

Hyattsville Area Schools Capital Improvement Meeting

April 14, 2015

At Hyattsville Middle School

Hosted by the Hyattsville Middle School Parent Teacher Student Organization (HMS PTSO) and the Hyattsville Elementary School Parent Teacher Organization (HES PTA).

In attendance:

About 45 community members, including:

Dinora Hernandez, Prince George's County Board of Education, District 3

Micah Watson, Chief of Staff for Prince George's County Councilwoman Deni Taveras

Aimee Olivo, Chief of Staff for Prince George's County Councilwoman Dannielle Glaros

Sarah J. Woodhead, Director of Capital Programs, PGCPs

Julia Burton, HES Principal

Bart Lawrence, Hyattsville City Council member

Candace Hollingsworth, Hyattsville City Council member

Hyattsville Middle School Parent Teacher Student Organization officer board

Hyattsville Elementary School Parent Teacher Organization officer board

Agenda

- Purpose: focus on capital/facilities improvements at HMS and HES, understand the issues and perspectives, set goals
- Discussion: Problems and issues related to facilities conditions and capacity, impact on student learning and teachers/staff, county study of facilities conditions
- Action planning and next steps

Seiji Hayashi, Treasurer of the HMS PTSO, opened the meeting, greeted the attendees, and reviewed the agenda.

Bart Lawrence and community members reviewed the current facilities situation at Hyattsville Elementary School:

- 143% over utilized
- Functionally obsolete—the building itself interferes with student learning when old systems break down
- Systems are so old that when something breaks the replacement part must often be manufactured from scratch, which can take several weeks
- Spaces not meant or suited for students are being used as classrooms because of a lack of space
- The entire property is small, so temporary classrooms have been placed on the playground
- There is no more space on school grounds to add more temporary classrooms, despite rising enrollment numbers
- Cafeteria designed for 300 now serves close to 600, so lunch must start at 10:00
- Lack of space is a problem during regular school operations, in addition to catastrophic events like pipes bursting; for example, during state mandated testing times, the art room becomes a testing room

Some of the conditions at HMS include:

- Although HMS is an arts school, the sound system is so inadequate that it's difficult to hear performances
- HVAC system is uneven, making some spaces too hot or cold

- Bathrooms are in poor condition
- Possible rodent issues
- Already have several temporary classrooms

There are three options for the schools:

- add on to existing facilities
- build new school
- break up grades into different locations

Sarah J. Woodhead, Director of Capital Programs, PGCPs

—new study said that HES is at 158% utilization. That number does not include the temporaries. This is classified as severe overcrowding.

—The county has already approved two new middle schools for northern part of county. The planning group may recommend a third middle school, and additions to existing schools.

—reviewed details of the new study of the county schools’ capital needs

- This contractor study was discussed last month at the PGCPs meeting at Northwestern High School (March 19)
- The purpose of the study is to collect the data required to prioritize the construction and renovation projects that are necessary to bring schools into good repair and to proper utilization rates over 15-18 years.
- The contractors visited almost all schools in the district to determine how space is utilized in the schools and what the conditions are.
- Utilization part of study is complete. PGCPs has floor plans of each school (which won’t be published) which indicate how space is utilized in the school, how it was originally planned to be used, etc. This information can be used to assess the cost of fixing issues vs. building new facilities.
- Educational adequacy study is done. This assessed functional obsolesces, access to technology, etc.
- Some parts of the study are already available on the PGCPs website. The whole report will be available online by the end of May.
- The report summary will give state rated capacity, projections to 2020, utilization rates, and more.
- It will include individual school reports including recommendations for where new schools should be located, which schools should renovated, etc.
- The report will include a project plan for schools without regard to funding constraints.
- Preliminary information suggests that the recommendation might include six new schools county wide, primarily in the northern part of the county, but not all.
- FY 2017 (begins July 2016) is the first opportunity to include in the budget any projects identified in this study.
- The plan and recommendations will be made without regard to available funding. The actual amount of money allocated will depend on the state and county budget process.

Next steps:

- Seiji will organize a meeting in June to discuss the results of the study, which will be available online at the end of May. From there, we can strategize on how to move forward.
- Mary Warneka will invite Dinora Hernandez to a HES PTA meeting.