

Summary of Facility Advisory Meeting **August 17, 2009**

The meeting of the FAC got underway with 33 attendees.

Dr. Christine Handy Collins, Principal of GHS, welcomed the group to the meeting, and turned the floor over to Paul Falkenbury, architect from Samaha Associates.

The afternoon started with Mr. Falkenbury giving a brief overview of where things stood at the end of the last meeting. He also introduced team members Jessica Swartz and Amy McCarty.

To answer a question from the last meeting, Mr. Falkenbury reported that the new school will have a gross area of 425,000 sq. ft. This will make it the largest school in the county.

Trudy Schwartz, from the City of Gaithersburg provided some aerial photos of the Gaithersburg High School Property over the years. These are shown in the slide show under the heading "Timeline". This gives everyone an idea of how the school, and the surrounding neighborhood have grown over the years.

Additionally, Steve Augustino submitted a request to see another Option for GHS that involved shifting the site of the building to allow for Summit Avenue to connect to the school and be a viable entrance and exit option. Paul did create two new options for this meeting, but wanted to note that the feasibility study done on the property does limit the location of the school.

The new options created for this meeting are Option 5 and Option 6.

Option 5 represents the compilation of responses and requests from the last FAC meeting. Option 6 is in response to Steve Augustino's request for a "Summit Avenue" option.

Option 5 comments and suggestions

- This option contains the grading information in red throughout the slide. The main grade of the site is 512.6. That will be the grade for the main floor of the new GHS.
- Per committee suggestion, crosswalks were added in the bus loading area to ensure safe crossing of students and visitors.
- Jason Woodward, Athletic Director, would like to flip the location of the Aux Gyms and the Locker rooms. This puts the locker rooms a bit closer to the fields, and places it between both the main gym and the aux gyms.

- Retaining walls will be added to help level the lacrosse field, and to help with the tennis courts. The courts will be 20 ft lower than the parking lot. The retaining wall will serve as a practice wall, as well.
- If there is ever a need for portables, they will be located on the practice field, which is located where the old tennis courts were located.

Option 6 comments and suggestions (retention of Summit Avenue)

This Option shifts the new footprint closer to the existing school, with the new gym and locker room area placed over the existing gym and locker room area. It also includes Summit Avenue connecting to the parent drop-off circle and Education Blvd.

- With the new gym being located over the existing gym, GHS would be without a gym/locker room area for approximately 1 year during the construction of the gym and locker rooms. Creative sports and PE class scheduling would have to occur.
- The location of the gym/locker room is preferable to Option 5 because it is better for the flow of teams to the locker rooms at halftimes of sports games.
- The cafeteria and kitchen have been moved. The group unanimously preferred the cafeteria location on Option 5.
- The group loved the fact that Summit Avenue now connects to Education Blvd.
- Concerns were voiced about ease of movement between classes during construction since the building is closer to the existing building.

A significant issue that needs to be addressed for any option we move forward with is Utilities. Currently, most of the utilities going to the school run down Summit Avenue. Since the new building is being constructed over the existing Summit Avenue extension, new utilities will need to be run to the existing building during construction. This includes water, electric, and gas.

Site Sections 1 – 4

The red line shows the area that is “sliced” to view the grade.

- Additional slides of the “side view” of the site are provided to show the grading that will be part of the site.
- Any area filled with “yellow” represents fill dirt that will need to be used to grade the area appropriately

Floor Plans

The remaining slides show possible layouts for classrooms and subjects throughout the school. Option 5A slides represent a layout based on Departments. Option 5B slides represent a layout based on Academies. Option 6 layout is for Option 6 and is by Department.

Miscellaneous

- Question about where the construction staging area will be.
While the decision has not been made yet, it will probably be staged in the present parking lot.
- Where will the storm water pond be located?
The storm water pond will most likely become an underground structure.
- What is the cost analysis that is being done between a turf field and a grass field? Also, is turf safe?
The discussion around the field that will be installed at GHS is not an issue for this committee. That decision will be made by MCPS, and whatever they choose will be installed during the last year of construction.

The consensus of the committee was that we really liked a hybrid of both Options 5 and 6. Mr. Falkenbury will develop both options into scalable drawings for our next meeting. He will also try to add Summit Avenue back into Option 5 for the next meeting.

The meeting concluded at 2:30 pm. The next meeting will be held on Monday, August 31st at 2:30pm in the GHS Choir Room. Please plan to attend.