

The Three P's...  
People, Pinterest  
and Programming:  
Planning a School  
For Homeless  
Children in  
Oklahoma City



ASSOCIATION FOR  
**LEARNING  
ENVIRONMENTS**  
Enhancing the Educational Experience



# Meet Us



***Gary L. Armbruster, AIA, ALEP***

Principal Architect | Partner  
MA+ Architecture



***Amy Brewer , M.Ed.,***

Director of Education  
Positive Tomorrows

# Session Information

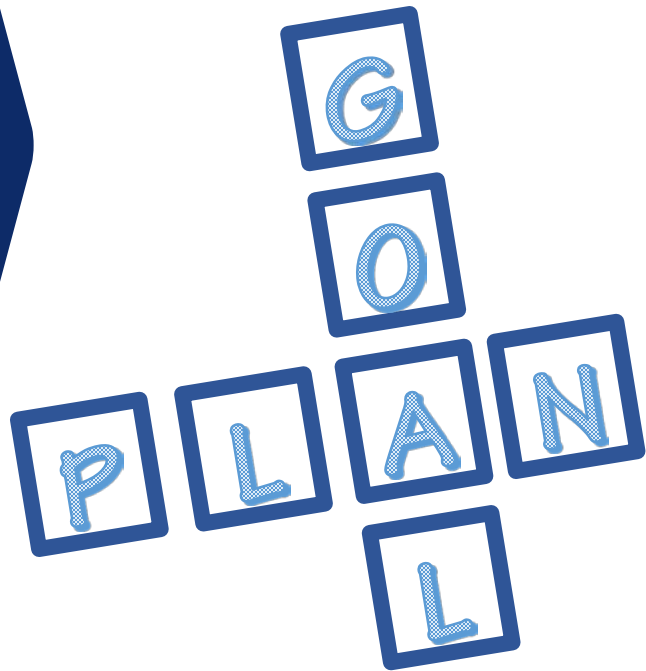
## Length:

60 Minutes

## Description:

How do you have public involvement for a school where the children are homeless and in many cases their parents aren't very involved? Find out how we had to step out of our normal programming and planning comfort zone to design a facility that the children, the faculty and the community could be proud of. In this program we will explore how we met with the students, faculty and staff to get their ideas for the new school and our use of Pinterest as a programming tool.

# Learning Objectives



1. Learn how to reach out and program a school for homeless children.
2. Learn various techniques to get design ideas from PK-5<sup>th</sup> grade students.
3. Learn how to communicate with a homeless school community to gain their ideas.
4. Learn how to use Pinterest as a programming tool and how to organize the information for large groups to understand.

# Agenda

- What is Positive Tomorrows?
- Review issues in the planning process.
- Who did we meet with?
- How did we conduct our information gathering?
- How to use Pinterest as a planning tool.
- Discuss and review the design outcomes.



### **Our Mission:**

Educating homeless children and their families to break the cycle of poverty.













# Counting Homeless Families

HUD's definition of homelessness excludes more than 80% of homeless children.



# Positive Tomorrows

**Legend**

- ★ Positive Tomorrows
- ★ Student Address

*The numbered stars indicate addresses where more than one student resides. The number indicates the total students at that particular address.*

