



Watkins Community Meeting – Meeting Minutes
November 17th, 2015
6 p.m.

- Principal Bell introduces Patrick Davis
- Attendees:
 - Patrick Davis (DCPS)
 - Adnan Mamoon (DGS)
 - Sarah Hasselmann (DGS)
 - Josh Tuch (DGS)
 - Marshella Wallace (DPR)
 - Dietrich Williams (DPR)
 - Principal Bell (Watkins ES)
 - SIT Members, ANC representatives, CM Allen’s representatives, neighbors, and Watkins community
- Patrick Davis runs through SIT presentation slides, questions held until the end. The presentation can be seen on the DGS website, located at the following URL:
<http://dgs.dc.gov/node/1125166>
- Please submit all further questions to Patrick Davis by 12/4. DCPS and its’ sister agencies will provide responses by 12/9.

The community members had several questions for DCPS, DPR, and DGS. They are outlined below with a summary of the answers provided in the meeting.

- “For swing scenario three, can grades first and second go to Van Ness?”
 - DCPS: At this time we can only commit to 1st grade at Van Ness. Additional evaluation is needed to see if there is a population growth at Van Ness.
- “The money for swing will come from the modernization project. What options do we have to push back against this?”
 - DCPS: DCPS and DGS are committed to working within the project budget.
- “You said there were cost savings in not doing the summer blitz. How much will we save specifically?”
 - DGS: DCPS and DGS have committed to moving away from summer blitz projects. The exact savings are not known at this time.
- “I’m concerned that this project will compromise the cluster school community. Can DCPS make commitments that the school budget will not be compromised?”
 - DCPS: The budget is determined by a one-year enrollment projection. It will not factor in attrition due to the construction.
- “Has thought been given to subsidizing shuttles to Hine and other schools in the cluster to maintain the community?”
 - DCPS: At this time we are seeing what we can do with the C40 bus line. If additional transportation needs are required, we will evaluate.



- “What other schools were considered for swing?”
 - DCPS: Davis, Spingarn, Fletcher-Johnson were all evaluated, but are in disrepair and were ruled out due to the estimated amount of work required to make them acceptable swing spaces. School Within a School at Goding was also considered but Goding is expanding enrollment.
- “Will DCPS purchase a stable of trailers to use in the capital projects?”
 - DCPS/DGS: We’ve considered that but there are additional costs beyond purchasing them outright. The breakdown and movement of trailers is a significant cost.
- “Why get rid of the summer blitz?”
 - DCPS: It’s much more expensive due to overtime costs. Safety of the students and staff is a major concern with the layout at Watkins and timelines of steel installation
- “The gym addition is causing the need to move away from summer blitz?”
 - DCPS: The gym addition requires a significant amount of demolition and construction, which would take longer than a year.
- “Can you elaborate on the physical space at Eliot-Hine? How would recess work and what does the physical space look like inside?”
 - DGS/DCPS: There are current ongoing capital projects at Eliot-Hine that include science lab upgrades and new furniture for all their classrooms. We are still analyzing recess and how play would work in this scenario, but we do intend to have adequate play spaces for elementary students.
- “Will this project will be subsidizing Eliot-Hine’s future renovations?”
 - DCPS: yes, it will.
- “What will we give up as a result of using this money for swing?”
 - DCPS: We cannot say specifically what will be removed from the project. At this point we are planning on delivering what has been discussed so far in the design.
- “Where will DPR be located during the construction?”
 - DPR: DPR will review temporary locations for supplemental programming during the construction period for Watkins
- “Why not have students swing to Stuart Hobson?”
 - DCPS: The field is in the final stages of completion and we do not want to damage that by putting trailers on the site. We will evaluate if 5th grade can fit at Stuart-Hobson.
- “Costs seem to be the driving factor. How do you account for external costs like shuttles and the impact on families?”
 - DCPS: Cost is one factor, others include safety and operational use of the space. Analysis of the external costs will be further reviewed.
- “What level of confidence do you have that this will take one year? Do you have any examples of similar projects?”
 - DCPS: We have no reason to believe that the schedule is unrealistic. Lafayette is swinging in trailers right now and has a similar schedule, for a larger project.
- “Have you swung like this before?”



