



# SUMMARY FOR SITE OBSERVATION, ENGAGEMENT WITH P.E TEACHERS AND STUDENTS AT A.P. GIANNINI MIDDLE SCHOOL

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Meeting Date: Dec 4<sup>th</sup> 2024

Time: 12:30-5:00pm

Location: AP Giannini

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Agenda for the day

12:30-2:30 - Yard Observations (\*lunch runs from 12:13-12:53)

2:30-3:15 - PE Teacher Meeting

3:30-5:00 - Student Design Workshop

## Yard Observations

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Meeting Date: 12/4

Time: 12:30-2:30

Location: School Yard

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Attendance:

Will Logsdon, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, Urban Watershed Planning Division

Mary Tienken, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission

Erica Cruz, Brown and Caldwell

Patricia Algara, BASE Landscape Architecture

Hannah Greendorfer, BASE Landscape Architecture

Goals:

Observe how is the school yard is being utilized during lunch break.

Some questions to keep in mind:

What activities are happening? Where?

Are there any underutilized spaces?

Are there any overutilized spaces?

Are there any conflicting uses of space?

Are there enough seating areas?

Where could shade be incorporated?

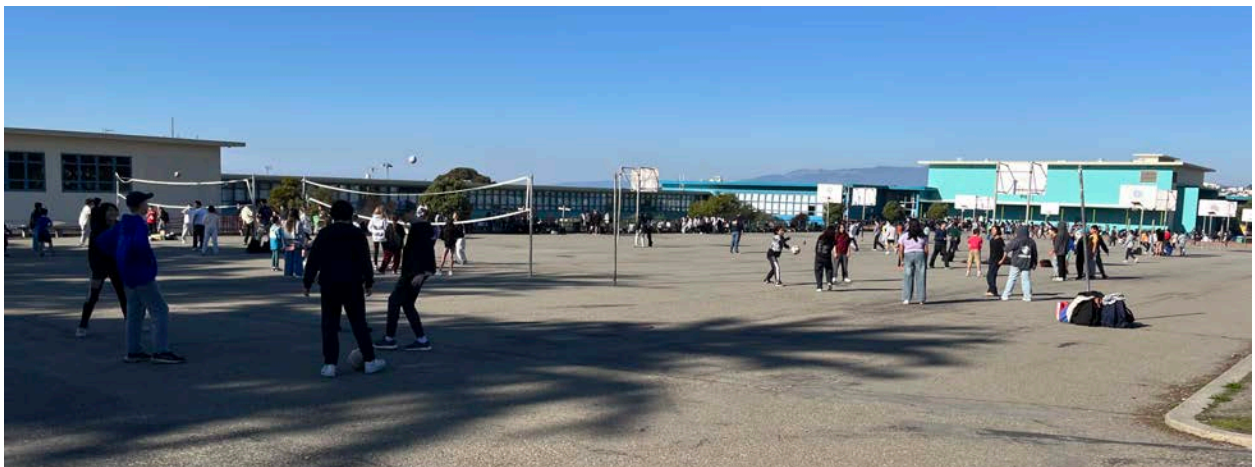
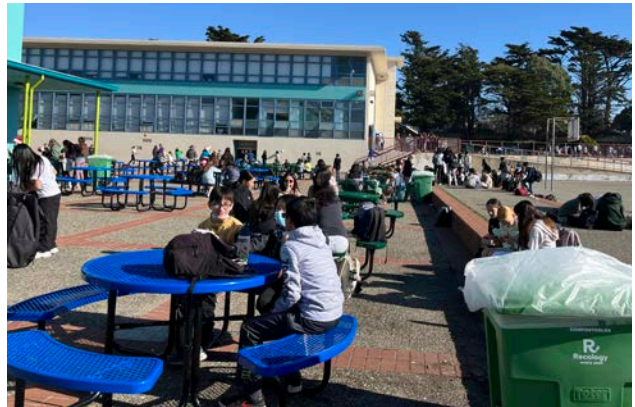
Where are the teachers/staff?

How can the space be improved, better utilized?

Is the garden area being utilized during recess and how?

How is the yard used by other classes than PE?