- 3 mile radius
- 6 mile radius
- 9 mile radius
- 12 mile radius

**More than 8,500 homeless children  
in Oklahoma City**

**1 in 21 children is homeless in Oklahoma**

**1 in 10 students is homeless in the  
Oklahoma City Public School District**



# by the numbers

**2.5 million**  
homeless kids  
in the US

OK ranks as the  
**7th**  
worst state for  
homeless children

Only **74%** of  
school age children  
in Oklahoma are  
actually in school

**7,500+** homeless children in  
central Oklahoma alone

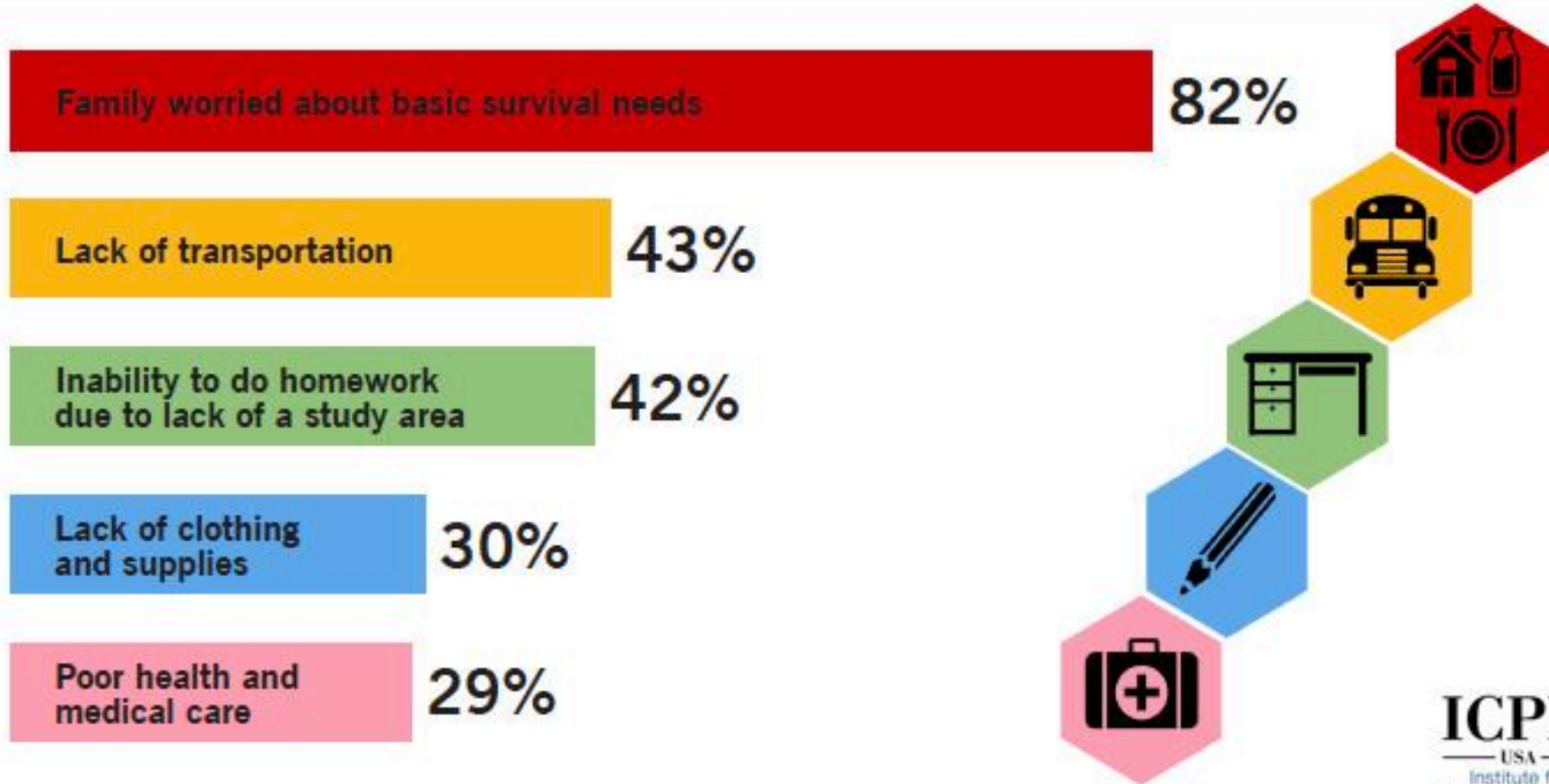




1 in 14 children under the age of 6 is homeless.

# What keeps homeless kids out of class?

The top challenges homeless children faced in attending school were:



Source: U.S. Department of Education, Office of Planning, Evaluation, and Policy Development, Policy and Program Studies Service, State and District Implementation of the Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program, Washington, DC, 2015. Data reflects the 2010–11 school year.

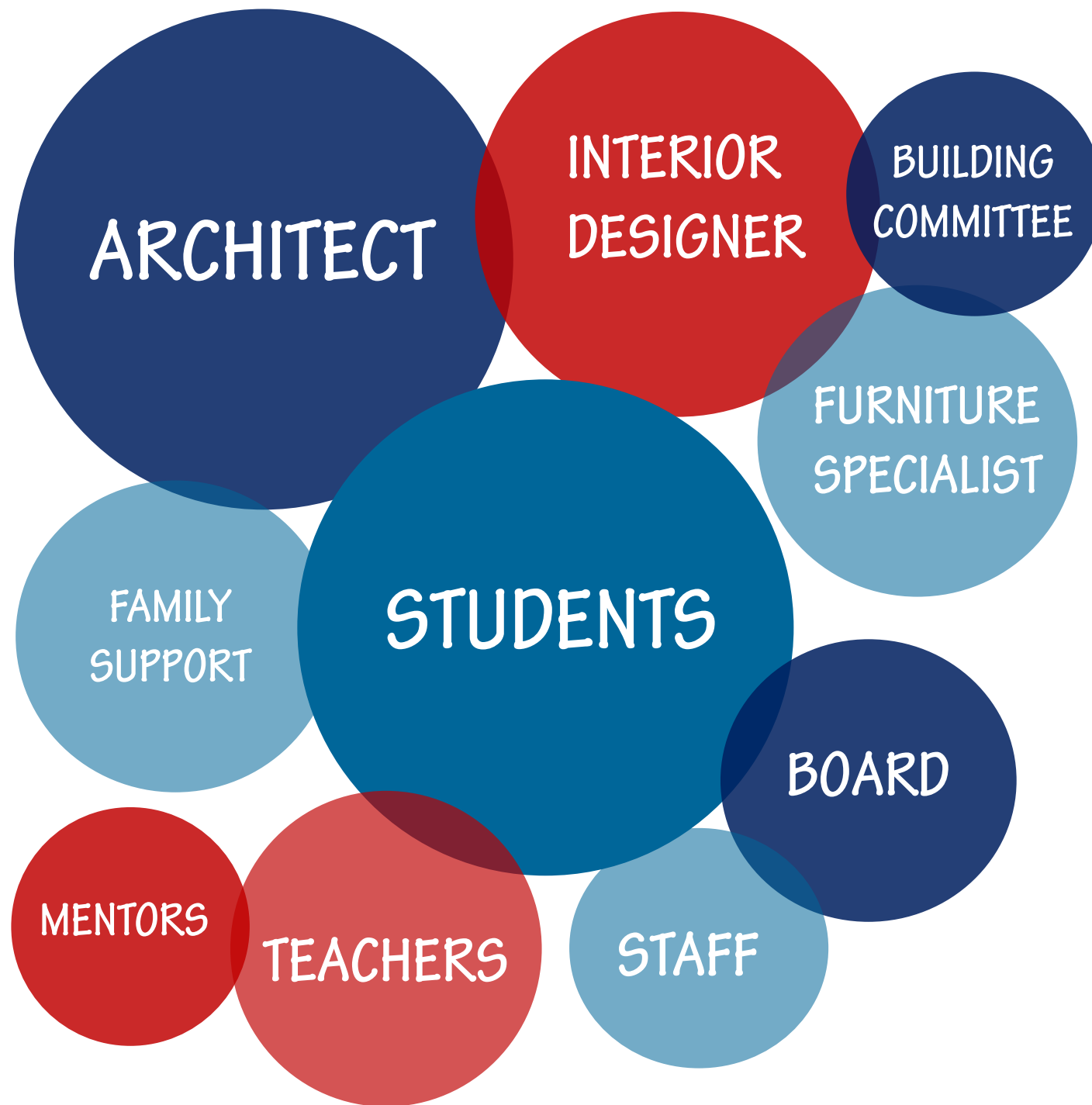
**ICPH**  
USA  
Institute for  
Children, Poverty  
& Homelessness  
[www.ICPHusa.org](http://www.ICPHusa.org)



# Planning and Programming Issues

- Lack of parental involvement
- High student turnover
- No public funding, fully donation based.
- Realistic safety threats
- Staff and building committee (volunteer) turnover
- No national model for this type of school





# WHO?

- Met with the students first
- Involved anyone who would use the spaces daily
- Involve those who can accurately represent their department.
- Involve the whole design team from the very beginning: architect, interior designer, furniture specialist, construction, landscape, IT, MEP, etc.

