



*Community input & inspiration*

## **FHM's Play Yard & Learning Landscape Design Initiative**

*...making FHM's  
outdoor environment  
**a place to learn and a  
place to belong***



# FHM Facilities Work

## ...still seeking the horizon



**2006:** Relocated to 581 Conference Place and substantially reconfigured interior spaces to convert to a school

**2010:** Purchased campus in 2010 for \$6.5 million & built new UE wing, playground & field

**2014:** BEST grant awarded: HVAC, roof, RTUs, fence, parking lot

**2015:** Solar array installed through Power Purchase Agreement

**2016:** Mobilizing for major capital work

- ❖ March: 3B Bond work with Jeffco; updated Facilities Master Plan
- ❖ April: \$15K (awesome!!!) donated through Spring Fling special appeal for Play Yard Design Initiative
- ❖ RFP Floated, little response; Board voted to re-circulate for 3 bids
- ❖ Summer-Fall: Bond re-financing/expansion preparation; CECFA approval to proceed
- ❖ Nov: 3B Failed. Bond market tanked.

**2017:** Regroup & reboot on the Play Yard Design Initiative

- ❖ Feb: RFP recirculated; better response; multiple proposals
- ❖ Mar: Here we are! Time for our community to define Play Yard priorities!

*“An environment-based education movement--at all levels of education--will help students realize that **school isn't supposed to be a polite form of incarceration, but a portal to the wider world.**”*

— [Richard Louv](#)

[Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder](#)



“Education is a natural process carried out by the child and is not acquired by listening to words but by experiences in the environment.”

- Maria Montessori

# Recess outdoors...

## ...not just child's play

- ❖ Improves academic & behavioral outcomes
- ❖ Facilitates community building, cooperation
- ❖ Develops pro-social behaviors
- ❖ Spurs critical thinking & problem solving
- ❖ Encourages self-awareness, self-regulation
- ❖ Helps with stress reduction ~ endorphins!
- ❖ Supports resiliency
- ❖ Increases physical & mental health
- ❖ Improves executive functioning, focus

"Play is the  
highest form of  
research."

Albert  
Einstein



<http://www.childrenandnature.org/>



# The FHM vision objectives...

- ❖ Creating outdoor environments at FHM that:
  - ❖ help students and staff achieve positive **academic growth** and **social development**,
  - ❖ support **greater physical and mental health**,
  - ❖ provide **inspiration, recreational opportunities, and unstructured enjoyment**, and
  - ❖ **cultivate curiosity** about and **appreciation of the natural world**.
- ❖ Integrating FHM's outdoor spaces in **meaningful, sustainable ways** with our **daily experiences** at school and **with our community**.



# FHM Play Yard Design Initiative

## ❖ **The Place**

- ❖ Focus area

## ❖ **The Passion & Partnerships**

- ❖ Community-driven desires & design
- ❖ Design process & key players

## ❖ **The Pragmatism**

- ❖ Timeline
- ❖ Construction Costs
- ❖ ...and inevitable contingencies



# The Place



# The Place







# The Passion & Partnerships



Stone Landscape Architects



Lois Brink

# The Pragmatism



*Moving from inspiration to implementation*

# Preliminary Timeline

FREE HORIZON MONTESSORI PLAY YARD SITE EVALUATION & DESIGN  
PROJECT MILESTONE SCHEDULE (Preliminary)



- ❖ **March**
  - ❖ Engage SLA
  - ❖ Design Team Kick off
  - ❖ Site Analysis
- ❖ **April - Jun**
  - ❖ Prelim designs
  - ❖ Community Open House
  - ❖ Iterative updates
  - ❖ Design Doc devo
- ❖ **Jul - Aug**
  - ❖ Feasibility, Costing
  - ❖ ID Volunteer Ops
  - ❖ Alts evaluations
  - ❖ Community Open House
  - ❖ Finalize master design
  - ❖ Design CDs
- ❖ **Fall 2017+**
  - ❖ GOCO SYI app
  - ❖ Funding feasibility
  - ❖ Capital campaign



# Community Fundraising



## Construction loan ~\$XX0,000

- ❖ Amount TBD, based on design decisions
- ❖ Evaluating current limitations imposed by FHM's Bond & Debt Service impacts

## Grant Seeking



GOCO's School Yard Initiative aims to create school grounds that inspire more active physical play and enhance learning about nature and the environment.

