

# WELCOME DEPARTURES PRESENTATION MERCER MIDDLE SCHOOL



#### **PROJECT SCOPE**

Demolish the existing middle school and construct a new 175,000 SF middle school with a total capacity of 1,000 students to address projected growth.

#### **MILESTONES**

Anticipated Start of Construction:

August 2023

Anticipated Occupancy:

September 2025

#### **DESIGN TEAM**

Owner: Seattle Public Schools

Architect: Bassetti Architects

Landscape Architect: Site Workshop

Civil Engineer: AHBL

Mechanical Engineer: Metrix Engineers

Electrical Engineer: Hargis Engineers

Structural Engineer: Coughlin Porter Lundeen

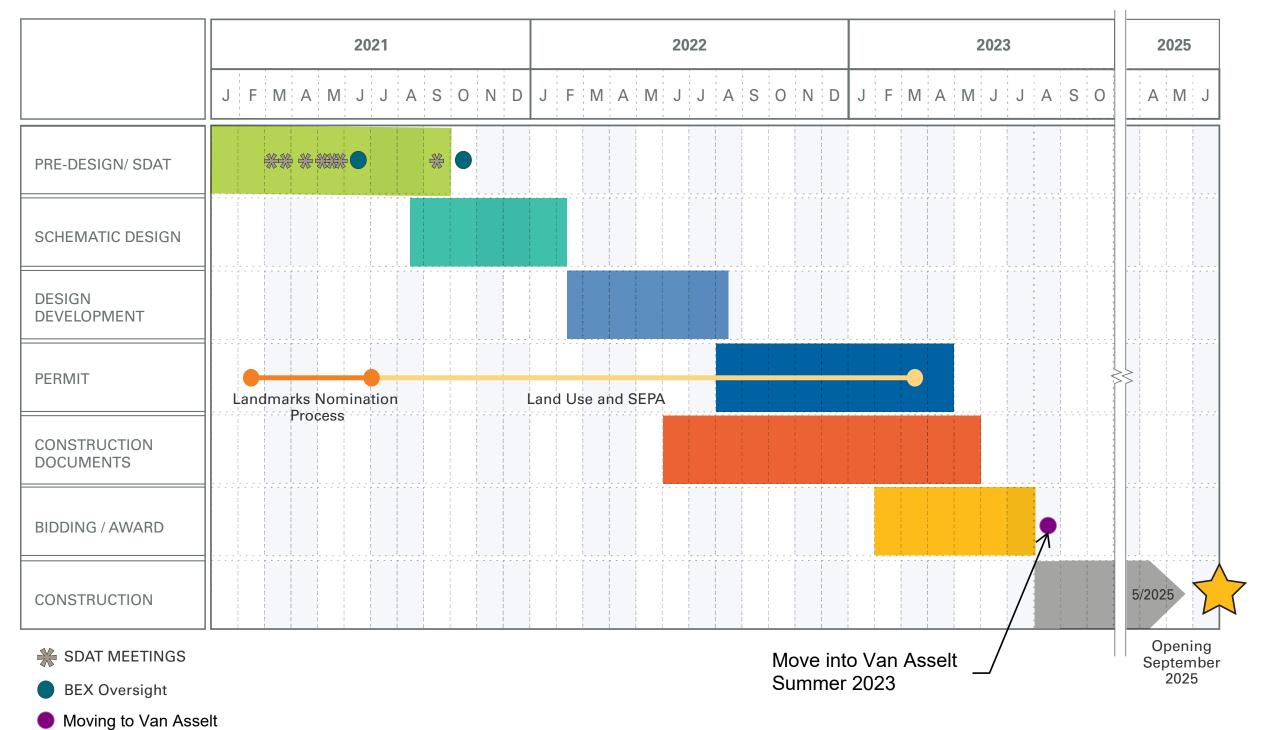
Acoustical Consultant: A3 Acoustics

Food Service: JLR Design Group





## **PROJECT SCHEDULE**







### PRESENTATION CONTENT

#### 1. Process Overview

- Process Changes Due to COVID-19
- Purpose and Intent
- Evaluation Criteria (Consistency, Relationship, and Need)
- Recommendations & Public Comment

#### 2. Project Overview

- Site Context
- Proposed Design

### 3. Departures Requested

- Building Height
- Reader Board
- Fence Height
- Parking Quantity

#### 4. Public Comments





# PROCESS OVERVIEW





#### **PROCESS CHANGES DUE TO COVID-19**

- The school departure recommendation process typically requires in-person public meetings, which are prohibited due to public health mandates on social distancing and limited gatherings.
- While this ordinance is in effect, DON staff will accept written public comments and the Director of Seattle Department of Neighborhoods will make a recommendation to the Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections (SDCI), taking into consideration the public's comments, in lieu of the committee holding public meetings.
- Due to public health mandates on social distancing and limited public gatherings related to COVID-19, the Seattle City Council approved, and Mayor Durkan signed, Ordinance 126188 in October 2020.
- The ordinance allows certain City land use processes to be handled administratively for the duration of the COVID-19 civil emergency declared for the City of Seattle in March 2020.
- Thus, the DON Director is temporarily authorized to submit this recommendation report to SDCI in lieu of a public advisory committee process. The content of the report is informed by public comments solicited and reviewed by DON staff.