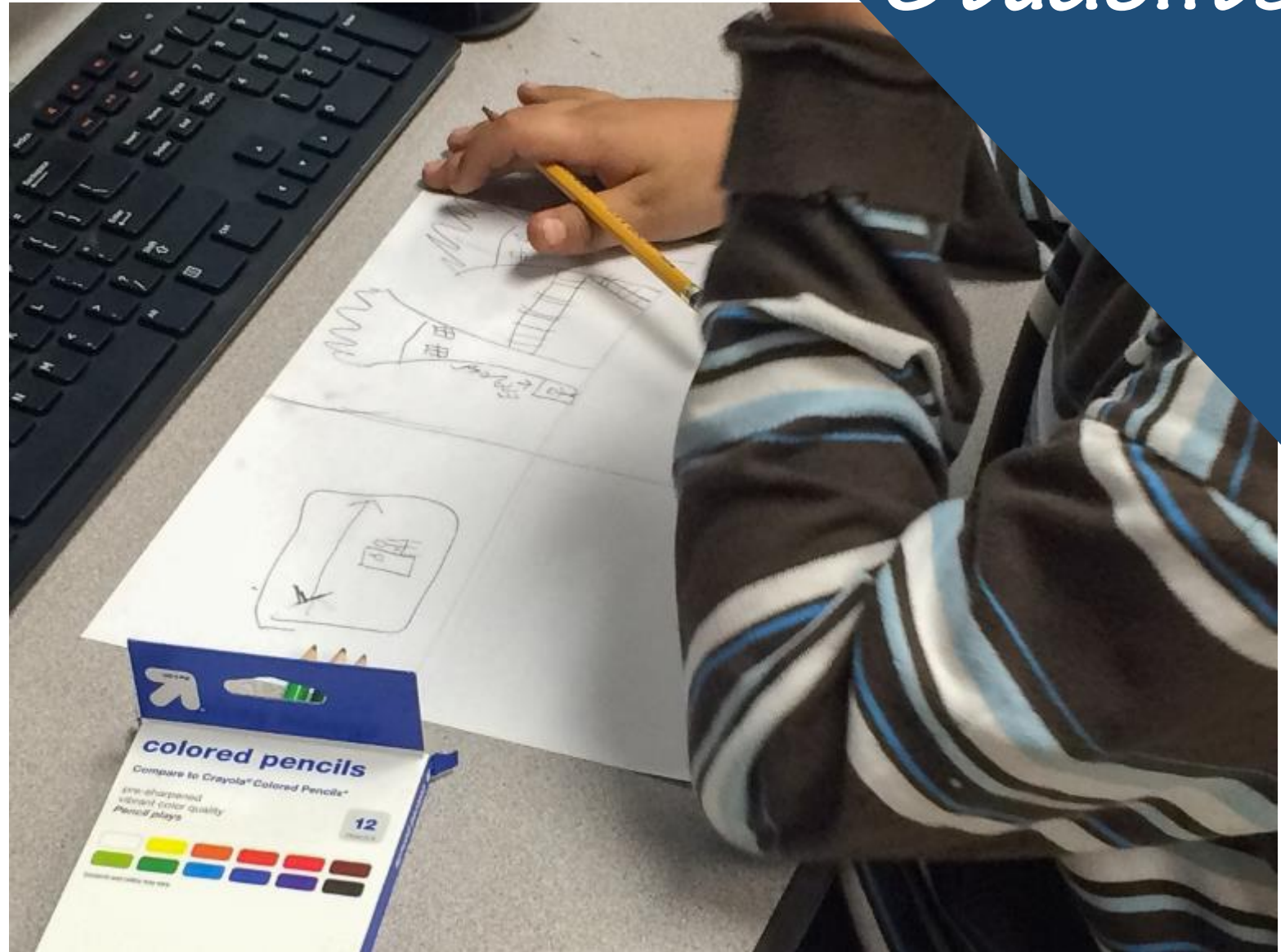
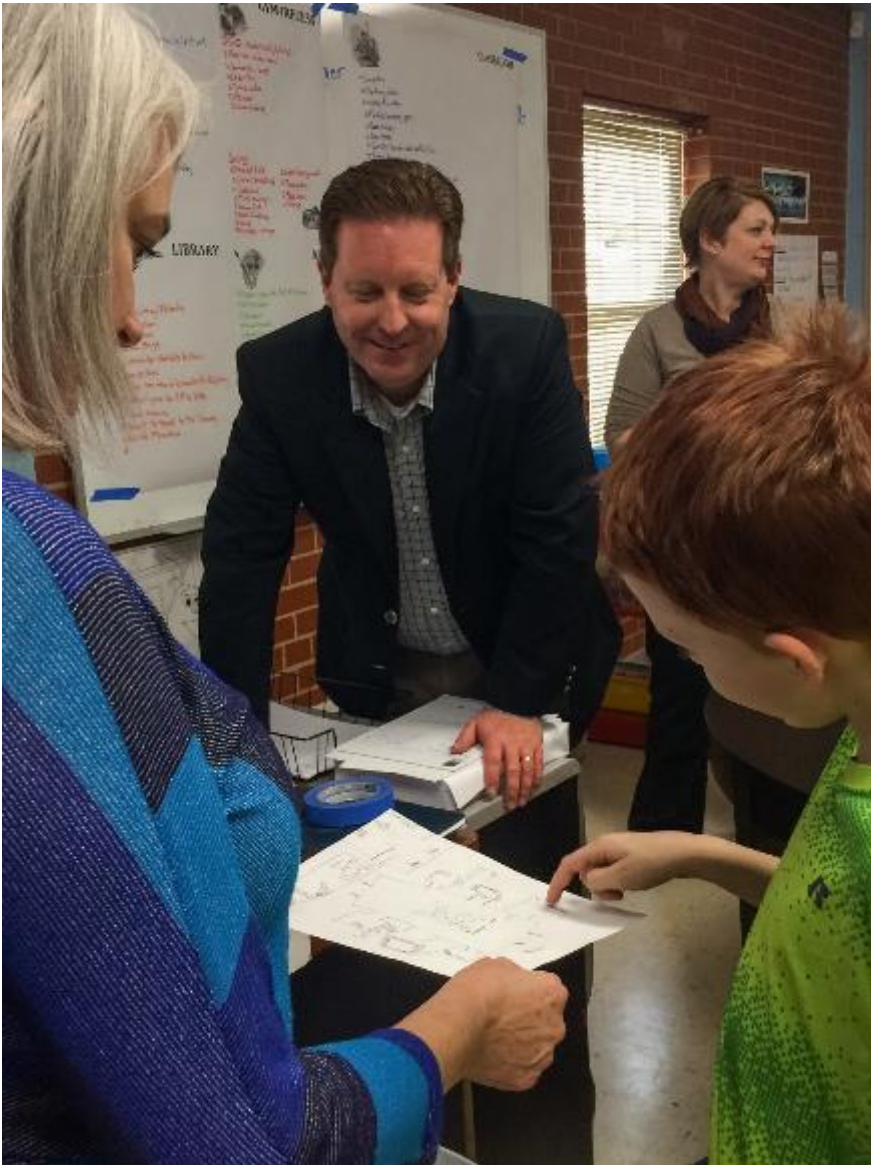
# Dream Big Exercise

