

Swing Space Study Feedback: Complete to April 3 2019

Feedback from Community Meeting on Monday, April 1, 2019

Verbal comments made during the meeting:

Conflicting priorities with seminary road project and swing space study

Not a four year timeline - 8 year timeline- PH kids going to school in construction zone

Those of us who have lived through this for the last 3 years and were not heard the first year around

Lose the fields, 4 years schools down, all we can do is get in a vehicle and leave the neighborhood to play ball.

Middle schoolers do not have areas to go outside and play

Did the city consider landmark mall or victory center?

Loss of community playspace outside of school day - is there any partnership between acps and the city to supplement playspaces

Polk has been waiting for a new playground for 3 years and could be a solution to lack of playgrounds if polk is redone

Rush to judgment to vote on april 4th and hearing multiple questions which are not answered - haven't done due diligence to move ahead

Is it a \$60M dollars savings?

Are there any claims or budgets left you are trying to resolve for?

Thanks for getting with RPCA and APD

Agreement to take on middle school came with commitment to fields

Undercutting stability at PH

Blacktop was supposed to have some

Frustrating that 60M is not accurate; things will be need to be put into a new building - fire alarm

Infrastructure budget city-wide is inadequate - message of budget savings is not the message to send - in a crisis need additional budget,

3 playgrounds is inadequate

Should be arts magnet school regardless of where tis project goes- arts focus could be mitigated

5 schools within walking distance adding school adds buses, cars,

Appreciate engagement, polk parents need the same

Seminary road project - no traffic study was done for neighborhood plan is to push traffic to Duke

Portable buildings potentially

Appreciate new leadership but dont have trust in process or rest of system

Live in polk neighborhood and was SRTS coordinate for 7 years, even without another school it is very dangerous,

City doesn't value green space for quality of life - science and research around benefit of green space, not adequate civic engagement dont appreciate where school board makes decisions without listening session

Staff owes you background into debate that went into building this school, we all resigned ourself to say we can deal with this for 6 months, recreating problem of bringing pedestrians through drive aisles that final ph design tried to avoid

Feedback from Facebook Live session during the meeting:

- 21 people made comments
- 2,831 people were reached
- Watch online: <https://www.facebook.com/acpsk12/videos/387169145466420>

Comments on Facebook Live:

Amanda Reina · 13:33 Is there a link to the video?

Deborah Schaffer · 19:26 <https://vimeo.com/326820245/4273c53fd7...>

Marianne Hetzer Hawn · 26:49 Plan A is predicated on buying space to build swing space. Is this "space" alluded to anywhere? Or has Plan A always been "dead in the water?"

Amy Jackson · 28:19 Feasibility study for buying swing space for this project hasn't happened yet

Sarah Kayser Mahoney · 37:03 Chiming in from home since we are unable to participate in the group exercise. One concern that I haven't heard addressed is how we can add programming for our older Patrick Henry students. They don't need a playground—they need space. Their section of the school is already small and kids this age need to get out and move. I want to see a plan and investment for these students to expand their physical fitness curriculum that will be severely hindered with the delay of the new field. I also want to know more about how this impacts our summer Rec programming.

Marianne Hetzer Hawn · 40:04 Nothing . . .

Sarah Kayser Mahoney · 52:41 I am picturing the nightmare of traffic between 5-6 pm when many families are picking up from after school programs. The intersection at Taney and Duke is going to be horrendous. At the very least we will need turn signals added to the light and perhaps a traffic cop. I come up from Duke and make a left, which is already busy—I usually am turning when the signal changes from yellow to red. Imagine the backup when DA families are coming down from Seminary! Another addition that will be necessary is the addition of late buses for both student populations.

Marianne Hetzer Hawn · 1:01:31 Use the mic

Marianne Hetzer Hawn · 1:22:19 There is a woman in a tan sweater who has had her hand raised for . . . ever.

Lynn Buzzella · 1:34:30 What is new DM?

Brett Egusa · 1:34:35 douglas macarthur

Lynn Buzzella · 1:35:30 Thank you

Kelly Izydorczak Gueli · 1:39:43 Have to put the kids somewhere.

Tina Grimstead Rider · 1:39:51 Not to mention fire safety

Lath Addie Rasavong · 1:37:22 haven't they been engaging the community all this time?

Tina Grimstead Rider · 0:00 No. They first mentioned it in mid March.