#### **PURPOSE & INTENT**

- Most schools are in single family zone neighborhoods, the land use code does not include a "school zone".
- Renovations and additions often will not meet the underlying zoning; therefore, public schools can request exemptions, known as departures, from the land use code.
- This process is an opportunity for neighbors and the surrounding community to give the City feedback on the requested departures.
- At this time, the Department of Neighborhoods
   Director, taking into consideration public comment,
   can recommend to grant, grant with condition, or
   deny the requested departures.





## **EVALUATION CRITERIA - CONSISTENCY**

(SMC 23.79.008)

Departures shall be evaluated for consistency with the general objectives and intent of the City's Land Use Code, including the rezone evaluation criteria in Chapter 23.34 of the Seattle Municipal Code, to ensure that the proposed facility is compatible with the character and use of its surroundings.





#### **EVALUATION CRITERIA - RELATIONSHIP**

(SMC 23.79.008)

In reaching recommendations, the director of the Department of Neighborhoods shall consider and balance the interrelationships among the following factors:

Relationship to Surrounding Areas. The advisory committee shall evaluate the acceptable or necessary level of departure according to:

- 1. Appropriateness in relation to the character and scale of the surrounding area;
- 2. Presence of edges (significant setbacks, major arterials, topographic breaks, and similar features) which provide a transition in scale;

- 3.Location and design of structures to reduce the appearance of bulk;
- 4.Impacts on traffic, noise, circulation and parking in the area; and
- 5.Impacts on housing and open space. More flexibility in the development standards may be allowed if the impacts on the surrounding community are anticipated to be negligible or are reduced by mitigation; whereas, a minimal amount or no departure from development standards may be allowed if the anticipated impacts are significant and cannot be satisfactorily mitigated.





## **EVALUATION CRITERIA - NEED**

(SMC 23.79.008)

Need for Departure. The physical requirements of the specific proposal and the project's relationship to educational needs shall be balanced with the level of impacts on the surrounding area. Greater departure may be allowed for special facilities, such as a gymnasium, which are unique and/or an integral and necessary part of the educational process; whereas, a lesser or no departure may be granted for a facility which can be accommodated within the established development standards.





#### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Recommendations must include consideration of the interrelationship among height, setback and landscaping standards when departures from height or setback are proposed.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Please submit your comments on the requested departures, including any mitigation measures or conditions of approval by July 25, 2022 to:

Nelson Pesigan
Nelson.pesigan@seattle.gov
City of Seattle
Department of Neighborhoods
Attn. Nelson Pesigan
PO Box 94649
Seattle, WA, 98124-4649





# PROJECT OVERVIEW SITE CONTEXT





#### **ZONING & NEIGHBORHOOD**

Mercer Middle School is located in North Beacon Hill, south east of downtown Seattle. It is in a Single-Family Zone with a commercial neighborhood zone and major institution zone to the West and East, respectively.

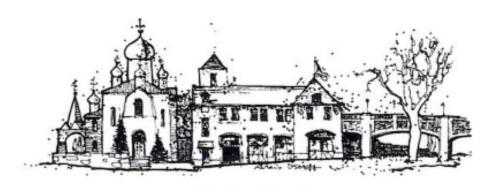
Nearby neighborhood amenities and services include Jefferson Park (1), Seattle Veterans Administration Hospital (2), MacPherson's Fruit & Produce (3), Beacon Hill Church of the Nazarene (4), and the non-profit Powerful Voices (5).





## **LANDMARK STATUS**

This project was reviewed by the Seattle
Landmarks Preservation Board, who determined **NOT** to designate the school as a historic
landmark during a meeting on May 19, 2021.



The City of Seattle

# Landmarks Preservation Board

Mailing Address: PO Box 94649 Seattle WA 98124-4649 Street Address: 700 5th Ave Suite 1700





#### **SITE ANALYSIS: EXISTING SCHOOL**

The existing 1958 school currently has 25 portables to accommodate the over-capacity student enrollment. These are intended as a temporary solution; they are difficult to access from the main building, and have taken over most of the outdoor playground areas.

The school is set back from the street, hidden behind trees, and feels disconnected from the neighborhood.

The existing building and site lack space and flexibility to meet SPS programmatic needs. There is no on-site play field, play courts, or any other SPS standard outdoor program element. Currently, Mercer can only use an adjacent public soccer field, which creates scheduling and security challenges.