# Students



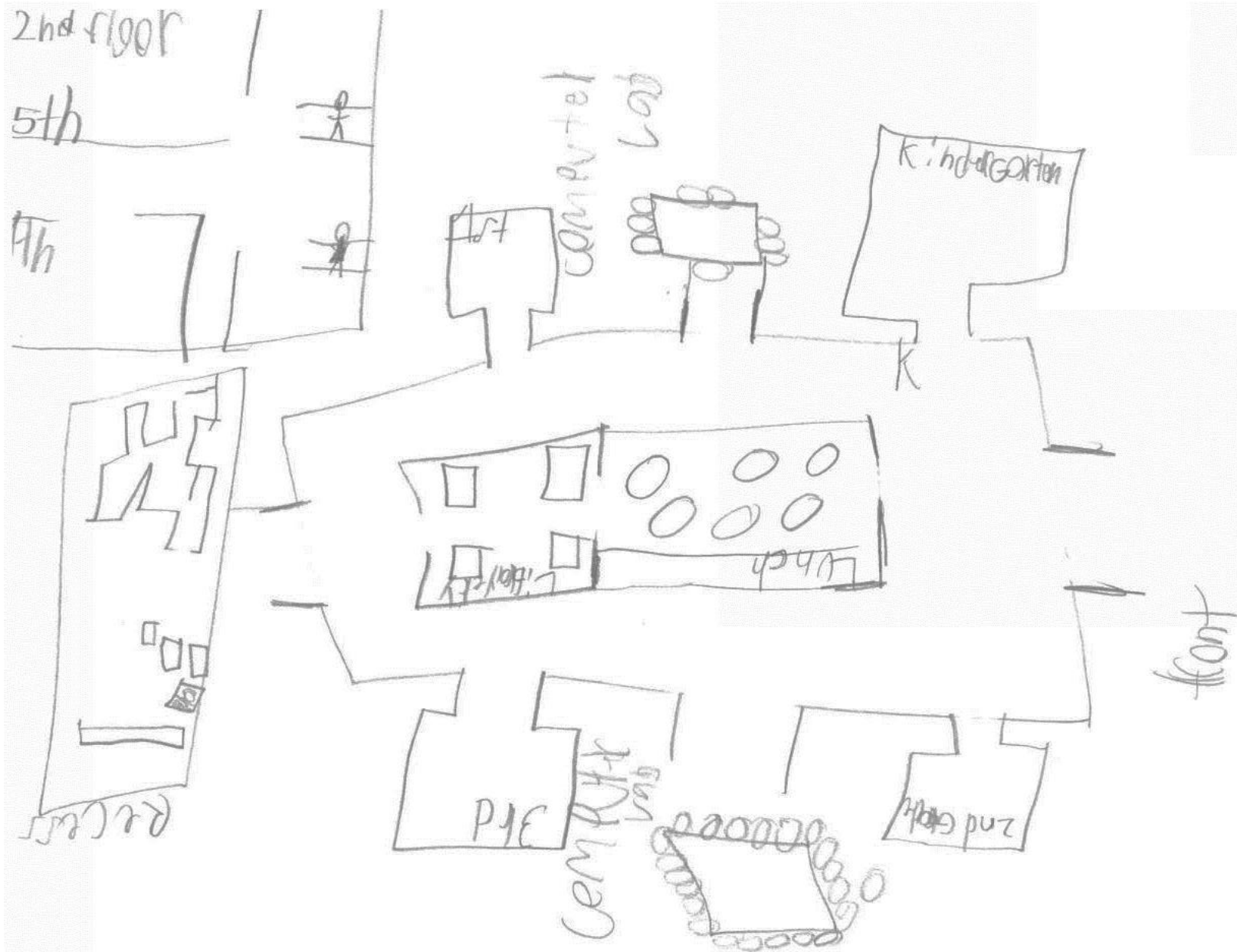
# Sketching Exercise

Students



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