Tina Grimstead Rider · 1:43:06 Part of the issue is that this is very rushed and they have not even thought about traffic and fire issues.

Sharon Dunkley · 1:44:21 Why not take back old John Tyler School at Northern Virginia Community College

Michele Islas · 1:44:42 How is there space to build multiple HS academies but not one space for 1 elementary school?

Kelly Izydorczak Gueli · 1:40:01 How about Lee Center?

Brett Egusa · 1:41:54 that idea was floated previously but for whatever reason it wasn't feasible. I think that it may have had something to do with the problem of where to put all the current tenants of Nannie Lee.

Brett Egusa · 1:44:12 From the website

Brett Egusa · 1:44:14 Are there any other options for swing space?

ACPS has been looking at options for swing space that can be used while we modernize our elementary schools for several years. We considered the Nannie Lee Rec Center but it would have required funding and displaced existing programs. Looking at using the old Patrick Henry facility is a fiscally responsible option. It is available now, enables ACPS to accelerate the modernization projects and does not require us to find or purchase land on which to build temporary swing space. Finding land and building new swing space would delay the start of the modernization of MacArthur until 2023 and the opening of a new building until 2025.

Kelly Izydorczak Gueli · 0:00 Brett Egusa thank you

Marianne Hetzer Hawn · 1:46:17 This is a done deal that could have been announced and engaged the community years ago. Patrick Henry as possible swing space did not materialize all of a sudden. Plan A was sufficient six weeks ago, but all of sudden now we HAVE to save \$60million mysterious dollars.

Lana Sonoda · 0:00 Marianne Hetzer Hawn We tried to explain our trust issues with them....

Shelitta Sheffield · 8:57 The old auditorium is not big enough for a "multiple purpose space". Ventilation is horrible among other things...

Christine Creighton Halsey · 15:51 <https://vimeo.com/326820245/4273c53fd7>

Superintendent Visits Patrick Henry Arrival...

Lana Sonoda · 0:00 Christine Creighton Halsey This was heavily edited and not in all the "trouble spots"not even close to the reality of living in this neighborhood.

Christine Creighton Halsey · 0:04 And I keep asking about spaces like Chinquapin, which is right behind MacArthur. I know that isn't owned by the city but there is lots of space and I know the school has looked into it because of the high school expansion. I'd like to hear more about why this wouldn't work other than cost.

Lana Sonoda · 0:00 Christine Creighton Halsey They were not able to give us a single option that they looked at and why it wouldn't work....apparently there isn't ANY space left in the city....♀□ Which is interesting when you see how small the PH site is for 2, 700+ student schools.

Keith Kruse · 0:00 The neighborhoods affected by this proposal are in School Board Districts B and C. Please make sure you communicate your concerns to the School Board, particularly those members who represent those Districts, prior to their vote on this issue this Thursday, April 4th. This swing space will still be in use by MacArthur students by the time the next School Board election comes around so we will have time to render our judgement on the "wisdom" of this plan at that next election if this proposal gets approved.

Shelitta Sheffield · 1:28:22 \$52million to build a whole new school but \$60mil for swing space?? ♀

Sarah Kayser Mahoney · 38:45 Also, I am not convinced that once money is invested in this configuration that the city and school board will be willing to let it go. \$5 million+ seems like an awful lot of money to put into a building that is “supposed” to be demolished in a few years.

Christine Creighton Halsey · 39:29 I agree. They haven't done feasibility studies yet for George Mason or Cora Kelly. If it's determined that they can't build a new facility on their property while their students occupy the old building, what's stopping ACPS from sending them to Patrick Henry?

Lana Sonoda · 0:00 Christine Creighton Halsey Now, they suddenly have enough space to build on while occupying their old bldg. I haven't heard anything “official” on why they can't build, say the new Cora Kelly, move MacArthur into that building while they build their new school. 5-8 million is an awful lot of \$\$ for a building to tear down after 2 years of use.

Christine Creighton Halsey · 0:00 Lana Sonoda That's a good idea but I think the issue with that is the fact that MacArthur has over 700 kids while those other schools have closer to 400. So any new building for George Mason or Cora Kelly wouldn't be able to accommodate them. After one of our meetings two weeks ago I asked a staffer about the Minnie Howard expansion space. Could we use it once it is complete before the high school kids move in? She said she had already thought about that plan. But she said the space won't be built for elementary school kids and won't have a playground. And the high school kids are desperate. Although Patrick Henry won't even have a field and has a host of other problems. There is no perfect answer here but I think it's worth exploring all other options before setting on Patrick Henry. I don't know how they can hear about all your community has been through and still move forward with this plan without eliminating all other options first. But I think they will because, well, money.