Vehicular Entrance









Portables

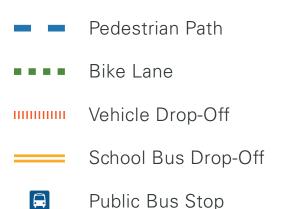
CONTEXT DEPARTURES PRESENTATION MERCER MIDDLE SCHOOL



### **SITE ANALYSIS:** CIRCULATION & PARKING

The existing vehicular entry is located on the South end of the site, on S Columbia Way. One of the main pedestrian entries is adjacent to the vehicle entry, and the other on 16th Ave S. However, pedestrians may also access the site on the North side through Jefferson Park.

The school buses pick and drop-off students along 16th Ave South, while private vehicles use the on-site parking lot.



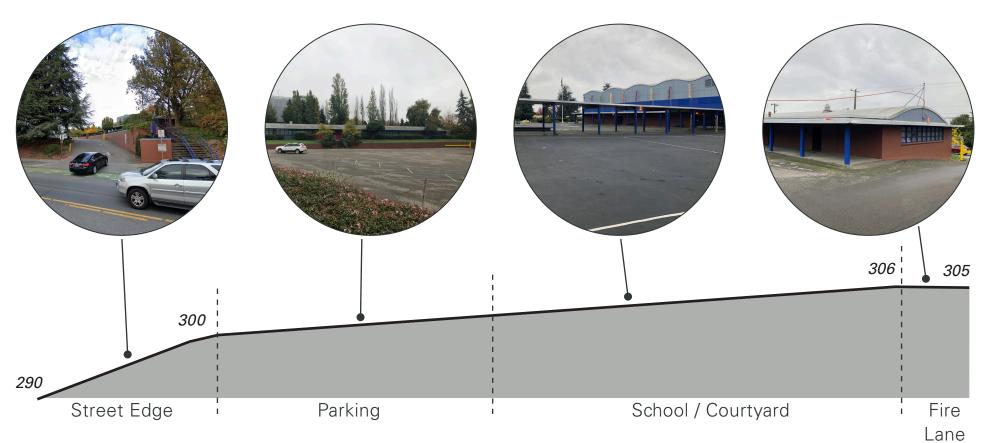




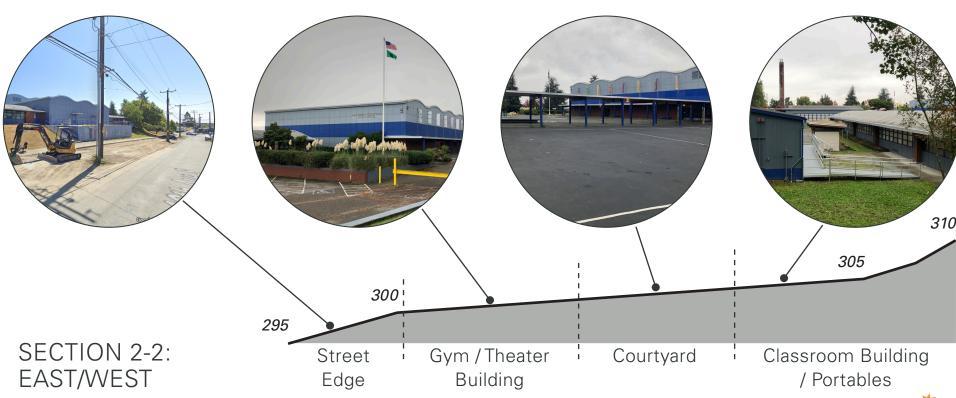
## **SITE ANALYSIS: SECTIONS**

The site topography generally slopes downwards in the SW direction, with the highest point in the NE corner. The slope is steepest along the West side of the property (40% average). The edges flanking S. Columbia Way and 16th Ave S. are also steep, and the rest of the site has more of a gradual slope.





SECTION 1-1: NORTH/SOUTH







### **SITE ANALYSIS: TREES**

Over 90% of the site is currently occupied by a building or asphalt paving. The majority of the trees are located along the South and East perimeters of the site.

There are several trees classified as "exceptional" under the City's tree ordinance. Most of them are located on the South end of the site facing S Columbia Way. This includes three large atlas cedar trees that are in good condition.