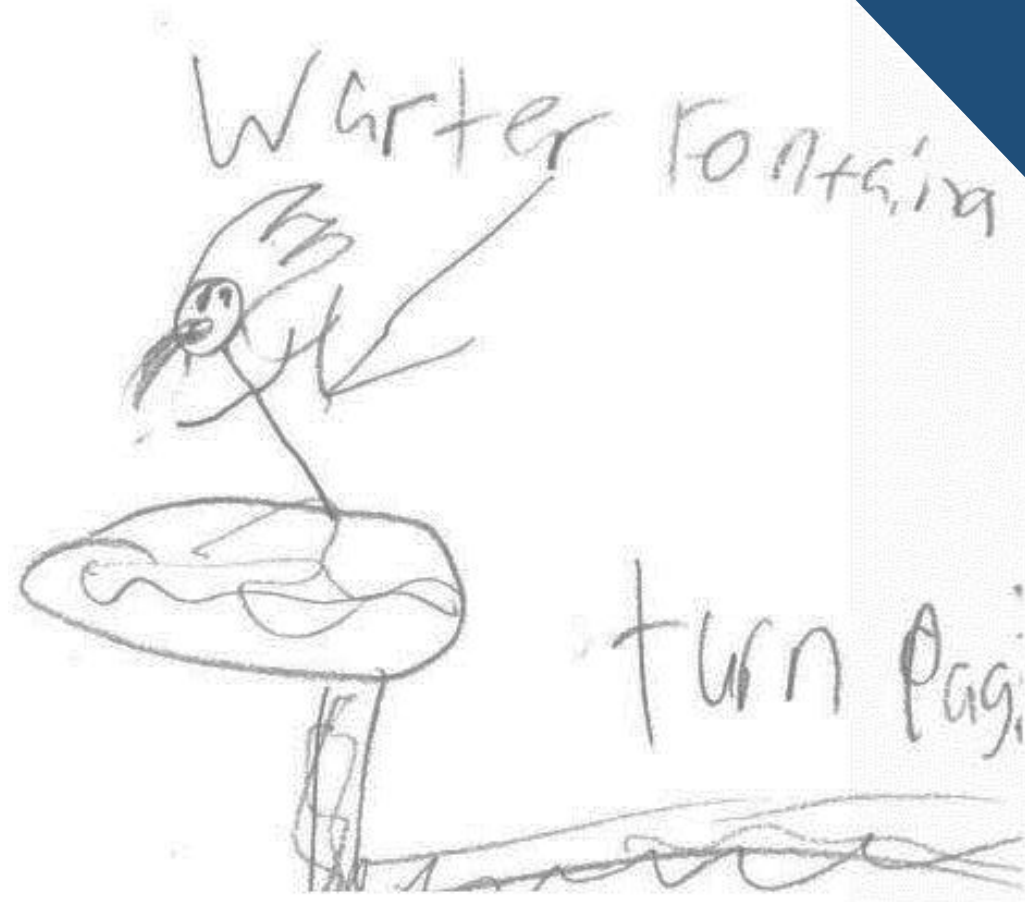
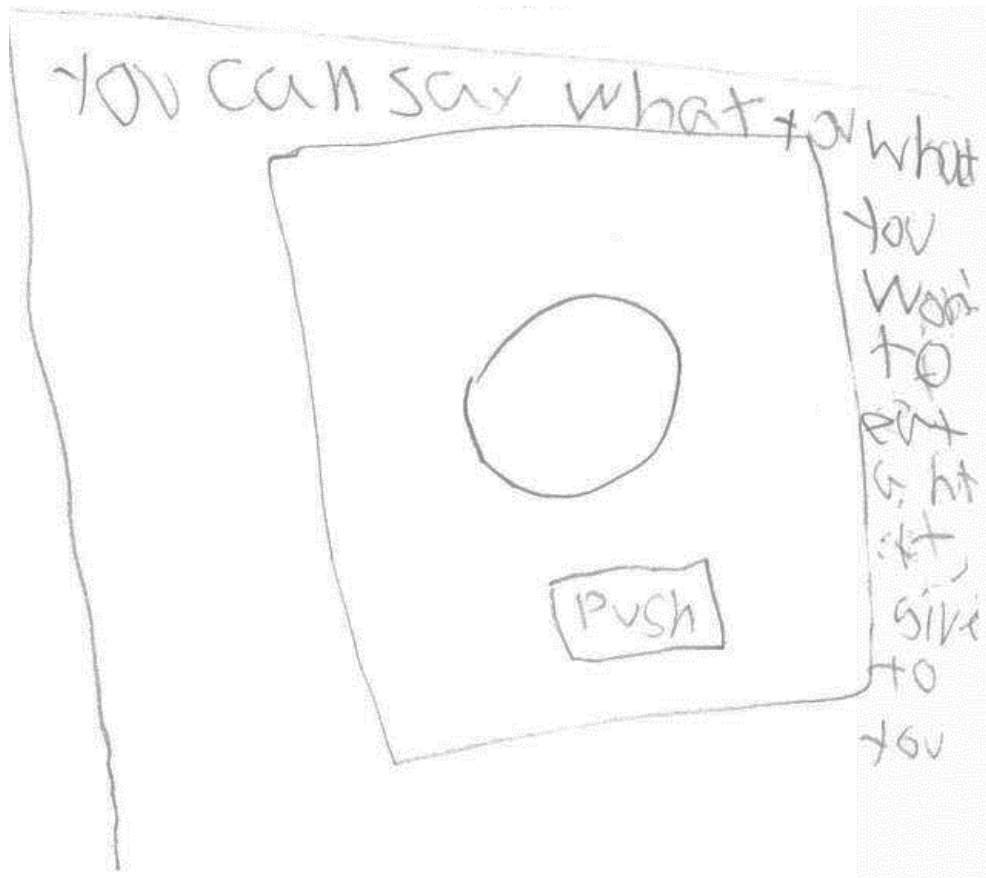
# Sketching Exercise

