

Douglas MacArthur Design Concepts
Input from Affiliated Civic Associations
February 6, 2020

Taylor Run Civic Association

Dear Members of the School Board, Superintendent Hutchings, and members of the MacArthur Modernization Project Team,

The TRCA is **mostly in favor of the Forest concept**. It adds more of a community feel with access to the fields and play space being more visual and welcoming from the street, rather than behind the building, as currently oriented and proposed in the Y concept. It also takes advantage of the forest/nature view for students. Finally, it pushes the three-story building back to the property line so there is not such a tall building abutting Janneys Lane.

Some other feedback:

- Some members would be open to flipping the fields and play space and putting the play space in the back and field space on the street. Most support for the Y concept was really about the location of the play space being away from the street, and not as much about the building concept.
- Some members would like the Forest concept to add classes on both sides of the hallway (not just forest facing) to add more community in the halls. Otherwise, you have classes and grades segmented off.

Many thanks,
Kelly C. Booz

Seminary Hill Civic Association

Dear School Board Members,

Thank you for continuing to support our school system and the rigorous design and construction schedule for Douglas MacArthur. I am the Advisory Group representative for the Seminary Hill Association community and would like to share that the feedback I have received has been **roughly balanced between the Forest and "Y" concepts, with a slight preference for the Forest concept**. The Forest concept reduces the visual impact of the facility by placing the taller areas of the structure toward the back of the property, so it is not as imposing toward Janneys Lane. The Forest concept also makes the green space / play areas more visible to the community, although the counter consideration is that it provides less of a barrier between students at play and the broader community.

If possible, we would like the Project Team to consider having classrooms on both sides of the second and third floor hallways, not just on the one side to the north as currently conceptualized. Having classrooms on both sides is a more efficient use of space and materials

and can likely reduce the footprint of the overall structure. There is benefit to having open, flexible community spaces for each grade level (e.g., "pods"), so it could be beneficial to consider some non-traditional spaces on the south side of the upper two hallways.

Thanks again,
Bill Pfister

Clover College Park Civic Association:

Dear Members of the School Board, Superintendent Hutchings, and Members of the MacArthur Modernization Project Team,

I am writing you [today](#) as an advisory group member for the Douglas MacArthur Modernization process representing the Clover College Park community, which is located directly across the street from MacArthur Elementary school. I am also a board member and past president of the Clover College Park Civic Association ("CCPCA"). While our association boundaries are limited to the area across from the school (including, but not limited, to West Taylor Run, Skyhill, Cloverway, Cambridge, Yale, Trinity, Dartmouth, and their intersecting streets), our listserve encompasses a broader area, and we have received feedback from residents in Seminary Walk, Quaker Hill, Walleston Court, and Kingston Avenue.

When the initial five concepts were presented, the CCPCA conducted a survey of resident preferences on those concepts. At that time, residents ranked the **Forest as their top choice** (the second and third choices did not move to the second round of consideration). Following the presentation of the final two concepts, CCPCA asked our community to provide feedback to CCPCA, ACPS, and the school board. To date, all but two emails received indicated a preference for the Forest concept.

Feedback from the community largely focused on the location the building on the lot, the scale of the building and its reflection of community surrounding it, and the accessibility of the playgrounds and fields. Many noted that other schools are located on corner lots which allow the community to access the school site from more than one angle. Placing the fields and playground on the side of the lot brought a similar feeling of community accessibility to MacArthur. Finally, we also heard feedback that the small stretch of playground behind the building would provide much needed shaded play space for students.

Many also noted that setting the school further back on the lot allowed for more open space in front of the school building. Currently, our school has a large number of students who walk to school, and larger gathering space in front of the building provides an important place for parents and students to safely congregate before and after school. Finally, many consider Forest Park to be an asset to our community. The Forest concept not only allows the students to take advantage of forest/nature views from the classroom, but it also allows the forest to be visible from the street (a view which is largely blocked in the Y concept). Overall, the feedback indicated that the Forest concept reflected the strong desire to integrate the school with the

community and to make the school and its grounds a community asset in addition to an educational facility.

I would also like to reiterate feedback provided by other advisory group members, which also reflected feedback from the CCPCA community:

- Community members would be open to flipping the fields and play space and putting the play space in the back and field space on the street. Most support for the Y concept was really about the location of the play space being away from the street, and not as much about the building concept.
- Community members would like the Forest concept to add classes on both sides of the hallway (not just forest facing) to add more community in the halls.

Thank you for your time and consideration of these concepts for Macarthur. Our community is very excited to move forward with this venture.

Sincerely,
Lisa Porter