

## **Summary of Facility Advisory Meeting** **July 27, 2009**

The second meeting of the FAC got underway with 36 attendees.

Dr. Christine Handy Collins, Principal of GHS, welcomed the group to the meeting, and turned the floor over to Dennis Cross, MCPS Project Lead. Mr. Cross introduced the players, and turned the meeting over to Paul Falkenbury, architect from Samaha Associates.

To start the evening, Mr. Falkenbury gave a brief overview of what we had covered at the last meeting.

The slide show covered the slides from the 1<sup>st</sup> presentation with some new slides added. He also included a list of student ideas and drawings that were produced in Mr. Youngdale's math classes as part of a school project.

These ideas and drawings really show that the kids are invested in this project, and they have some great ideas.

A question was asked about the slide titled "Revised Program"

- This slide shows the classes, offices, cafeteria, etc...based on existing programs at the school and is used to determine square footage needs. These are the building blocks for the new building, and they are used to allocate space.

On the "Revised Program" slide, there is an add-alternate section for a health suite. Clarification was asked about what the health suite was going to entail.

- Joan Glick from the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services was at the meeting to field any questions about the proposed Wellness Center for GHS. The Wellness Center will be at the school to provide health services to GHS students only and their "uninsured siblings" only. This is not a community wellness center; it is only for GHS students. Siblings must be under the age of 19.

Mr. Falkenbury then continued on to review the issues brought up at the first meeting regarding the first 3 options presented to the group for the new GHS. (*see summary of 7/13/09 meeting for list of issues*).

Based on the issues presented at the first meeting, 2 new options for GHS were presented. Option 4 and Option 4A. These options were reviewed for the participants, and the following issues/concerns/feedback was received:

#### **Option 4 comments and suggestions**

- There are still concerns about traffic flow problems due to Education Drive being the only way in and out for all cars and buses.
- Can a traffic study be conducted in September to see what happens if Summit is closed off and all cars and buses have to use Education? *(some think this won't be feasible with current parking lot and driveway configuration)*
- A request was made that the gym and locker rooms be located as close to the fields as possible, and the response was that the current placement is the closest they can be in the new school design.
- There is concern about the placement of the tennis courts and the fact that they will be fenced and it could be an obstacle to ease of movement and an eyesore. *(Samaha will look into placing the courts at different elevations to see if it can mitigate some of the issues).*
- The Physical Education RT would like to keep the tennis courts where they are so it is easier and faster to access the courts during the instructional day.
- The parent drop off area is now located along the Education Blvd. side of the school. This allows easy access for child development/daycare drop off as well as a large area for parent cars to circulate at the beginning and end of the school day. The area is the length of the school on one side, and will hold a large number of cars.
- The bus loop will be by the auditorium. This bus loop location provides multiple school exits that empty directly to the bus loading area. It will be large enough for all buses to be parked in the same area for loading.
- GHS security staff prefers Option 4 *(versus 4A)* for both the bus loop and parent drop off loop locations. Makes more sense from a security and safety perspective.
- In order to keep kids from cutting through the entire bus loop *(for safety reasons)*, a short fence may be placed around the parking lot with openings for walkways through the bus loop and access to sidewalks. This will be similar to the fencing at Richard Montgomery High School.
- A question was voiced concerning the auto tech placement at the back of the school along Summit Avenue. Would there be screening to keep the aesthetics of the school looking nice from the back versus looking at the old cars? *(Samaha agreed to look at a way to screen the auto tech car lot from view. Perhaps a slatted fence or some other screen.)*
- As for students that use Summit Avenue currently to walk to school, Option 4 includes a pedestrian entrance to the school. Students can walk through the courtyard and enter the school in the "Main Street" area near the gym as a second entrance if that is our choice.
- A question was asked about the current storm water management location and how it will be impacted. According to the architect, storm water

management may need to go underground as this construction does build out into the current location.

- Concerns were voiced about the circle configuration on Education Drive. There are 4 entrances onto the circle. Is that a problem?
  - Samaha indicated that a traffic consultant will have to be brought in to study many aspects of Education Drive and the traffic flow. The circle will be one thing that is looked at.
- Another suggestion was made to widen Education drive to 3 or 4 lanes each way to allow more cars to flow in and out.

#### **Option 4A comments and suggestions**

- The main change for option 4A is the bus and parent loading areas. All in attendance agreed that Option 4 was the better option.
- The basketball courts were along the parking lot in this option, and the Physical Education RT prefers this location of the basketball courts, as it will provide easier access to the courts during instructional time.

#### **Second Floor/Third Floor Plans**

- The Media Center will be on the second floor above the administrative area at the front of the school. There will be a stairway with immediate access to the Media Center as you enter the school, which will make it easy for community groups to find and utilize the Media Center without wandering through the school.
- The remainder of the second and third floors will be classrooms and work space.

General concerns were brought up about whether the school will be replacing the football field with turf, and have studies been done to ensure our students' safety on turf fields. The consensus from the group was that studies have been done, and this is a better option than the grass fields.

The meeting concluded at 8:30 pm. The next meeting will be held on Monday, August 17<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm in the GHS Choir Room. Please plan to attend.