Students



# Sketching Exercise

Students



## Outcomes from our meetings...

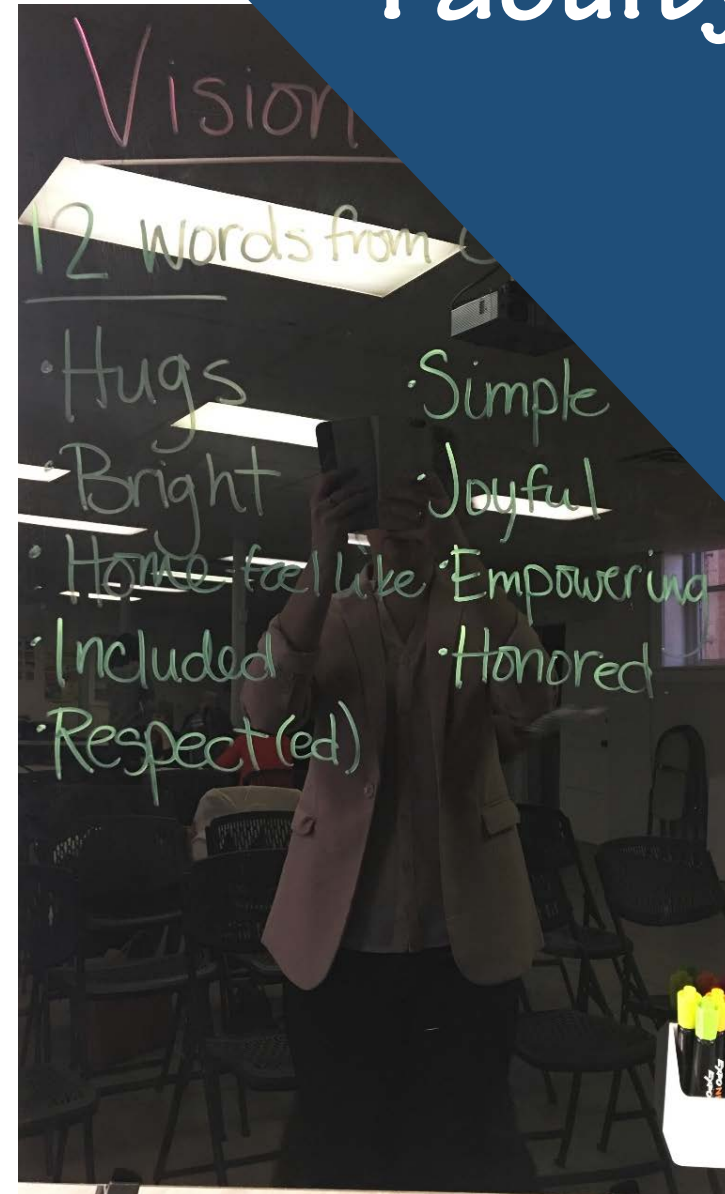
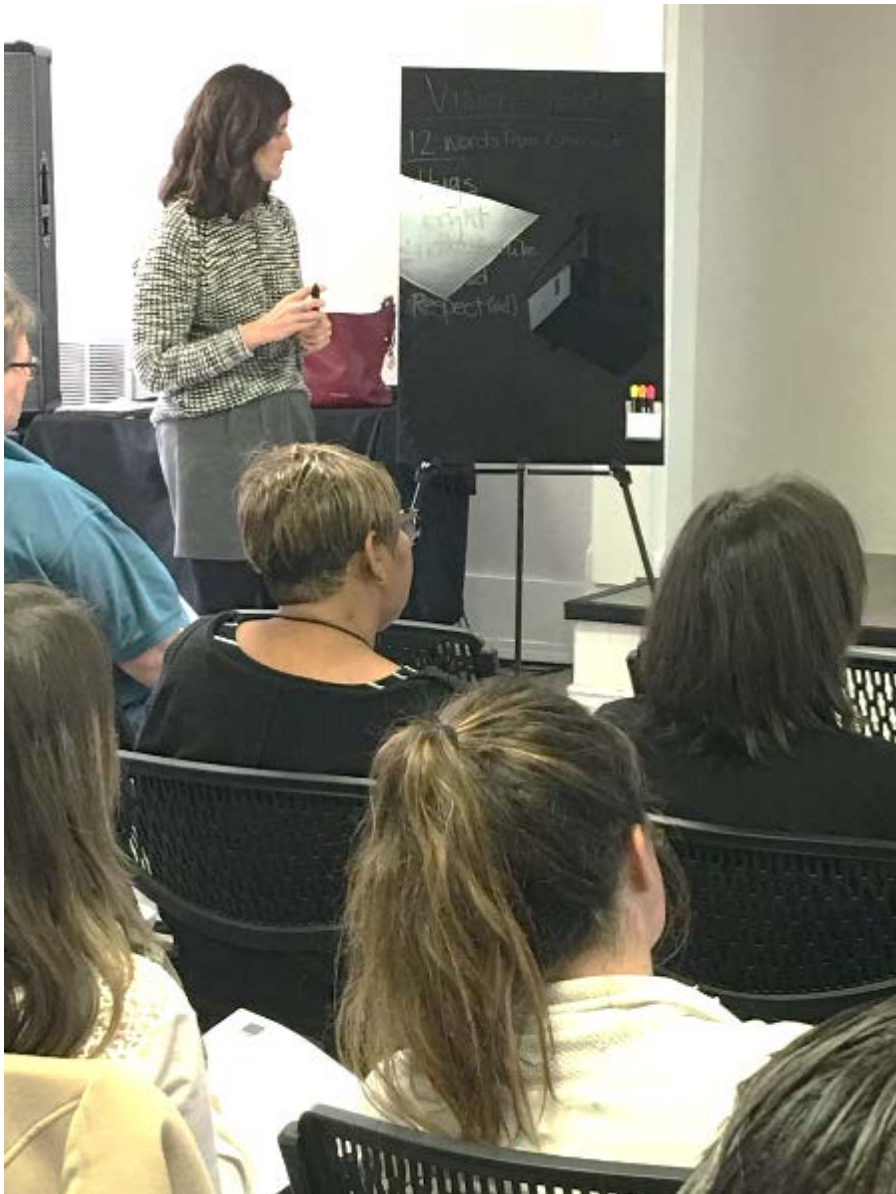
Students

- Safety & Security
- Modern & flexible furniture, “floating chairs”
- Makerspace, “where we can build R2-D2 & BB8”
- Commons Area, “place to sit with friends”
- Have a space of their own, “no one gets left out”
- Treehouses & new computers
- Water fountains & free food were mentioned for every room



# Dream Big Exercise

# Faculty



## Outcomes from our meetings...

Faculty

- “Home”
- Safety & Security
- Seven Core Principles & Inspirational Words
- Flexible and movable furniture
- Durable & easy to clean
- Open line of sight and natural lighting
- Engaging & interactive without being a sensory overload