- 22 Existing Trees to Remain
- 6 Existing Exceptional Trees to Remain
- 36 Existing Trees to be Removed
- 1 Existing Exceptional Tree to be Removed







# **STREET VIEWS:** SOUTH COLUMBIA WAY











CONTEXT DEPARTURES PRESENTATION MERCER MIDDLE SCHOOL



# **STREET VIEWS**: 16TH AVE SOUTH













# PROJECT OVERVIEW PROPOSED DESIGN











# **GUIDING PRINCIPLES AND GOALS**

Seattle Public Schools, Mercer Middle School, and the design team worked together to develop the following guiding principles to address the project needs and goals. These site-specific goals were created during early design development sessions with the School Design Advisory Team (SDAT):

#### 1. Learner-Centered Environment

- Students' needs placed first
- Acoustics that allow for guiet and focus
- Places for kids to sing, dance, play and perform
- Strong indoor/outdoor connections and use of natural elements
- Variety of covered and open outdoor spaces for learning and socializing

#### 2. Personalizing Environment

- Smaller groupings of classrooms
- Spaces for individualized support services
- Comfortable & attractive student dining area
- Spaces where SpEd students can be a community
- Celebrate and represent the Mercer diverse heritage
- Display student work and art
- Provide small nooks for students











### **GUIDING PRINCIPLES AND GOALS**

#### 3. Program Adaptability

- Flexible furniture for teaching variability
- Spaces for individualized support services
- Flexibility for future capacity

#### 4. Community Connections

- Main entry with a strong presence
- Spaces for individualized support services
- A range of partner/mentor spaces
- Space for family outreach and for the community
- Building zones to control after-hour access

#### 5. Aesthetics

- Appealing, warm, and inspiring
- Generous daylighting and a stimulating multi-sensory environment
- Emphasize a relaxed feel
- Cheerful colors and connections to nature
- Universal theme of "Journey"











### **GUIDING PRINCIPLES AND GOALS**

#### 6. Safety

- The school should feel like a safe haven
- Welcoming & supportive
- Generous entryway where adults can greet students
- Main offce should be next to the entry, and should be open & transparent

#### 7. Collaboration

- Spaces that promote group work and communication
- Spaces that invite collaboration and non-Western ways
- Spaces that support educational justice

#### 8. Sustainability

- Encourage a culture of conservation and environmentally responsible behaviors
- Use solar or other renewable energy
- Use durable materials and systems
- Support environmental justice by equitably providing what different groups need
- Provide a sense of refuge within an urban center





# **PROPOSED SITE PLAN**



Sports Field

Vehicular Entrance

**Building Entrance** 

Existing Tree to Remain

Proposed New Tree







# PROPOSED SITE CIRCULATION



Bike Parking

Vehicle Drop-off

School Bus Drop-Off

Pedestrian / Bicycle Route

**Deliveries Route** 

**Building Entrance** 

Existing / Relocated Bus Stop







# **PROPOSED ELEVATIONS**

The primary exterior materials will be brick and metal panel.



SOUTH ELEVATION



WEST ELEVATION





# REQUESTED DEPARTURES

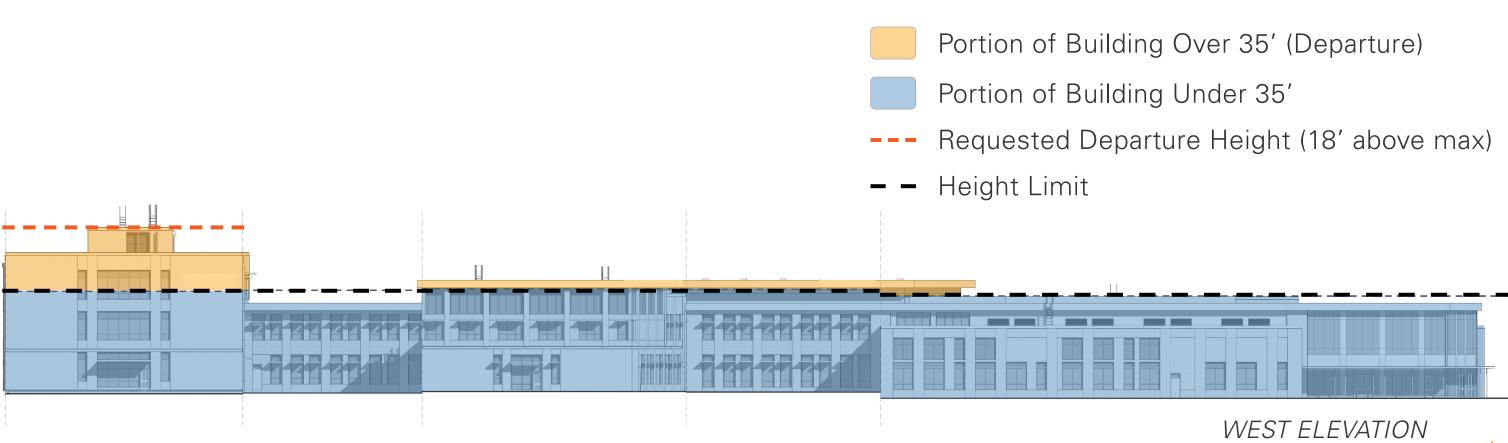




#### **DEPARTURE 1: BUILDING HEIGHT**

<u>SMC 23.51B.002.D.1.b:</u> For new public school construction on existing public school sites, the maximum permitted height is 35 feet.

The proposed maximum building is 67' above average grade. The over height areas are mechanical penthouses stepped in from the faces of the 3-story building wing, and for the tallest parapets which are 32' and 12' respectively above allowable height.