Sissy Walker · 0:00 And it isn't even savings. It's “I'll gladly pay you Tuesday for a hamburger today!”

Mairym Ramos-Salinas · 36:49 ACPS has a budget management problem.

Bridgette Brown · 0:00 Mairym Ramos-Salinas @All departments should be audit

Kelly Izydorczak Gueli · 1:25:43 Is the swing space going to be used over and over again as we rebuild older schools? Sorry if this is a repeat question.

Brett Egusa · 1:29:56 the timeline envisions the old PH school being demolished after the new DM is built <https://www.acps.k12.va.us/Page/2447>

Kelly Izydorczak Gueli · 0:00 thank you

Lauren Haas Finkelstein · 0:00 But there is no reason to believe that once it's there, they won't keep using it. They can just amend the DSUP again.

Kelly Izydorczak Gueli · 0:00 Lauren Haas Finkelstein yep

Drusilla Grey · 1:32:05 The timeline originally had the school demolished this year and we see how that's going.

Written notes from group work:

Issues:

- 7-10 Million wasted on a building that will be torn down
- No equipment for kids now on blacktop.
- How can we trust you if you can't do the small things
- Not realistic (construction delays)

- Loss of MacArthur playspace for community
- Staggered start times
- Pick-up
- Length of day for MacArthur students
- Fear that old PH will be used for Swing Space
- Multiple times
- Field space for MS, ES, Neighborhood
- Rec Center Access after school hours?
- Parking – double amount of teachers/staff
- Traffic
- Start times not good for working families
- Seminary Rd Plan
- Same kids without playspace and living in construction
- Is the 4 year timeline realistic?
- What's the cost to reno PH?
- Remove auditorium
- Redo parking lot
- \$60m to build swing space
- How much to renovate PH?
- Cost to lease/ build on Eisenhower
- What are the benefits to the West End?
- Traffic plan from Jordan
- Potential lawsuits due to safety, environmental, ...more
- Lack of civil engagement before deciding "as we transition" quote
- Not enough busses now- how would you increase?
- Increase of students and lack of space
- Accommodating teacher/staff mobility
- Inability to keep teachers/staff because lack of proper accommodation
- Amazon (2)
- Staggered start
- They don't stick to the timeline
- Plan A is not addressed (new swing space)
- Not being transparent as to how you determined the savings
- Safe routes to schools
- Unsafe conditions between Polk and PH need to be addressed (walking, driving with zero vision)
- Assumption that Cora Kelly and Mason wont need swing space is an assumption. Analysis hasn't been done
- No green space for learning and development
- Sell out to private/ developers
- Emergency accommodation (i.e. drills etc)
- Parking for rec center (nonresidential) during daytime
- Alexandria schools continue to avoid purchasing space that is needed you aren't saving money – you are wasting it
- Trust – so many broken promises – city seems to be incapable of following through with action of narrowing of Seminary rd.
- Equity. 4 year deferral on PH inconvenience on community for 2 year acceleration for DM
- PH is a poorer, title. 1 school that does has privileges of DM and gets the (?) of the mess
- Short-sighted for continuing long-term need for capacity issues in ACPS
- 8 year timeline for PH
- \$60 million isn't saving money it will spent somewhere else
- \$5 million wasted by school being torn down
- Traffic/parking/playground