## Outcomes from our meetings...

Staff &  
Board

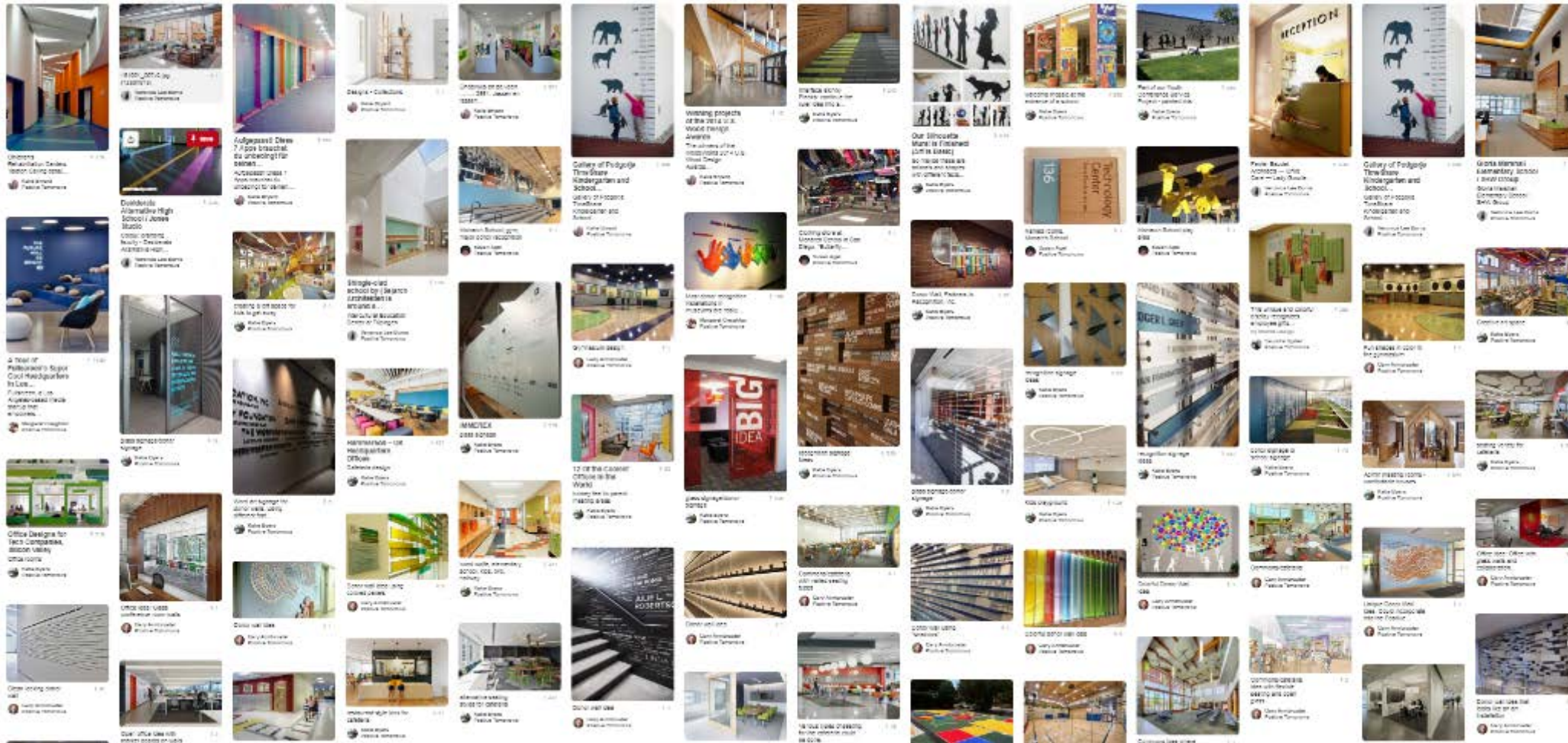
- Safety & Security
- Private meeting spaces
- Easy to clean & low cost to maintain
- Teach students & families to be self-sufficient
- Clothing & donation closets, laundry room, showers, & kitchen
- Donor recognition

# Problems?

- Large amounts of information were coming in daily...all from different sources.
- Better organization methods were needed.
- MA+ Interior Designers recommended Pinterest, which they used for personal content at the time.




- Pinterest allowed multiple users to share hundreds of images in various categories.



- Private boards are also available to use where an invite can be extended to select participants.

Gallery of Podgorje TimeShare Kindergarten and School...



Veronica Lee Burns  
Positive Tomorrows



Shingle-clad school by (Se)arch Architekten is around a...



Veronica Lee Burns  
Positive Tomorrows


Gloria Marshall Elementary School / SHW Group



Veronica Lee Burns  
Positive Tomorrows



Named rooms, Monarch School



Susan Agel  
Positive Tomorrows




Monarch School play area



Susan Agel  
Positive Tomorrows



Most donor recognition installations in museums are really...



Margaret Creighton  
Positive Tomorrows



Donor Wall, Partners in Recognition, Inc.



Katie Byers  
Positive Tomorrows



A Tour of Fullscreen's Super Cool Headquarters in Los...



Margaret Creighton  
Positive Tomorrows



creating a loft space for kids to get away




Katie Byers  
Positive Tomorrows



This unique and colorful display recognizes employee gifts...

by Stobbe Design



Sandra Ogden  
Positive Tomorrows



# Pinterest

- Images were then printed, cut out, and organized into the appropriate categories.



- Those categories included:
  - Outdoor Spaces
  - Administration
  - Family Support
  - Classrooms
  - Gymnasium
  - Cafeteria/Commons
  - Makerspace
  - Donor Recognition
  - Circulation
  - Library
  - Collaboration Spaces
  - Furnishings





- Each category had its own page, which was hung on the wall for viewing.



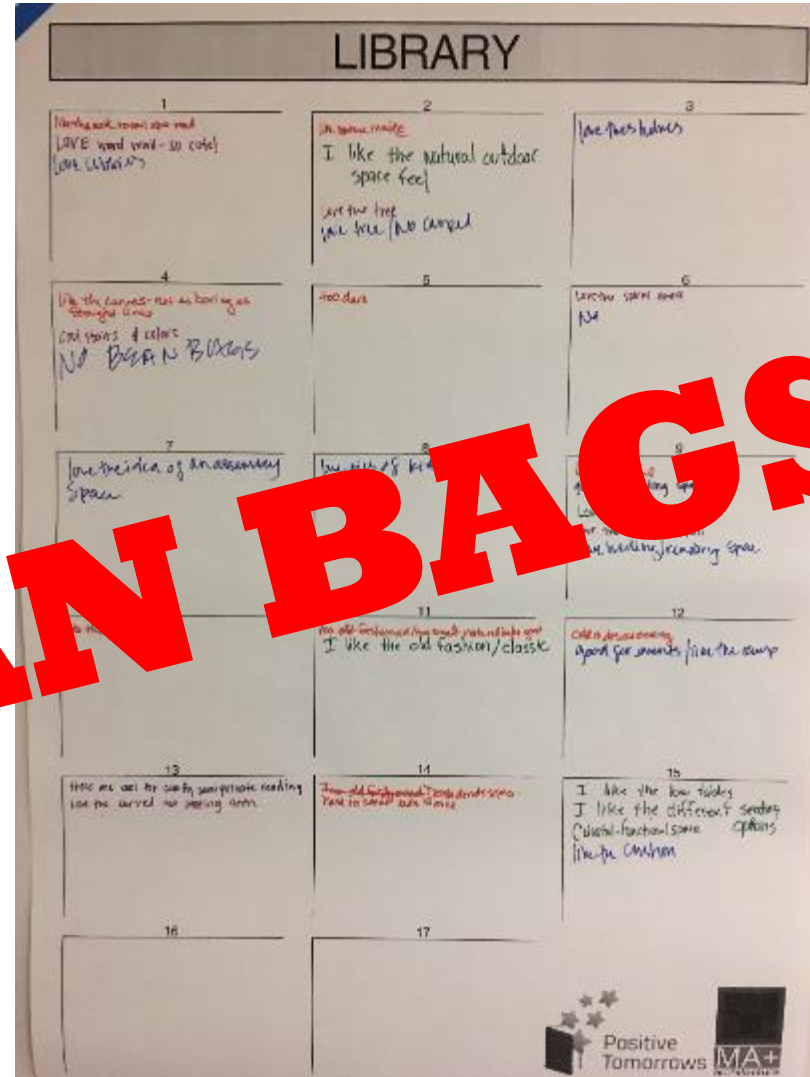
- A Discovery Session was held with faculty and staff to review the boards and get feedback.
- Every group had 5 minutes to review each category and leave positive and negative comments.



