



Silver Spring International MS Addition

DATE: 7/8/2021 at 7pm
via Zoom

RE: MCPS Silver Spring International Middle School (18295)
Design Progress Meeting #11 – Work Session #2

ATTENDING: MCPS DOC: Seth Feriano, Robin O’Hara, Dennis Cross
SSIMS: Karen Bryant (Principal), Steven Reck (AP)
RRMM: Allison Legg, Robin King, Keith Leonard
HC: Greg Ramirez, Katie Dellapa
Parents: Joe Shashaty (SCES), Richard Bacon (SCES PTA President), Paul Guinnessy (SSIMS), Todd Cimo (SSIMS), Heidi Armonda (SSIMS PTSA President), Jennifer, Milo Lamare-Bertrand, Steven Oriol

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AGENDA:

1. Team Introductions
2. Review Program & Goals
3. Review Schedule
4. Review Existing Conditions
5. Review Design Concepts – Plans & Elevations

DISCUSSION:

Q: Will the purple line construction cause any issues? This seems very cut down to the original plans presented a couple of years ago, why?

A: MCPS will continue to coordinate with the purple throughout the duration of this project.

Q: Does the northeast corner of the construction zone include the SCES lift?

A: No, the SCES lift will remain in operation during construction.

Q: Items to consider for student drop off slide 13: parking spaces lost to the secure construction zone belong to SCES staff. Wayne Ave. loop is *extremely* tight; with staff parking, our normal traffic loop car numbers and cars wanting to exist both left and right onto Wayne Ave during busy arrival/departure times — traffic safety will be an ongoing concern.

A: The design team will work with MCPDOT to evaluate existing conditions and confirm the lower parking lot can be used to accommodate both parking and student drop off / pick up by parents.

Q: To confirm, these works will happen over the summertime to prevent class interruptions (sound) for the SSIMS & SCES

A: The construction will happen over the course of 14 months – both during the summertime and school year.

Q: Item to consider: Not sure if Linkages will expand their operations to service non-school clientele; however, students regularly access the existing Linkages office. This is something to think about when planning how people access the new Linkages facilities. Will there be external access as well as an internal access, for example?

A: Yes, 4 design options have been presented both offering external accessible access (Option 1-3) as well as internal accessible access (Option 4).

Q: Is there any concern for the science labs/prep room vis-a-vis the noise & vibration from the gyms & weight room?

A: The main gym and 2nd gym have been located on the ground floor (slab on grade) to minimize vibration and noise. The design team will review the aux gym and weight room locations and provide additional structural supports to minimize vibration as well as review the STC ratings of the walls between PE spaces and science lab/classroom spaces.

Q: Our health classes can reach sizes of 35-37 students, is the health classroom large enough in option 3 to accommodate those class sizes? Option 2 looks like it has a larger health room. Otherwise, I prefer option 3.

A: The space summary indicates the health classroom should be 1,100 NSF. The state allows a deviation of +/- 10% (990 – 1210 NSF). The health classroom in option 2 is oversized. The health classroom in option 3 aligns with the requirements of the space summary. The square footages will be further developed and confirmed they meet the ed spec during the next phase, design development.

Q: What is the anticipated walk route & time from the locker rooms to the fields?

A: The walk from the main entrance of SSIMS to Exit 5 is approximately 2.5 minutes. We expect the time to walk from Exit 5 to the fields to be about the same. The total walk time from the locker rooms to the fields is approximately 5 minutes.

Q: What is the timeline from this point to approvals (BOE, county, etc.)? Concerned that there is short, over-the-summer engagement prior to this being cemented by a decision and only with current SSIMS/SCES -- possibly not the affected communities of the other feeder schools, who will have students there during construction, or the immediate neighborhoods.

A: We anticipate presenting to the BOE in September 2021. SSIMS and SCES students will remain at SSIMS & SCES during construction. There should be no increase in student populations at other MCPS schools due to this project.

Q: Is the price concern with the elevator both in the gym and linkages or just linkages? With new construction do you have to be ADA compliant both exterior and interior of the building?

A: The price concern with the elevator at Linkages to Learning only. A new elevator for the new 3-story addition will be constructed to provide access to all floors of the addition.

Q: A question for Principal Bryant and Ms. O'Hara -- We presume that once this is programmed into the budget, any further capital improvements to SCES and/or SSIMS will be a very long time coming. Does the scope of this project bring SSIMS up to par IN ALL RESPECTS with the physical plants of other MCPS middle schools that have been newly constructed or had capital improvements in the past few years? We should be offering this community the same levels of service in this regard as any other Montgomery County community.

A: Due to funding limitations, not every part of the middle school will be the same as a newly constructed middle school, however, the parts of the program that are in the project will be standard for those elements - the PE program, science classrooms, and Linkages to Learning (as an add alternate). It's not that SSIMS doesn't have the space to service the curriculum, they just might not be up to current standards. There are limitations due to the tight footprint.

Q: Have you done any changes based on new ventilation considerations because of the pandemic?

A: MCPS has made changes based on the pandemic. Learn about those changes here:
<https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/facilities/default.aspx?id=674569>

Q: Is summer school and food service able to be provided during construction

A: School will remain in operation during the construction period. MCPS will look into if summer school will be available during construction as well.

Q: What is the difference in natural light that is provided in the exterior options.



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A: The square footage of glazing varies between each option and is listed in greatest to least area: Option 3, 1, 2, 4.

Q: What is the difference in science lab sizes between 1 and 3

A: The space summary indicates the science labs should be 1,500 NSF each. The state allows a deviation of +/- 10% (1,350 – 1,650 NSF). The science labs in option 1 are oversized. The science labs in option 3 are slightly undersized. The square footages will be further developed and confirmed they meet the ed spec during the next phase, design development.

Q: Have you considered installing heating lamps on the ceiling outside for students while they wait?

A: The design team will consider this suggestion.

CONCLUSION:

Only one scheme (concept) will be built. Stakeholders should prioritize them, with a preferred option to be recommended to the BOE.

- Conceptual Floor Plan: Option 3
- Conceptual Elevations: Option 3 (votes were received for Option 1, 3, and 4)

CLOSING:

The preceding is the author's interpretation of events that transpired at the above referenced meeting. Any clarifications, requests for changes, or additional information may be submitted in writing within (10) working days from the date of these meeting notes, for inclusion into the record, otherwise these notes shall be accepted into the record as written.

Attachments:

1. Presentation

cc: MCPS DOC, Henley Construction