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## **Brookland/Turkey Thicket Frequently Asked Questions Group 2**

### **Traffic Study**

1. *When is the traffic study going to be completed? How will it be factored into the site selection? Will it take into account other nearby projects and population factors?*

The traffic study concluded right before the March 23 community meeting and its findings are now being placed into an official report. Initially, the study finds no substantial difference in traffic impact whether the school is placed on Michigan or 10th streets. The study is coordinated with the District's Department of Transportation (DDOT) to take into account other ongoing projects and population projections. Once the building footprint is finalized, DGS and the architects will work closely with DDOT's Safe to Schools Coordinator to determine the best possible access to the school for vehicles and pedestrians.

### **Middle School Data/Need**

2. *What is the urgency in building a new Ward 5 middle school in Brookland by August 2014?*

In March 2012, after an extensive public engagement process, DC Public Schools (DCPS) announced three (3) new middle school configurations. Families in Ward 5 made it clear they wanted alternatives to education campuses (EC) which host K – 8th grade and traditionally have small middle grades populations. In the past three years, the ECs that are planned to feed into Brookland MS have experienced an average of a 17% decline in the 6-8-grade student population. As well, with an ideal middle grades enrollment of 300 in an EC, the quality seat gap currently averages above 200 in these schools. In our effort to develop higher quality middle grade options for the Ward, we committed to building two standalone middle schools. McKinley MS will be launched in SY13-14 and Brookland MS will be delayed a year to open in SY14-15 to allow additional time to construct a new building.

Brookland Middle School will afford the opportunity to grow a student population akin to a traditional middle school and with it will come the requisite resources that support rigorous offerings (i.e. credit-bearing courses such as Algebra I, world languages, and electives).



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## School Siting

3. *Does the Brookland/Turkey Thicket development mean that the funds already set aside for Turkey Thicket could be used for some work at Taft-level tennis courts, expanded playground area, bathrooms, etc.?*

The funds allocated for the Brookland/Turkey Thicket project will go towards projects on the site of Brookland Middle School and Turkey Thickey Recreation Center.

4. *Could the District demolish the existing Brookland ES and retrofit Shaed ES with the \$50 million budget to fit a middle school because it has 3 levels, a gym, a cafeteria, and fields?*

The Shaed EC property was not considered for a new middle school, as the property is not large enough to host a modern day middle school. Additionally, it is an open plan school, which requires additional funds to renovate.

5. *If the new school were not on the site of the existing school, it would be 3 stories all the way around. Correct? Does this make sense?*

A middle school of this size would likely be 2 or 3 stories tall, depending on existing site conditions. The height is also likely to vary since some parts of the school (ie: gym) may be only one story that is very tall.

6. *The school building in the close-to-the-gas-station (south point) option seems to take up much more ground-space than the two options near the existing school building.*
- Is that because the southport building will have more facilities?*
  - Will it be only two-stories high, instead of three, and, therefore, have a larger "footprint"?*
  - Or is there some other reason it is presented with a larger footprint?*

The school was situated as shown to make the best use of the land available given the existing site constraints of this approach, namely the way 10<sup>th</sup> and Michigan meet in a "corner" fashion and the location of the Recreation Center building. The school would have the same square footage and facilities as the other options.



## Amenities

7. *I can't clearly see if a walking path is included on the recreation portion of the site, based on the design presented and posted on your website. Is the walking path affected with any of the options? If we go with the southern option, is there somewhere else we can put the track?*

The walking path would be maintained in some fashion under all the options. Placing the school on the southern end of the site could result in a shorter walking path since the amount of recreation space available is condensed.

8. *In all of the renderings shown, will the playground project be going forward? I understand that the project could/will be delayed, but if a certain schema is chosen, could that eliminate the possibility of a playground?*

DPR will continue to move forward with the playground project planned for Turkey Thicket regardless of the site of the school. However, the siting for the school will impact the timing of the playground improvements.

9. *For each of the renderings, what would the actual square footage of the school be and, for each option, how do you account for each difference?*

The table below provides approximate figures on how each option allocates the 615,000 sf of land currently occupied by Turkey Thicket and the Brookland School:

<b>OPTION</b>	<b>Parks &amp; Rec</b>	<b>School</b>
<i>Existing Facilities</i>	85%	15%
<i>Stand Alone School at 10<sup>th</sup></i>	85%	15%
<i>Stand Alone School on Existing School Site</i>	82%	18%
<i>Stand Alone School on Expanded Existing School Site</i>	80%	20%
<i>Stand Alone School at South Point</i>	73%	27%

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10. *Isn't it possible to improve/create green space/play area on the existing school property for both play and parking?*

Building a new middle school within the property of the existing school will utilize more of the site's footprint than the current building. This is because a modern-day middle school includes spaces (ie: gym, auditorium) that are more than one story tall.

11. *According to DCPS regulations, adults will not be allowed in the school building during school hours. Are adults allowed on the grounds? If kids are outside, do school regulations require that adults be kept away from the grounds?*

DCPS believes that schools are public institutions and should be open to visits from parents and other interested parties to the extent that visits do not disrupt the education process, a school's operation, nor compromise student or staff safety. As such, DCPS facilities will continue to be open to the public as long as visitors do not disrupt school instruction, operation or activities, or threaten the safety and security of students and staff.