



Wilson HS Feeder Pattern CWG Meeting Notes

May 16th, 2017

6:00 – 8:00PM

Wilson High School

Presenters: Carla Watson, Shanita Burney, Teresa Biagioni, Elias Hoffman, Andrew Katz-Moses (DCPS)

Notes:

Agenda

6-6:20pm - Welcome and Introductions

6:20-6:45pm - Group Norms, Goals, and Scope of Work

6:45-6:50pm - Break

6:50-7:30pm – Enrollment and Building Capacity Data and Discussion

7:30-7:45pm - Community Survey Feedback

7:45-8pm - Close-out and Next Steps

Questions/Comments on Enrollment and Building Capacity Data

Key ES is over capacity and building capacity keeps increasing while square footage does not – think the capacity number reflects double counting trailers – would like a follow-up on that.

Nobody from DGS here?

In the 2013 report it says we looked at total sq footage and buildings could be re-jiggered and sq footage was an equalizing measure. There is some change that should have happened there, but you look at Wilson that has a massive atrium – is that part of the capacity numbers? We need more clarity on that and how it’s calculated. Enrollment and sq footage, it’s unclear if it’s apples to apples or not.

A group met with CM Cheh to talk capacity and enrollment. Having a better understanding of how those numbers are calculated, how they change and why would be useful. And if we got a maximum capacity that could be useful as well – like how many students could a school possibly fit at the most?

Support the options off the table being off table.

Has the future of Fillmore been a factor in your thinking?

Thinking about opening and transparency. You’re putting up numbers and asking us to come up with recommendations, but when those numbers aren’t right you’re not giving us a place to start. I know principals have been having these discussions with DCPS and they’re getting as far. Hard for us to come to it when every school here has a problem with the capacity numbers. A little concerned with opening place where DCPS is coming in this convo is not where schools are finding themselves. I don’t disagree with options off the table but if we’re talking solutions, and then you fill those spots with out of boundary (OOB) students as soon as you free up spots, you haven’t done anything. Concerns me to hear already those things are off the table – more capacity doesn’t mean being able to teach kids better. On portable capacity you have 200 students but for 6 years running, Principal Albright says you can’t teach that many students there. We are 97% full? We’re over 100% full. We’re thrilled you know everybody’s overcrowded but your numbers are wrong across the board.

Things we might talk about at future meetings is about trying to get multi-year enrollment projections going forward per school, not just short but long-term. The third would be what possibilities we have for getting space. Old Hardy is one. Thinking about longer term.
Slide 13 looks like what comes from the annual supplement. Where's this years?
Where's this year's? Typically March is when the supplemental comes out, it's May. DCPS is the only school district in the country that counts portable capacity as part of permanent capacity.
Don't think we can discuss creative solutions if you don't know multi-year enrollment or facility capacity. Like if we move the 5 th grade at Stoddert to Hardy, does that just create another problem? What are their numbers? Multi-year enrollment projections you can see them on paper.
There are arguments about numbers and capacity. I see it a little bit different, and no matter how you play with capacity numbers we need new schools. I want to add this on the diversity piece, when my child was at Janney it was 30% OOB. When we think of all the seats we need we should have enough seats that Ward 3 doesn't have to pass on OOB lower limits, and I'd say a lot of us want even more than that.
Equity and diversity piece: my daughter's greatest cherished points of Wilson has been the diverse student body that she has been a part of. If these issues aren't solved my younger daughter won't have that same opportunity.
What's our boundary on this? Do we have money? Are we blue skying this? If I say create a new building...

Small Group Discussion and Share Out

- How does crowding impact your school community?
- Which of the proposed solutions appeal to you the most and why?
- Which of the proposed solutions are the most concerning to you and why?

Lack of universal pre-k if you live in the Stoddert boundary
Not enough students have a full schedule at Wilson
ES and MS kids have multiple lunch periods
Some schools where lunch begins at 10:30 for some kids
Or some, there's no space in cafeteria so they sit outside to eat
4 lunch periods. In the lower campus so many kids have lunch at once that some don't have time to eat.
What I'm hearing with lunch is the core space. There's not enough, the bathrooms, you get into health and safety issues. The lunch periods you can manage, but the restroom situation it's hard to keep up.
More space means more staffing and budget.
When a classroom goes from 25 to 30 kids you don't need another teacher. The way the funding works it scales linearly but when you're crowded the need scales disproportionately. But instead of getting extra staff, they just get a worse education.
On Key specifically, all of our specialists who work on speech have to do that out on the hall. If that's not a cry for needing more space I don't know what is. That's a pretty severe impact.
At Eaton a big problem is traffic and congestion. A safety issue, it's really hectic.
In CA when there's new housing being built a portion of funding needs to go to new schools. Part of building cost should be improving infrastructure which would help answer our new building question.
Potentially a flex schedule, there's some inherent flexibility you don't have. You can create some more capacity in the school day if you add a zero period.
There's all this research about high school starting later. I love that at DCPS our students can get a better night's sleep.

Capacity. We need more capacity. A new MS? A new HS? A charter? There's no charter west of the park. Are there other options where people can find an adequate option for their kids? Help us identify what are the challenges with this. Moving things around is a band-aid for a system built in the 20s or 30s.
What about the Fannie Mae site? Is that an option? Dreaming big about a HS.
Impact fees in development. It's everywhere but DC, standard everywhere else.
At the next meeting if DGS can make it, a little bit to explain how these sites are chosen, if a new school is going to be built. I don't have a clue if we go Old Hardy school and how DGS actually make those decisions?
On that note given there are a number of properties we're not just waiting until December and some of those options are foreclosed.
When it comes to adding space, what we add partly depends on space. Roadside development is having its public meeting at AU. We're going to have to be entrepreneurial or we're going to end up with nothing.
We have this discussion and everyone agrees overcrowding is an issue. The disconnect is we're thinking about Ward 3 and DCPS DGS is thinking about the District. I'd like to know what the situation is across the district. There's some discussion of generating outflow from Ward 3 to other wards. Don't think we can have this discussion in isolation.
What is the strategy behind not adding money for more schools in Ward 3? Need to understand that from the District perspective.
So we need to understand 'what is capacity' and what are the other schools' capacities. Maybe we're making assumptions they're under capacity but maybe they aren't. I'd also like to know if we're talking apples to apples across the district. John Davis said it was the goal of every ES to have the same programming.
Want to hear: is the chancellor committed to a solution for Ward 3? We spend a lot of time talking about solutions, turning ourselves inside out.
I say without judgment, I want to know the plan and why this persists. Absent that, it's hard to move this toward a solution.
If you can give a sense, not right now, what the decisionmaking process will look like that would be very helpful.
Closing