



Board Releases Final Drawings For New St. Mary's College

Courtesy of Sault Star | April 11, 2013

The Board of Trustees of the Huron-Superior Catholic District School Board received an update on the design concept for the new St. Mary's College at their monthly meeting on Wednesday April 10, 2013.

Updated concept drawings (separate document) were presented to the Board of Trustees by Jeanette Biemann of EPOH Architects.

"The presentation we saw was simply astounding. Thanks to its location, the new St. Mary's College will be a prominent gathering place in Sault Ste. Marie for years to come. The architects have done a great job of integrating everything we asked for in this latest design concept," said HSCDSB Chair Lindsay Liske.

The focal point of the new St. Mary's College will be a commons area which soars to a height of almost forty feet and will provide breathtaking views from all three levels of the school. The commons will also provide access to key areas such as the library, cafeteria, gymnasium and auditorium.

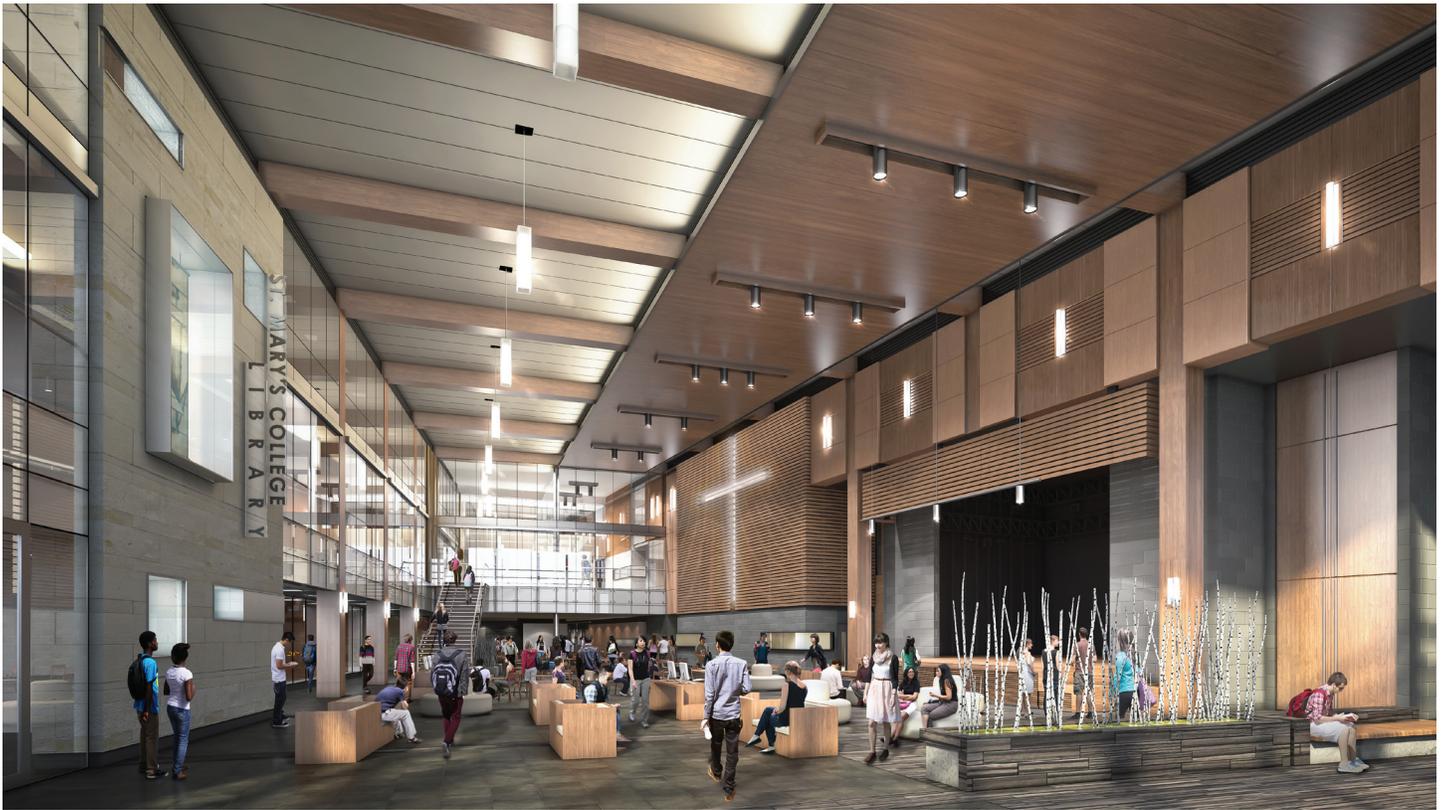
The library will actually take up space on both sides of the commons as it also takes advantage of the spectacular view to the east of Sault Ste. Marie. It will provide vibrant and relaxing spaces

for students to enhance their learning. The large gymnasium will be accessible from the commons area allowing for easy spectator access and for major events to be hosted at the school. Viewing of gymnasium activities will also be available via a second floor walkway.

The cafeteria's central location will create greater student interaction which will encourage a strong sense of school community. Its location also allows for expanded use for events open to the general public. With approximately 500 seats the new home of Theatre SMC promises to be a superb facility that will enhance the theatre experience at all levels.

"We see the commons area as the heart of the new St. Mary's College. Students will be able to build their sense of community by interacting in this area throughout the day. Combined with centralized technological program facilities, specialized labs and inviting classrooms we are confident this new school will provide a learning environment that will allow our students to achieve their best," said HSCDSB Director of Education John Stadnyk.

Outside, the school grounds will incorporate the surrounding natural landscape to create a collegial atmosphere. Students will



be able to take advantage of outdoor areas to study or relax in good weather which includes an outdoor commons to the east of the school.

Upon exiting the school, students will also be overlooking the new SMC sports complex which will include a playing field for football and soccer, six-lane track and various training centers for field events. A secondary practice field is also part of the school's athletics component. A unique feature of the area is a natural seating section built into a slight embankment that drops from the outdoor commons to the field area.

Currently an energy modeling process is underway to maximize any possible energy efficiencies that can be incorporated into the construction process. Systems such as in-floor radiant heating, fresh air exchangers and LED lighting that were utilized in the construction of Holy Cross Catholic Elementary School are being looked at.

The new St. Mary's College will be approximately 190,000 square feet and is situated on a site that is almost 20 acres. The Board received funding of approximately 47 million dollars for the project which is scheduled to be ready for students in September of 2015. Preliminary work to prepare the site on Second Line East in Sault Ste. Marie is already occurring.

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