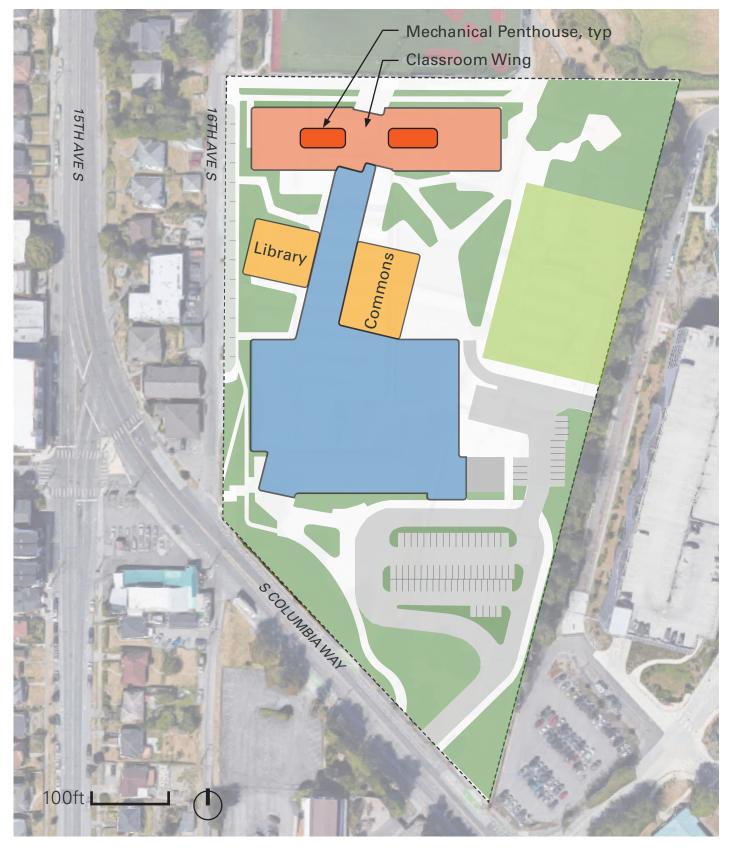
### **DEPARTURE 1: BUILDING HEIGHT**

Only a limited portion of the building would reach the requested 67 feet:

- The commons and the library roofs exceed the allowable by less than 5 feet.
- Third floor roof exceeds the allowable by less than 15 feet.
- Only the Mechanical Platforms reach requested 67 feet.
- The tallest overheight areas would not be visible from the West sidewalk of 16th Ave S.

- Portion of Building at 67' (Requested Departure)
- Portion of Building Under 50'

- Portion of Building
  Under 40'
- Portion of Building
  Under 35' (Allowed Max)







# **DEPARTURE 1:** BUILDING HEIGHT AT CLASSROOM WING

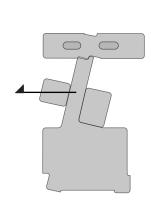






## **DEPARTURE 1: BUILDING HEIGHT AT LIBRARY**

- Portion of Building Over 35'
- Portion of Building Under 35'
- --- Requested Departure Height (32' above max)
- Height Limit







## **DEPARTURE 1: BUILDING HEIGHT AT COMMONS**

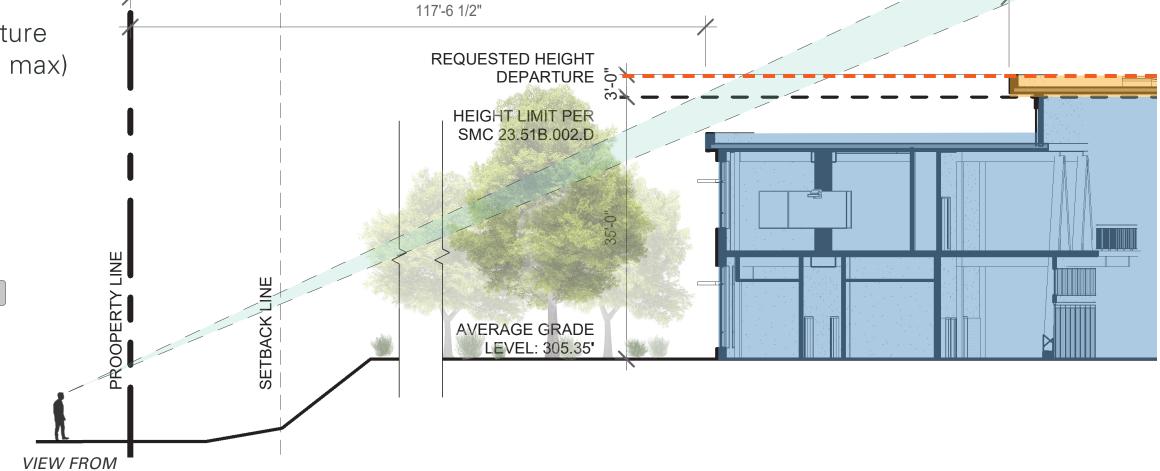
SIDEWALK

Portion of Building Over 35'