- DCPS: Yes, Ellington students are at Meyer ES, and Roosevelt students are at MacFarland. Takoma students were also in swing.
- What is DPR's stance on using the field for swinging trailers?
 - DPR: At this time, DPR does not support the option for use of the Watkins filed for swing space. DPR agreed to take residents' concerns about this decision to Director Anderson.
- "Have you explored the use of the International School space?"
 - DGS: We believe that space is under development currently.
- "What is the overall project budget?"
 - DGS: \$30.9 million (clarification – this is the project hard cost budget. The overall project budget including the window work that occurred in Summer 2015 is \$39.4M)
 - We need the builder on board to get completely accurate costs
- "Has Miner ES been evaluated as a swing option?"
 - DGS/DCPS: We will review
- "We need a visual of how Eliot-Hine will be split up."
 - DCPS/DGS: We have done some initial test fits to split up the building, and are working with the school teams before we send it out publicly.
- "Have you all as PMs spoken with first grade and fifth grade teachers, as well as specials teachers, to discuss these ideas with them?"
 - Principal Bell: those conversations are ongoing.
- "Can you open Eastern HS field to the public?"
 - DPR/DCPS: We will review
- "Will you provide additional security for younger students at Eliot-Hine?" Please also review external security
 - DCPS: We'll work with the operations and security team at DCPS to ensure that all students are safe.
- How are you going to work with WMATA on the c-40 bus to improve that service? There are current issues with promptness and capacity on the bus.
 - DCPS: We will review the issues with them and evaluate transportation as a whole.
- Community members offered support to the scenarios that do not put trailers on site due to noise, air quality, and learning environment
- "Did any part of the Lafayette rec center close during that renovation?"
 - DCPS: No. Lafayette ES had the luxury of a large field behind the school on their property to use for swing, so compromising the nearby rec center wasn't necessary.
- Community members offered support for DCPS and DGS moving away from the summer blitz approach of the work
- "Have you considered alternate dismissal times? What will the typical instructional day look like?"
 - DCPS: Yes, we don't not anticipate simultaneous dismissals and arrivals, but the exact times have not been determined.
- Why won't we have a builder until February?



- DGS: The RFP process is closed. We're currently in the process of reviewing the proposals. The process from receiving proposals until selecting a builder is several weeks. We anticipate the award to be made in February
- “None of the scenarios involved housing students in non-DCPS owned facilities?”
 - DGS: It's a very lengthy process and typically requires payment of leasing costs as well as renovation costs
- “Have we thought about after care and before care as well as enrichment opportunities?”
 - DCPS: We need to consider this further and it's on our radar.
- “Watkins has enrichment programs that will be difficult to hold in two different locations. Such as tae-kwon-do. Separate campuses will make this very difficult”
 - DCPS: We will work with Principal Bell on this
- “Why are you considering splitting into multiple campuses? Stuart Hobson is already very crowded.”
 - DCPS: Because we had heard concerns about young students in the building at Eliot-Hine.
- “It's not fair to either school to claim that upgrades are helping Eliot-Hine. By taking away from our modernization budget, you're hurting both schools.”
- “How do your different scenarios take into account the needs of special education students? Is there a mechanism to accommodate those students?”
 - DCPS: We will work with the school to make sure the programmatic needs are met for all students.
- “Will DPR offer after-care during the renovation?”
 - DPR: DPR will investigate alternatives for the provision of after-care during the construction period.
- Is Scenario 1 actually a viable option?
 - DCPS: We will work with DPR, all scenarios are still being evaluated. We do have to listen to our sister agencies concerns. This is also the most expensive option, which is part of the criteria.
- “Are there ways to trim the budget of getting Eliot-Hine up to speed for our students?”
 - DCPS: We want to invest enough money into Eliot-Hine to make sure we provide a great educational environment, but we will not be wasting money.
- “What happens if we exceed the budget?”
 - DCPS: At this time we have no reason to believe that we will exceed the budget. We need to get the builder on to weigh in on costs.
- “Will there be clear communication throughout the process?”
 - DCPS: We will send out bi-weekly e-mail updates throughout construction.
- “What happens if the schedule is delayed? Will they stay at Hine for second year?”
 - DCPS: We have no reason to believe that there will be a delay.