Site Photos:







**Notes:**

- *Approximately 1,100 students use the yard during lunch time*
- *Supervision requirements are one staff member per 100 students, so ideally 10 faculty members are needed during the lunch period*
- *Faculty members were primarily found standing in the few shady areas due to the sunny weather*
- *All sections of the yard are heavily used, with every grade having lunch at the same time (no staggering)*
- ***Active activities observed:** basketball, volleyball, lots of small groups throwing the football and soccer games happening on basketball courts, many students perched on workout equipment*

- *Passive activities observed: sitting at lunch tables (all tables were full), sitting along concrete slopes, walking and talking with friends around the track (primarily girls), sitting on asphalt with backpacks, and playing games at lunch tables*
- *The long jump area and garden are off limits during lunch time*
- *Older students tend to dominate main activities, leaving younger students with fewer areas and options*
- *A small snack shack sells items to students (run by student clubs)*
- *Safety hazards - uneven surfaces at lower yard, slippery lower yard concrete (lots of accidents happen), and slippery upper yard paint*
- *Field and court conditions need to be reconsidered to support a wider variety of activities, students are not using all the courts but are using the flexibility for other activities*
- *There is no shade except along the perimeter near the volleyball courts*
- *The yard is loud, with no clearly defined quiet areas*
- *The amphitheater area is used for dodgeball and wall ball during lunch, but also used by the drama teacher*
- *Some active activities spill into the lunch eating areas*

## PE Teacher Meeting

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Meeting Date: 12/4

Location: School Yard

We observed PE during 5th and 6th periods.

Time: 2:30-3:15

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### Attendance:

Will Logsdon, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, Urban Watershed Planning Division

Mary Tienken, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission

Erica Cruz, Brown and Caldwell

Patricia Algara, BASE Landscape Architecture

Hannah Greendorfer, BASE Landscape Architecture

Jason Blum, APG PE teacher

Chris Cheng, APG PE teacher

Emma Elting-Blickenstaff, APG PE teacher

Mike Beitiks, APG PE teacher

Carlos Alfaro, APG PE teacher, Athletic Director

John Deppmeier, APG PE teacher

Savannah Lykins, APG PE teacher

Hudson Szeto, APG PE teacher

## Goals:

Understand the programmatic and spatial needs that PE has.

Determine if PE has sufficient space and if they would be able to function with a reallocation of some space towards green infrastructure. If so where would be the best areas for this.

Some questions that were ask:

Is there anything missing in the space?

Are there any underutilized spaces?

Are there any areas that are not working?

Are there any areas that can be improved?

Are there enough – Basketball courts? Volleyball Courts? Running track? Long jump?

What would make it easier to teach PE?

How is the yard used by other classes than PE?

## Site Photos:







**Notes:**

*Activities that require hard surface (specific lines/boundaries):*

- Bikes
- Ripstiks
- Basketball
- Pickleball
- Tennis
- Volleyball
- Floor Hockey
- Team Handball
- Four Square
- Track

*Activities that could benefit from a softer surface (or larger space):*

- Football
- Soccer
- Lacrosse

*Activities that can happen in a versatile space:*

- Dance
- Yoga
- Workout circuits
- Boxing
- Park Games

*Unrelated to yard (inside?):*

- Ropes
- Badminton

General:

- PE sessions always begin with students running laps
- For PE periods, students are divided in six small groups of approximately 28 students, each require enough space for activities to happen independently
- Workout Wednesday activities use less equipment compared to other days
- All sixth graders are in same period for PE, followed by combined periods for seventh and eighth grade classes
- PE activities occupy most of the yard, raising concerns about limiting its use for other purposes
- The neighboring grass field can be used by APG but is often off limits due to maintenance or contractual restrictions limiting use to 30 students at a time (this is the PE instructors favorite place to take students)
- PE staff are concerned about trees or vertical elements in the middle of the play field impeding flexible use
- Staff don't like the idea of barriers dividing the field, want to maintain flexibility and open space
- Surfacing must be smooth and even for safety
- Recently installed upper yard surfacing is slippery and poorly installed, staff concerned about contractors reliability for future project, want to know timeline
- Lower yard surfaces are uneven, unsafe, and very slippery (sometimes will not have kids run on this area)
- There is an existing seating area with benches near the locker rooms for students to gather before heading to class, that space is a bit underutilized
- Shaded or sheltered areas are needed along the yard perimeter for students taking breaks
- Staff would like to bring back the bike program but conflicts with other activities, ie bikes on the track interfere with basketball games due to rolling balls causing safety issues
- Volleyball has strong student interest, with many signing up this year. Girls were seen using the volleyball courts during lunch time.
- The long jump is used but only after hours and during track season
- There is interest in exploring cross training options for runners
- Some PE instructors prefer a full-size soccer field, while others are open to a smaller field suitable for 11–13 year olds
- Using Street Soccer USA was suggested
- Each student group needs an area equivalent to two full basketball courts
- Equipment is rolled out daily based on planned PE activities