Portion of Building Under 35'

--- Requested Departure Height (32' above max)

- Height Limit



# DEPARTURES PRESENTATION MERCER MIDDLE SCHOOL

158'-1"

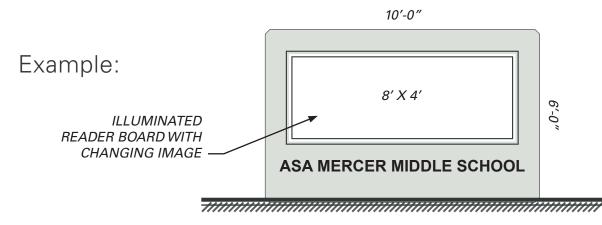


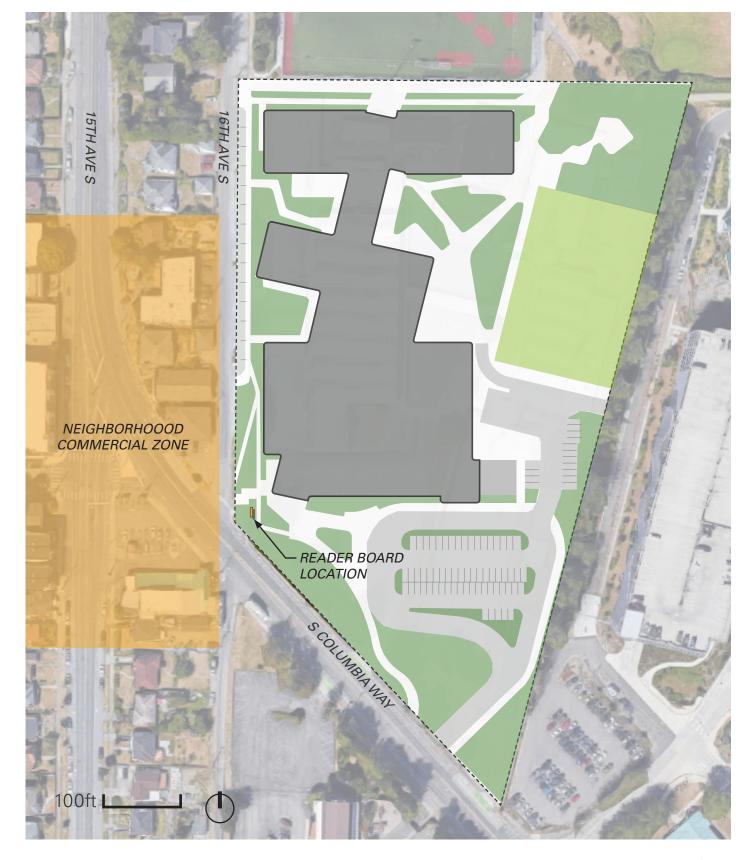
# **DEPARTURE 2: READER BOARD**

SMC 23.55.020.B: Reader boards standards:

- No flashing, changing image, or message board signs.
- For elementary or secondary schools, one electric or nonilluminated double-faced identifying sign, not to exceed 30 square feet of area per sign face on each street frontage.

The project is requesting a departure to allow one single-sided illuminated reader board with changing image. The reader board will only faces the neighborhood commercial zone, and not a single-family zone. The reader will be on from 8am-9pm, every day and automatically shut down accordingly. Proposed size: 10' L x 6' H x 2' W (60 square feet) with a 8' x 4' illuminated changing image portion.









### **DEPARTURE 3:** FENCE HEIGHT IN SETBACK

SMC 23.44.014.C.10: Freestanding structures (such as fences) are allowed to be 6 feet or less in height within a setback.

The project is proposing replacing the existing fence along the East edge of the property with an 8-foot fence for security purposes; and a 10-foot fence along the South edge of the soccer field to prevent balls from going past the field.

--- Setback

Proposed 8' Fence in Setback

Proposed 10' Fence in Setback







## **DEPARTURE 4: PARKING QUANTITY**

#### PARKING CALCULATIONS (SMC 23.54.015 Table C-N)

REQUIRED

Area at Commons: 7295SF / 80SF = 91Bleachers at Gym: 600 Seats / 8 = 75Total Spaces Required: 91 + 75 = 167

**PROPOSED** 

Total Spaces Proposed: = 84

DEPARTURE

Requested Departure: 167 - 84 = 83

The project proposes the use of bus drop-off areas as additional parking for after-school hours public events. It prioritizes essential outdoor program spaces by minimizing on-site vehicles and encouraging off-site parking, as recommended by the City of Seattle School Traffic Safety Committee.