- Members of the design team were present and moved around to answer questions and facilitate conversations.



- This helped the design team narrow down design options.



**NO BEAN BAGS!**



- Updated the original Pinterest board with images that received positive feedback by the faculty and staff.

Treehouse



Collaboration Space



Reading Wall



Food Lab



Inspirational Words



# WHY?



- Engages Community
- Collaborative Effort
- All Components Considered
- Everyone's Voice is Heard
- Finished Product Fits True Needs
- Overall User Satisfaction
- Faculty, Staff & Students Feel Valued

# Site Plan



# Interior Design Inspiration

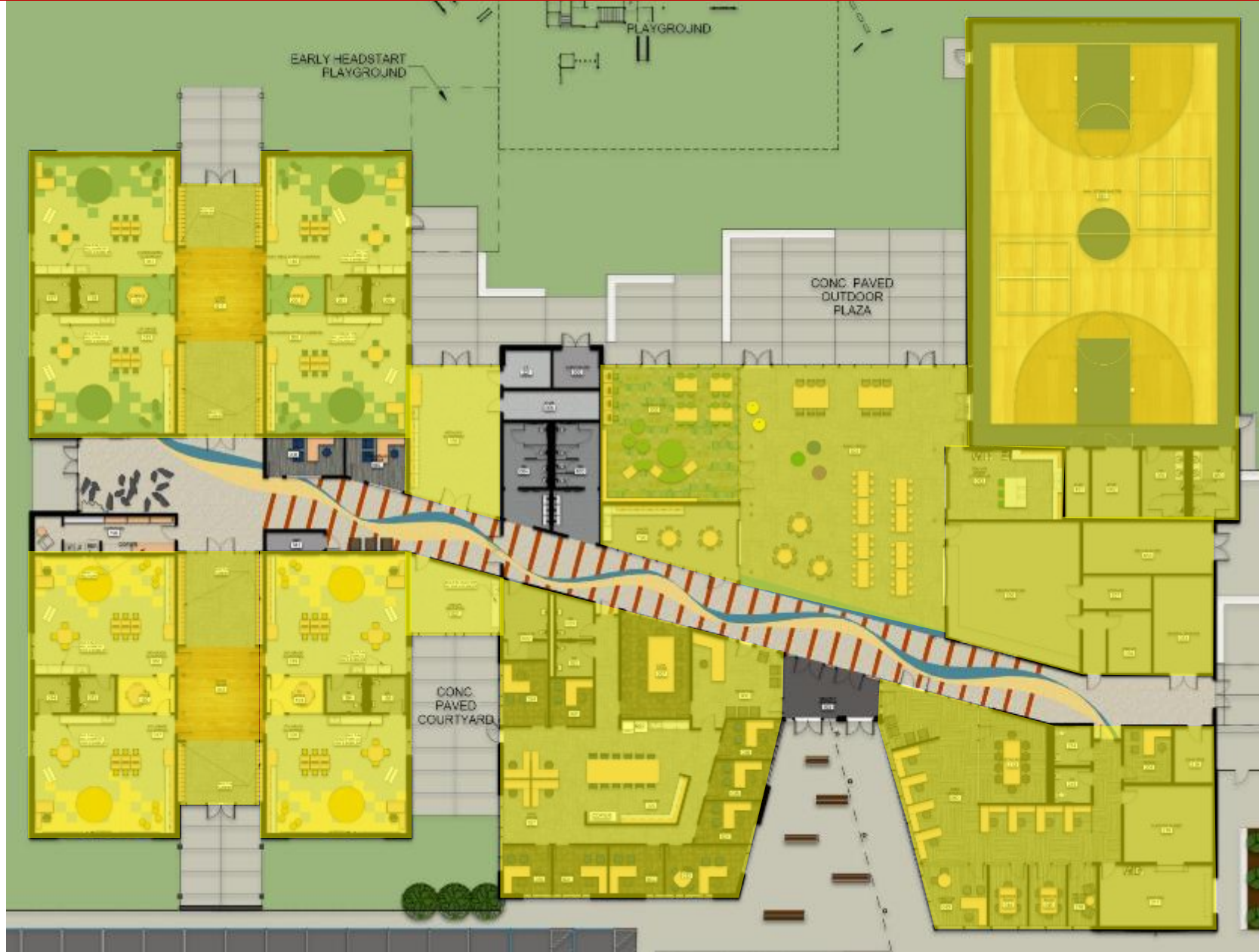


## “OklaHOMEa”

- Importance of “Home”
- Warm Colors
- Natural Elements
- Knowledge of Oklahoma
- Name spaces after areas in the home



# Floor Plan



# Exterior Design



# Exterior Design



# Exterior Design

Seven Core Principles



# Exterior Design

Back Porch



# Exterior Design

Backyard



# Interior Design

Family Room



# Interior Design

Family Room & Kitchen





# Interior Design

Clubhouse

Clayton's Clubhouse



# Interior Design

Treehouse



# Interior Design

Living Room



Questions?



# Thank You!



For more information about  
Positive Tomorrows, visit:  
[www.positivetomorrows.org](http://www.positivetomorrows.org)

