-year academic vision, the committee wants a 50-year vision.
18. The vision shall embrace the future, and shall be designed to be relevant and adaptive to future trends.
19. Technology is important, but it is not an antidote. In fact, Technology can often become an obstacle because of obsolescence. The focus instead should be on well-designed spaces and environments that are suited to the ever-evolving needs of its users. (Reference of smart board being obsolete)

**ACTION**            **ITEM NO.**

- 20. The FMP vision must embrace the community’s diversity and special needs.
- 21. VPHS must understand the trends of its student population and enrollment. In order for classroom sizes to be determined, student population must first be understood.
- 22. Residents must understand that an investment in VPHS is an investment in the community. A successful school is vital to any community. The notion of improved property values were mentioned in this regard.
- 23. Be aware of what other schools are doing, see how other sites are improving their facilities, and learn from others’ experiences of what work from those that don’t.
- 24. “America is best at What’s Next.” Education improvement at VPHS is **what’s next!**

Important themes include:

- Involvement of and for the community to share the excitement of what’s possible.
- Fiscal responsibility in an open and transparent way to communicate the needs of the school
- A plan that is implementable
- To bring ‘what’s next’ to VPHS as an investment in this school community

**INFO**                    **2.04**

**Exercise 2 – LOVE IT or FIX IT?**

The group was presented with an aerial photograph of the VPHS campus. Each attendee was provided with one green sticker (love it) and one red sticker (fix it), and was asked to identify one element of VPHS that they loved, and another element that he or she felt needed improvement.





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Important themes include:

- The quad with its mature trees, shade is truly the heart of the campus. Although parts could be improved, it is clearly the most loved part of the campus.
- The most critical item to repair was identified as the portables. Permanent construction is strongly desired rather than this theoretically temporary, harsh concrete area of the academic campus.
- Participants love the baseball field (with more seating), and the use of the track and field (with better surfacing). They love the pool but want one that better meets the high demand for water. They want to maintain a strong performing arts program (in an improved facility).
- The front of the school is nice, but the main academic building needs significant improvement, more than just curb appeal.
- The majority of the red dots tagged spaces that require program attention. Choir adjacent to special education, poor science facilities, poor locker facilities, classrooms that require students disconnect, rather than connect to technology. This speaks to the general state of disrepair found throughout the campus.

**INFO                    2.05                    Summary**  
The intent of this meeting was to introduce the Core Group Planning Committee to the VPHS FMP process, and to develop a vision that is built on the Committee’s ideas, objectives, and goals. The continued participation of the Committee in these meetings -- and ultimately the broader community in future sessions -- will be critical in realizing a common, unified vision for VPHS.

**INFO                    2.06                    Next Steps**  
The next Core Group PCM is scheduled for Tuesday, September 17, 2013, from 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM. For the Community Outreach Meetings, the Committee suggested providing information in the Villa Park Magazine, VPHS and OUSD websites, at Back-to-School Night, and by word-of-mouth.

Submitted by:    Samuel Lim, LPA



p. 949.261.1001 f. 949.260.1190  
w. lpainc.com e. lpa@lpainc.com

**SIGN-IN SHEET**

**VILLA PARK HIGH SCHOOL  
ORANGE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
CORE GROUP PLANNING COMMITTEE**

NAME	TITLE/COMPANY	E-MAIL	9/11	9/17	9/24	10/9	11/6	11/20	12/11	1/8	2/5
Lisa Corbett	VPHS Instrumentals/Music	<a href="mailto:lcorbett@hotmail.com">lcorbett@hotmail.com</a>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
John Erratt	VPSH – SpEd	<a href="mailto:jerratt@orangeusd.org">jerratt@orangeusd.org</a>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tom Fox	VPHS Athletics	<a href="mailto:tfox@orangeusd.org">tfox@orangeusd.org</a>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Judy Fusco	VPHS	<a href="mailto:jfusco@orangeusd.org">jfusco@orangeusd.org</a>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Joe Greenwald	VPHS	<a href="mailto:jogreenwald@earthlink.net">jogreenwald@earthlink.net</a>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jim Greer	VPHS Football & Baseball	<a href="mailto:Jgreer004@att.net">Jgreer004@att.net</a>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chuck Jay	VPHS Performance Arts	<a href="mailto:cjay@orangeusd.org">cjay@orangeusd.org</a>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mark Kammerlohr	VPHS Counseling	<a href="mailto:mark@orangeusd.org">mark@orangeusd.org</a>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kelly Luna	VPHS	<a href="mailto:sixluna@mac.com">sixluna@mac.com</a>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jeff Morgan	VPHS Athletics	<a href="mailto:jmorgan@orangeusd.org">jmorgan@orangeusd.org</a>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chris Nguyen	VPHS General Staff	<a href="mailto:cnguyen@orangeusd.org">cnguyen@orangeusd.org</a>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Barb Salio	VPHS & CV	<a href="mailto:Barbde164@yahoo.com">Barbde164@yahoo.com</a>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Greg Smith	VPHS Library	<a href="mailto:Gregory.smith@orangeusd.org">Gregory.smith@orangeusd.org</a>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fidel Alatobre	Plant Manager, OUSD	<a href="mailto:Fidelalatobre08@orangeusd.org">Fidelalatobre08@orangeusd.org</a>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arlene Highlen	OUSD SpEd	<a href="mailto:ahighlen@orangeusd.org">ahighlen@orangeusd.org</a>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kathy Moffat	OUSD School Board	<a href="mailto:Kamoffat3@gmail.com">Kamoffat3@gmail.com</a>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Justin Stanfield	OUSD Asst. Principal	<a href="mailto:jstanfield@orangeusd.org">jstanfield@orangeusd.org</a>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kerrie Torres	OUSD	<a href="mailto:ktorres@orangeusd.org">ktorres@orangeusd.org</a>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bonnie Barnett	PFSO President	<a href="mailto:bonniebarnettmail@gmail.com">bonniebarnettmail@gmail.com</a>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lesslie Glacobbi	Rotary & Community	<a href="mailto:Lesslieg76@gmail.com">Lesslieg76@gmail.com</a>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Brenda Knoll	CV	<a href="mailto:bkohl@gmail.com">bkohl@gmail.com</a>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jill Kuli	Community	<a href="mailto:djkuli@roadrunner.com">djkuli@roadrunner.com</a>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mary Kuli	CV	<a href="mailto:mary@telephoneindustries.net">mary@telephoneindustries.net</a>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Larry Schima	CV	<a href="mailto:schima@sbcglobal.net">schima@sbcglobal.net</a>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mana Sosa	Taft Elementary	<a href="mailto:mclksosa@gmail.com">mclksosa@gmail.com</a>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gary Slump	Parsons	<a href="mailto:gary.slump@parsons.com">gary.slump@parsons.com</a>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ed Howard	VPHS Principal	<a href="mailto:ehoward@orangeusd.org">ehoward@orangeusd.org</a>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Don Pender	LPA, Inc.	<a href="mailto:dpender@lpainc.com">dpender@lpainc.com</a>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wendy Rogers	LPA, Inc.	<a href="mailto:wrogers@lpainc.com">wrogers@lpainc.com</a>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Samuel Lim	LPA, Inc.	<a href="mailto:slim@lpainc.com">slim@lpainc.com</a>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kate Mraw	LPA, Inc.	<a href="mailto:kmraw@lpainc.com">kmraw@lpainc.com</a>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>