LAYOUT DEPICTING PROPOSED PARKING QUANTITIES







#### **DEPARTURE 4: PARKING QUANTITY**

Parking quantity requirements are based on the size of public assembly spaces (such as commons and gymnasium) for public events, which are typically scheduled for after-school hours.

If all code-required parking was provided, it would occupy most of the open space. The additional parking would reduce the available area for needed outdoor programmatic activities such as the playground areas, play field, outdoor classroom, and vegetable garden. This layout would also affect the natural views throughout the building, and it would negatively affect the atmosphere of the remaining outdoor areas.

Classroom and Garden 167 Parking

LAYOUT DEPICTING REQUIRED PARKING QUANTITIES





#### **DEPARTURES OVERVIEW**

#### Departure #1: Building Height (SMC 23.51B.002.D.1.b)

The code allows a maximum height of 35'for secondary schools. The project proposes a 67' height limit for a 32' departure.

#### Departure #2: Reader Board (SMC 23.55.020.B)

The code allows a reader board with no flashing, changing image, or message board sign; not to exceed 30SF. The project proposes a single-sided 60SF illuminated reader board with changing image facing the neighborhood commercial zone.

#### Departure #3: Fence Height in Setback (SMC 23.44.014.C.10)

The code allows freestanding structures (such as fences) to be 6' or less in height within a setback. The project is proposing an 8' fence along the East property edge and a 10' fence along the South edge of the soccer field.

#### Departure #4: Parking Quantity (SMC 23.54.030 B.2.c)

The code requires 167 parking spaces. The project is proposing 84 parking spaces to accommodate needed programmatic outdoor activities.







#### Pangkalahatang-ideya ng Mga Pag-alis ng Gitnang Paaralan ng

#### Pag-alis #1: Taas ng Gusali (SMC 23.51B.002.D.1.b)

Pinahihintulutan ng kodigo ang pinakamataas na taas na 35 talampakan para sa mga paaralan sa sekundarya. Ang proyekto ay nagmumungkahi ng isang 67-talampakan na taas ng hangganan para sa isang 32-talampakan ng pag-alis.

#### Pag-alis #2: Reader Board (SMC 23.55.020.B)

Pinahihintulutan ng kodigo ang isang reader board na walang kumikislap, nagbabago na imahe, o karatula ng mensahe; na hindi lalampas sa 30 talampakang kuwadrado. Ang proyekto ay nagmumungkahi ng isang nag-iisang-tabi na 60-kuwadrado-talampakan na iniilawan na reader board na may nagbabagong imahe na nakaharap sa kapitbahayang komersyal na sona

#### Pag-alis #3: Taas ng Bakod sa Pag-uurungan (Setback) (SMC 23.44.014.C.10)

Pinahihintulutan ng kodigo ang malayang nakatayong istraktura (tulad ng mga bakod) na may 6 na talampakan o maliit pa ang taas sa loob ng isang pag-uurungan. Ang proyekto ay nagmumungkahi ng isang 8-talampakan na bakod sa kahabaan ng Silangan gilid ng ari-arian at isang 10-talampakan na bakod sa kahabaan ng Timog na gilid ng soccer field.

#### Pag-alis #4: Dami ng Paradahan (SMC 23.54.030 B.2.c)

Pinag uutos ng kodigo ang 167 na puwang sa paradahan. Ang proyekto ay nagmumungkahi ng 84 na puwang sa paradahan para matugunan ang kinakailangang gawaing panglabas ng programa.







# Mercer 初中变更概况

变更 #1: 校舍高度 (SMC 23.51B.002.D.1.b)

此规范只允许高中建筑物最高高度可达 35 英尺。此项工程提出了一个变更32 英尺的高度限制到 67 英尺的高度。

#### 变更 #2: 阅读板 (SMC 23.55.020.B)

此规范只允许没有闪烁,没有更改图像或没有通讯功能的阅读板; 同时不能超过30平方英尺。此项工程提出新建一个单面60平方 英尺被照明的阅读板,同时有改变图像的那一面面向附近的商业 区。

变更#3: 外墙缩进地区的篱笆高度 (SMC 23.44.014.C.10) 此规范只允许独立式结构(如篱笆)在外墙缩进地区内高度为6英尺 或更低。此项工程建议沿着学校东面边缘建造一个8英尺长的篱笆,沿着足球场的南边建造一个10英尺长的篱笆。

#### 变更 #4: 停车数量 (SMC 23.54.030 B.2.c)

此规范需要有167个停车位。此项工程建议盖84个停车位,来容纳户外活动的需求。





#### **DULMARKA BIXITAANKA Dugsiga Dhexe ee Mercer**

#### Bixitaanka #1: Dhererka Dhismaha (SMC 23.51B.002.D.1.b)

Xeerku waxa uu ogol yahay in ugu badnaan 35 cagood ay u dheereeyaan dugsiyada sare. Mashruucu wuxuu soo jeedinayaa xadka dhererka 67-fiit ee bixista 32 cagood.

