

School Board Questions to Board Briefs dated May 15, 2020

Due to COVID-19, staff is providing information to the School Board via Board Briefs. The School Board can ask their questions through Wednesday of the following week. Staff will post responses to those questions by the following Monday.

Date	Board Member	#	Question	SLT Member	Response
Board Brief: Educational Facilities Project Updates					
5/20/2020	M. Rief	1	Is there an Indoor Air Quality report for GWMS and can it be shared with the board?	M. Anthony	Yes there is an IAQ report received right around the time of COVID-19 emergency. The report needs to be briefed out to the Superintendent prior to posting and finalizing the remediation plan.
5/20/2020	M. Rief	2	What does it mean that you are "awaiting transfer actions" for the JH refrigerant piping replacement? What action can we take so this project is not delayed?	Dr. Hart	At the time this brief was submitted, we were awaiting the transfer to be officially initiated in OneSpan. This action has occurred; transfer is with the City for approval. Prework activities have started and we do not anticipate a delay in the project.
5/20/2020	M. Rief	3	I noticed that the Facilities website is in need of updating. It still lists Ms. Cordova as the Acting Director of Facilities: https://www.acps.k12.va.us/Page/1125	M. Anthony	The Operations front office was planning to update the organization to be effective July 1 since it will have to reflect a number of new positions and people, however, per Dr. Wilkins' ask - we will post the new organization chart either tomorrow or Monday.
5/20/2020	M. Rief	4	Is the new environmental specialist working under Dr. Hart, and will environmental reports be posted online?	Dr. Hart	No; this position currently works in the Safety and Security office.
Board Brief: Douglas MacArthur Project Update					
5/20/2020	M. Rief	1	Will providing Campagna before care for DM students next year impact traffic during PH's drop-off period?	E. Gulick	No. We are working with Campagna to ensure students may be dropped off by parents prior to 7:15 am to avoid any traffic concerns. Parent drop-off at Patrick Henry does not typically start until 7:40 am so the before care will not interfere.
5/20/2020	M. Rief	2	Is the cost of packing and moving DM being paid out of the CIP budget?	E. Gulick	Yes. This will be paid for out of the CIP budget as it is required for the project.
5/20/2020	M. Rief	3	I understand that the DM advisory group meeting on Monday was recorded and concerns were raised about the design. Where will the meeting video be posted?	E. Gulick	The advisory group meeting was originally going to be used as a community engagement tool to solicit feedback from the community. Following the advisory group meeting held last week, it was determined that a more targeted community engagement approach would be required. The recording,

					therefore, will not be posted, however, meeting materials will be posted this week.
Board Brief: Middle School Enrollment					
5/20/20	M. Rief	1	What is the ACPS philosophy on the K-8 model? It seems like this model has been used to meet capacity needs rather than because it represents educational best practices. I'm interested in clarity on how to communicate with constituents regarding this issue and grade level configuration generally. What is driving our decision making on these issues?	E. Gulick	ACPS conducted a Grade Level Configuration Study which offers more information on academic impacts of grade level configurations; however, the study acknowledges that what happens in the classroom is ultimately what drives academic achievement. ACPS considers it important to provide options for families who may not be ready for the larger middle school setting and the K-8 model serves as that option.
5/20/2020	M. Rief	2	It was unclear to me from the memo why GWMS is able to accommodate a 143% utilization rate. Can you please further explain?	E. Gulick	GWMS has about 85 "classrooms" or spaces it uses for core instruction. If we multiply this by a target class size of 26 students and again by a target efficiency rating of 80% (to provide for needed flexibility in the schedule), we get 1,768 student seats. If all GWMS classrooms were 850+ square feet, as recommended in the Middle School Educational Specification , the capacity of the building would therefore be 1,768 and we would not have the overcrowding at GW that we are currently experiencing. However, because GW is an old building with dated standards for classroom size, many of its rooms are smaller than 850 SF, making its capacity only 1,150. Given budget and scheduling constraints, no school, including GWMS is able to limit its classroom size to the amount that the square feet of the room would suggest. Meaning, instead of 26 students attending class in larger 850 SF rooms, we may have 26 students attending class in smaller 650 SF rooms. For this reason, GWMS is able to have such a high utilization rate, though it is not ideal.