

Date: July 12, 2019

For ACTION: _____

For INFORMATION: X

Board Agenda: Yes _____
No X

FROM: Erika Gulick, Senior Planner
Mignon R. Anthony, Chief Operating Officer

THROUGH: Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr., Ed. D., Superintendent of Schools

TO: The Honorable Cindy Anderson, Chair, and Members of the Alexandria City School Board

TOPIC: Douglas MacArthur Swing Space (Old Patrick Henry Update)

BACKGROUND:

The School Board voted to approve the use of the old Patrick Henry building for Douglas MacArthur Swing Space in April 2019. Work has progressed since in pursuit of this use.

SUMMARY:

Moseley Architects and AdTEK Engineers, who did the design for the new Patrick Henry facility, are doing the design work for the renovations of the Douglas MacArthur Swing Space and the development special use permit (DSUP) amendment for the site layout of the two schools and recreation center.

On July 10, 2019, ACPS and the design team held an opportunity for the community to come to Patrick Henry and review the initial concept being prepared for the preliminary submission to the City's departments for review. Following the community portion, the Swing Space Collaborative Committee, comprised of former Patrick Henry Advisory Group members, and Patrick Henry, Douglas MacArthur and James K. Polk representatives met to review the comments heard during the community session and provide feedback on the initial concept to the design team. The following outcomes of that meeting were achieved:

- Established Co-Chairs: Dana Chambers for Douglas MacArthur
Michael Doney for Patrick Henry
- Confirmed that they would like an opportunity to hear from the public prior to and within the same week of their Collaborative Committee meetings rather than having a period for public comment at their meetings.
- Regarding the Concept, the Committee:

- In general, agreed with the site circulation offered by the additional access in the concept.
- Appreciated the addition of the sidewalk on the east side of the site in the concept to allow for safe pedestrian circulation.
- Expressed concerns that meeting the parking requirement per City standards was not enough, and requested that:
 - The design team go back to the drawing to consider all available areas for parking including parallel and tandem parking options but without having an impact on play space;
 - ACPS explore partnership opportunities with nearby entities who operate parking lots and may have available spaces for Patrick Henry School or Recreation or Douglas MacArthur staff;
 - ACPS work with the City to determine the appropriate restrictions along Taney Avenue in front of the Douglas MacArthur at Taney Avenue building (old Patrick Henry) which may allow for more staff parking away from the residences along Latham Street; and
 - As is required through ACPS's transportation management plan, explore opportunities to incentivize public transportation, alternate modes, and/or carpooling to the site.
- Asked questions related to the operation of the site including: evacuation procedures, coordination of specialty school days or events, and staggered timing for drop-off and pickup.
- Indicated they would be developing subcommittees to have specific operational or educational focuses.
- Requested their next meeting be held in mid-August prior to the preliminary completeness submission in August.

IMPACT: The attached concept will be made available on the Swing Space project webpage: <https://www.acps.k12.va.us/swingspace>. The concept will also be submitted as the preliminary concept for the DSUP amendment.

RECOMMENDATION: The Superintendent recommends that the School Board review the concept and ask for any clarifications related to the concept.

ATTACHMENTS: Attachment 1: Preliminary Concept

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