Up to \$110,000; Application late 2017



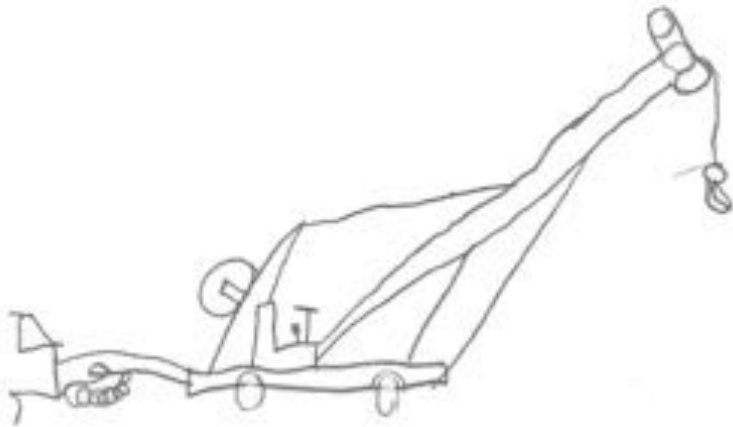
play matters for all kids

In-kind equipment donation up to \$15,000

Application Apr 28/Aug 4, rolling

# Sweat Equity, too!

Hire a 3d Thru 7th  
construction team to  
raise money,



- ❖ Professional engineering
- ❖ Contractor assistance
- ❖ Materials donations
- ❖ Installation assistance

# Framing FHM's design ideas...

- ❖ How can FHM improve its outdoor environments and use of natural spaces to achieve these improvements for our students and staff?
- ❖ What learning opportunities can you envision in an outdoor classroom setting?
- ❖ What academic and social/emotional outcomes can our students achieve in an outdoor Learning Landscape?
- ❖ How would an outdoor space reflect FHM as a Place to Learn & a Place to Belong?
- ❖ What are the specific design elements that will facilitate this? What resonates with you? Your kids?
- ❖ What's your Big Vision & Must Haves for our space?

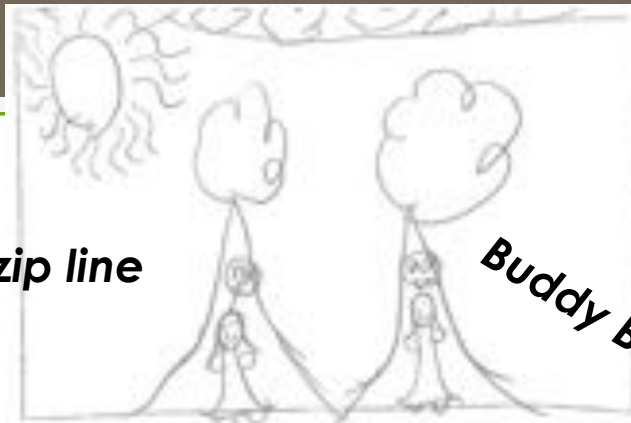
## What did our students & staff envision?





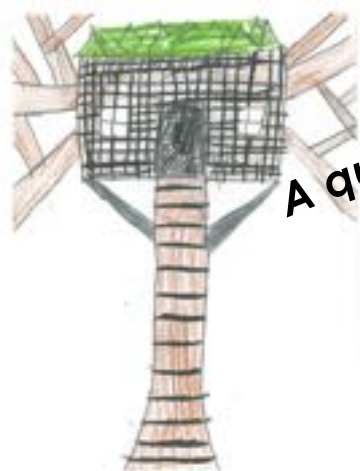


Tree house, zip line



Buddy Benches

I would like shade because some time I get hot and sweety. I lik shade because it ceps you cole.



A quiet space to sit and read.



Outdoors Peace Rug



A slide as tall as the billboard!





**Now, what do YOU envision?**

