

KCPS Six-Year Strategic Facilities Plan
Community Engagement Meeting

KCHS, September 25, 2017
6:30 P.M.

Topic 1: How should the former elementary schools be used?

Name: Karen Gilbert

- Use facilities and update them to embrace K - 8 that is better for the academic, emotional, social being of our students and attractive for new families to come into KCPS
- Facilities/grouping to better educate the whole child

Name: Shelly Schofield

- Begin prevention of drug abuse/addiction at earlier age
- Hoping that KCPS could "go purple" (following Talbot County)
- Compare current structure versus K - 8

Name: Fiona Lum

- Provide before school care
 - Already providing breakfast for all students
 - May take pressure off of the busing
- Provide after school clubs
 - Kids have sandwiches and fruit, a small cost for system
 - Students do homework
 - Male and female supervision, aged 17-21

Topic 2: What are your thoughts about co-locating the Middle School and High School in the same structure, or in nearby structures, at the high school site?

Name: Karen Gilbert

- Frustration of recent test scores
- Research shows that kids aged 10-14 are still children
- In favor of K - 8. Would expect to have classes that would be vertically grouped
- Lower grade level teachers could collaborate with higher grade level teachers within the same building
- Need an environment that is efficient and well maintained that can better look at the whole child in order to improve academically

Name: Shelly Schofield

- Like idea that KCHS is separate. Students to focus on their career path and be able to have special resources towards that goal. Concerned that some of those specialized programs would be lost if middle and high schools are combined
- Peer pressure begins at an earlier age. Don't want to mix middle school and high school at any cost

Name: Phil Ticknor

- Not entirely opposed to a shared campus
- Middle School is not a structure that should be isolated in one area to itself

Name: Elizabeth Staib King

- In favor of consolidating schools
- Open to K - 8
- Requested that all schools be on one slide in the Power Point presentation

Name: Fiona Lum

- In favor of relocating to a single campus
- Worton is central to the county
- Don't have the financial means to have separate buildings

Name: Brian Williams

Speaking as a tax payer -

- Williams family sold the Worton property to County Govt. in the 60s.
- Former Superintendent, Anthony Pack, wanted to move to a central complex at Worton that would include the Central Office, KCMS, and KCHS. Has been a topic for discussion, as recent as during the Consolidation process.
- Would like to consider the central campus concept

Name: Rachel Poulson

- Excellent idea to consider the central campus concept
- Like idea of K - 8, or even K - 6

Topic 3: Other concerns, observations, or questions

Name: Amy Meeks

Chairperson of Chestertown Recreation Commission

- Would like to have playground equipment throughout the county
- Interested in equipment at MES and WES

Name: Fiona Lum

- Think the buildings should be sold asap (Clarification by Dr. Couch that the buildings have to be transferred back to the County Government)
- Would like the County Commissioners to come to these meetings and confirm the buildings will be sold and money would be re-invested into the school system
- Want to see the financials, what are the buildings worth?

Name: Shelly Schofield

- Move Board of Education to WES building if there is going to be a central complex

Name: Phil Ticknor

- Board of Education needs to be moved to a central location. Current central office is NOT central

Name: Karen Gilbert

- Pleased that some members of the committee were former educators, thus having a greater understanding of the educational factor
- In favor of K - 8, then 9 - 12
- Students attending a K - 8 school have a sense of self, time to know peers and teachers well and are better prepared for high school
- Research shows students are losing touch socially, academically, and emotionally at the middle school level, used to be seen at the high school level
- Campus concept sounds good
 - Would cut back on bus time
 - Would provide better sleep for students
 - Logistics of after school activities would make it easier for students to participate

ASKED FOR COMMENTS IN GENERAL

Name: Phil Ticknor

- Projected numbers for GALEs show an increase
- Should we look at re-zoning

Name: Shelly Schofield

- Asked consultant and committee next steps regarding taking tonight's comments into consideration and proposing Plan A, Plan B, etc. to public
- Committee will look at options, some may be viable, costs, State participation factors in, will speak about the pros and cons
- Creating good environment for education is the most important factor.

- Confirmed that additional public comments may be sent to the committee, including any drawing of proposed building plans

Name: Karen Gilbert

- Clarified that educational outcome is the main factor
- Spoke of importance of community members to participate in these meetings, regardless of whether they do or do not have children in KCPS
- Reducing transition by going K - 8. Top dog as a 5th grader, then bottom of ladder again in 6th, etc. Keeping in an environment to help them be successful
- 8th graders need to have exposure to high school classes for those who are ready for more
- Would like to see Rock Hall and Chestertown become K - 8 schools, with a school, K - 8 in the Millington/Galena area

Name: Linda Dutton

- Admire parents here tonight, as well as the administrators serving on this committee
- Kids are growing up in diverse environments in a different time
- Spoke of white privilege being a "real thing". All kids will be educated together, no matter the color

Name: Phil Ticknor

- Rock Hall and Galena both used to be middle schools, so may be easy to convert to K - 8
- Would be good to have PreK and K classrooms built or renovated to accommodate those young children

Reminder of Strategic Planning Committee meeting this Friday, Sept. 29th from 4:00 - 6:00 at KCMS. Open to public

TOUR:

Principal Nick Keckley conducted a tour of the high school. He highlighted all the CTE classrooms, weight room, gym, counseling area. The challenges of having some CTE classrooms located in different areas of the school was discussed. It was also noted that the weight room should be located closer to the gym. The need to renovate the planetarium was discussed as those renovations could support other curricular areas within the school. The digital upgrade could also be used as a resource for the elementary science program and could be open to the public.