#### Bixitaanka #2: Guddida Akhristaha (SMC 23.55.020.B)

Koodhku wuxuu u oggolaanayaa sabuuradda akhristaha oo aan lahayn wax biligleynaya, muuqaal beddelanaya, ama calaamad boodhka farriinta; in aan ka badnayn 30 cagood oo laba jibbaaran. Mashruucu waxa uu soo jeedinayaa loox akhristaha iftiimaya oo dhan 60 cag laba jibaaran ah oo leh muuqaal beddelan oo u wajahan aagga ganacsiga ee xaafadda.

#### Bixitaanka #3: Dhererka Xayndaabka ee Dib u dhigista (SMC 23.44.014.C.10)

Xeerku waxa uu u ogolaanayaa in dhismayaasha xorta ah (sida xayndaabka) ay noqdaan 6 cagood ama ka yar dherer ahaan dib u dhac. Mashruucu waxa uu soo jeedinayaa xayndaab 8 cagood ah oo ku teedsan cidhifka hantida bari iyo xayndaab 10 cagood ah oo ku teedsan cidhifka koonfureed ee garoonka kubbadda cagta.

#### Bixitaanka # 4: Tirada Baarkinka (SMC 23.54.030 B.2.c)

Koodhku wuxuu u baahan yahay 167 goob baabuurta la dhigto. Mashruucu waxa uu soo jeedinayaa 84 goobood oo baabuurta la dhigto si loogu habeeyo hawlaha dibadda ee barnaamijka ee loo baahan yahay.







#### Escuela Secundaria Mercer RESUMEN DE SALIDAS

#### Salida #1: Altura del edificio (SMC 23.51B.002.D.1.b)

El código permite una altura máxima de 35 pies para las escuelas secundarias. El proyecto propone un límite de altura de 67 pies para una salida de 32 pies.

#### Salida #2: Tablero de Lectores (SMC 23.55.020.B)

El código permite un tablero de lectura sin parpadeo, imagen cambiante o letrero de tablero de mensajes; que no exceda los 30 pies cuadrados. El proyecto propone un tablero de lectura iluminado de 60 pies cuadrados de un solo lado con imagen cambiante frente a la zona comercial del vecindario.

#### Salida #3: Altura de la cerca en retroceso (SMC 23.44.014.C.10)

El código permite que las estructuras independientes (como cercas) tengan una altura de 6 pies o menos dentro de un retranqueo. El proyecto propone una cerca de 8 pies a lo largo del borde este de la propiedad y una cerca de 10 pies a lo largo del borde sur del campo de fútbol.

#### Salida #4: Cantidad de Estacionamiento (SMC 23.54.030 B.2.c)

El código requiere 167 espacios de estacionamiento. El proyecto propone 84 espacios de estacionamiento para acomodar las actividades programáticas al aire libre necesarias.







# Mercer Middle School KHỞI HÀNH TỔNG QUÁT

#### Khởi hành #1: Chiều cao tòa nhà (SMC 23.51B.002.D.1.b)

Quy tắc cho phép chiều cao tối đa 35 feet cho các trường trung học. Dự án đề xuất giới han chiều cao 67 foot cho khởi hành 32 foot.

#### Khởi hành #2: Bảng Đọc (SMC 23.55.020.B)

Quy tắc cho phép bảng đọc không nhấp nháy, thay đổi hình ảnh hoặc bảng thông tin; không vượt quá 30 feet vuông. Dự án đề xuất một bảng đọc chiếu sáng một mặt rộng 60 foot vuông với hình ảnh thay đổi đối diện với khu thương mại lân cận.

#### Khởi hành #3: Chiều cao hàng rào (SMC 23.44.014.C.10)

Quy tắc cho phép các cấu trúc đứng tự do (như hàng rào) có chiều cao từ 6 feet trở xuống. Dự án đang đề xuất một hàng rào dài 8 foot dọc theo rìa phía Đông và một hàng rào dài 10 foot dọc theo rìa phía Nam của sân bóng đá.

#### Khởi hành #4: Số lượng đâu xe (SMC 23.54.030 B.2.c)

Quy tắc yêu cầu 167 chỗ đậu xe. Dự án đang đề xuất 84 chỗ đậu xe để phù hợp với các hoạt động ngoài trời theo nhu cầu chương trình.







# Thank you for taking the time to review our presentation!

We welcome your input. Please submit your comments on the requested departures, including any mitigation measures or conditions of approval by July 25, 2022 to:

Nelson Pesigan
Nelson.pesigan@seattle.gov
City of Seattle
Department of Neighborhoods
Attn. Nelson Pesigan
PO Box 94649
Seattle, WA, 98124-4649







# THANK YOU DEPARTURES PRESENTATION MERCER MIDDLE SCHOOL