- How to put 1500 kids on 3 small playgrounds? Where does middle school play? Including PE classes?
- Traffic will influence Jordan, Pegram, Seminary, Taney
- On a 1 block residential street, a neighbor will get 40 buses, + speeders and worried about changing parking to one side
- Issues compounded by lack of ACPS/city listening to neighbors 4 years ago
- Feasibility studies for Cora Kelly and George Mason have not been done! Promise that ACPS can use that land to avoid need for swing space is false
- Drill/evacuation emergency
- Sharing of playground
- Athletic Field
- What will updated playground look like?
- Should PH T.M.P. be updated?
- The D.M. site report was not on line, only a memo that summarizes findings. Please post complete report.
- When did "Swing Space" concept that reuses PH elem first develop? Community heard different stories; some say idea first emerged in August 18, true?
- Will there be an outdoor area for Middle school?
- Ensuring diverse and broad communication to the entire community (etc Foxchase)
- How to help MacArthur embrace the community
- Laying out the big issues for the community to help create a solution
- Capacity issues
- Why not use/build at Cora Kelly or George Mason new schools and use that as swing space?
- Middle School and P.E. Curriculum?
- Evacuation Plans?
- Intramural Programs needed for middle school
- Parking issues construction and parents dropping off kids
- MacArthur- Trust that buses are sufficient
- Contractor Accountability-Breach of Contract?
- Traffic Safety-Parking on both sides of Latham and Polk
- Assurances will not be long term solution
- Traffic plan for Taney/Jordan- not studied and critical to making this work.
- Lack of due process- why now? You will still need to come up with swing space in the future
- Our school had inadequate fire alarm in old building- no sprinkler system
- Decreased trust for our kids
- Low income kids need stability
- Agreed to middle school with the understanding that we'd have programming: intramural sports, arts etc., for new school and it hasn't happened
- Schools just need more money. Don't break our school!
- It's too much to have five schools in this area all walking (+) buses!
- Inadequate study implication especially for traffic. Engage Polk parents!
- How do 1800 people evacuate
- Plan A not addressed
- We have safety problems without construction
- Weather delays (construction)
- Parking capacity
- Address alternative locations (Victory Center/Landmark Mall)

Solutions:

- Build delays into timeline; offer incentives (award fee)
- Put money into chinquapin Rec Center; lease field space at the seminary
- Internal play areas (dance room)
- Offer bussing to aftercare at rec centers, nature centers

- Offer before care
- Late bus to bring back kids
- Written commitment
- Fields at Polk
- Priority for PH community
- Aging/ Senior center?
- Police presence
- Commitment to riding busses. Added transportation for PH
- Before/ after care
- For Douglas MacArthur only
- No more than 4 years
- 2019 was the plan and so was blacktop
- Delay on fields only
- New playgrounds open in 2020 (3 playgrounds)
- Old auditorium to multi-purpose space
- Keeping programs separate at schools (Camp/after school)
- Trash truck issues
- Ex. Site at MacArthur can't support additional structure
- Make **best** decision not one based on \$60m savings and "best deal"
- Plan the plan- properly use the process rather than taking advantage of the situation
- Proper transportation planning for all schools
- Multiple new schools are needed
- What about Potomac Yards?
- New swing space could accommodate
- The don't get re-elected (School board)
- Allows for emergency coops
- MacArthur move in space to eliminate problems
- \$60 million now invested in a new building used in many ways
- Plan A – new swing space and plan appropriately (3)
- Do not use old PH
- Public-private partners. Stop selling to private developers without securing our city/ school spaces
- Need evacuation plan/coop/emergency plan before any decisions
- Plan A purchase real estate that Alexandria will need to address
- PH needs playing fields for middle school (no recess)
- Intramurals
- Polk was promised a new playground 3 years ago – still has not been done
- Complete the feasibility study for Plan A
- Lee Center
- Whitter Wheeler land near Duke and Quaker Lane
- Plan A – invest in a long – term, multi-use, creative, 21st century swing space to meet the evolving needs of our community
- No swing space at PH safety
- Build another city park close by (old pool across Duke?)
- Look at solutions/space that the city doesn't own i.e. Landmark and other empty buildings
- Speed humps
- Parents who can move kids to another school
- Vote for new council members who care about our community
- Push 6th grade back to elementary and have 7,8,9, as middle school
- Open Minnie Howard for a flex space
- Leave Fairfax space?
- No parent drop off
- Outdoor track? Holmes Run Park? Room in new Rec Center?
- Flyers at H.T../emails to Fox Chase to notify tenants

- Open houses with both schools and neighborhoods
- Have Alexandria PD stationed by PH to enforce traffic
- High visibility crosswalks and more crossing guards
- Sufficient parking garage
- Enforcement Officer every day
- Ironclad contract with stiff penalties
- Ask for construction worker bus receipts
- Audit
- Neighborhood zone parking?
- Limiting to one side of the street
- No parking in intersections
- Don't reduce Seminary car capacity
- New codes for new buildings
- Free transportation for sports elsewhere linked to school
- Give us plays/model after PG county program
- Better advertise- retirement communities
- Utilize Polk outdoor space
- Assessment