- *Program circulation could be reconsidered to better align with varying outdoor PE classroom sizes*

## Student Design Workshop

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Meeting Date: 12/4

Location: Beacon Office, Room 130

Time: 3:30 – 5:00 (after school 90 mins)

Group Size: 7 Students, 1 Teacher

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### Attendance:

Will Logsdon, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, Urban Watershed Planning Division

Erica Cruz, Brown and Caldwell

Patricia Algara, BASE Landscape Architecture

Hannah Greendorfer, BASE Landscape Architecture

Seven (7) students from the Beacon after school program

### Goals:

Introduce the team and the project

Quick introduction to the design process

Provide materials for design charrette with students. Students will be able to explore the yard at scale and express their desired program on the space with different tools provided during the design charrette.

### Materials provided:

- Power point presentation
- Scaled site plan
- Scaled kit of parts
- Engineering Scales
- Trace paper
- Markers
- Glue
- Scissors

10 min – Intro, team presentation, project description – Will

10 min – Design thinking presentation – Patricia

40 min – Students working in a small group – Facilitators Patricia/ Hannah

Go into breakout groups (ideally no more than 4 students per group)

Student's will create designs in small break out groups



Facilitator to take notes of the common themes emerging.

Select a person to share back with the larger group all the ideas and the common themes.

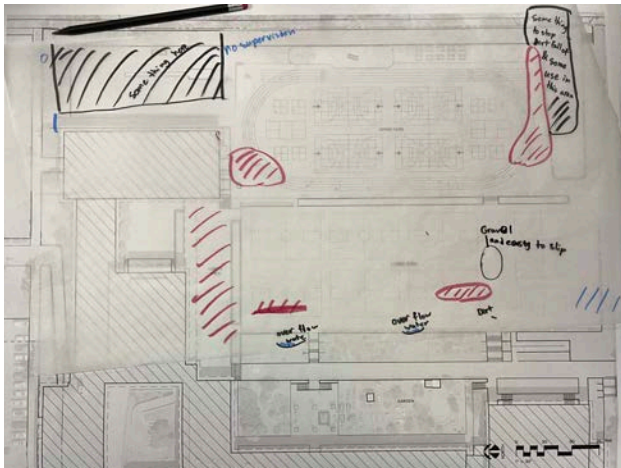
15 min – Share back with the larger group the designs

Facilitators to share the common themes that emerged

5 min – Do a brief summary of the top themes that emerged from the groups.

Questions and Next Steps – Patricia

*Site Photos:*







- *There is a lot of empty dirt around the long jump area, which is also where students enter the yard in the morning, not inviting*
- *"Early bird" students enter the yard via the ramp through the main office*
- *Awkward slopes and rough materials at the amphitheater stage area lead to frequent falls especially during active play*
- *Many clubs set up booths near the entrance of the yard, close to the red tile room (snack shacks...)*
- *Students often climb bars along ramps and stairs, unsafe*
- *Supervising adults typically congregate in the lower yard corner near the lunch tables or in shade*
- *Occasionally, yellowjackets nest in planted slopes*
- *The walkway often floods, nicknamed "Lake APG," suggested a need for trench drains*
- *There are too many basketball courts, reducing how many was suggested*
- *The volleyball courts need to be redone, uneven and slippery surfaces*
- *There is a need for more seating between courts and more green space*
- *The lower yard has an empty dirt field at the lower corner near the ramp that could benefit from added shade*
- *There is only one ramp between levels, and it is very long and steep*
- *The beehive area is underutilized, often empty, and has lots of broken glass near the back entrance*
- *There are frequent injuries on the workout equipment wall*
- *Dirt often falls from the beehive slope onto the upper yard, requiring a solution to prevent erosion*
- *Loose gravel on the lower yard creates slipping hazards*
- *There is noticeable pooling and water overflow in the lower yard*
- *Shade is needed in the lunch area*
- *Consider incorporating bouldering elements into the long jump area*
- *Maybe table tennis at beehive area with wind buffer (concerned that it is too windy for the small light ball to be able to play)*