

# MOSELEYARCHITECTS

03.25.2015

Goshen Community Meeting 7:00pm

PROJECT MCPS Gaithersburg Capacity Study  
Montgomery County Public Schools, MD

ARCHITECT'S PROJECT NO. 546134

DATE AND LOCATION Wednesday, March 25, 2015

PRESENT For Montgomery Co. Public Schools, DOC/LRP  
\* Mr. Rakesh Bagai  
\* Ms. Julie Morris

For Moseley Architects  
Mr. Bill Brown  
Ms. Molly Merlo

<u>Capacity Study Participants</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>
Ms. Yolanda Allen	Goshen ES Principal
Ms. Karrie Shuttles	Parent/PTA President
Ms. Audra Dove	Parent/PTA Secretary
Mr. Charles Shuttles	Parent
Mr. Chris Rivera	Parent
Ms. Shari Moxley	Parent
Ms. Magda Zubek	Parent
Mr. Steve Augustino	Resident

## DISCUSSIONS AND DECISIONS.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the Gaithersburg Capacity Study and what possible additions are being explored for the Goshen ES site.

1. Ms. Julie Morris performed introductions and began the meeting by giving an overview of the Capacity Study process and how it relates to the Gaithersburg cluster. She mentioned the four school sites that will be analyzed as part of this study; Rosemont ES, Washington Grove ES, Laytonsville ES and Goshen ES. She explained that both Summit Hall and Strawberry Knoll ES have already had studies performed that will be taken along with this study as information for the Board of Education (BOE) and Superintendent to make recommendations from. Gaithersburg ES is not being considered for any addition or revitalization expansion because it is already at full build out for a 740 core capacity and the site is not conducive to an addition.
2. The enrollment projections at all the schools in the cluster reflect a deficit projected to be over 800 students in the 2020-2021 year. This deficit has triggered the study to help provide relief through additions, a new elementary school and/or a combination of the two.

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3. This study will analyze the four schools to figure out the possible sizes and locations for additions on the sites and the costs associated with those additions. The Superintendent will review all the information from the capacity studies and cost estimates before making a recommendation to either build additions at some or all the schools or to build a new elementary school or a combination of both. This is to address the space shortages as part of the FY 2017-2022 Capital Improvements Program (CIP) in the fall of 2015.
4. Sites for a new school and boundary changes will not be explored as part of this study.
5. Moseley Architects will prepare one or more plans for each of the schools in the study and present them at the upcoming community meetings at each school. They will gather feedback from the meetings and present the final plans at the 2<sup>nd</sup> community wide meeting. Attendees will have the opportunity to provide feedback on the plans at the community wide meeting. Moseley Architects will take the comments and prepare a final Capacity Study brochure which will include the preferred design along with cost estimates for each proposed addition. The meeting dates are:
  - a. Rosemont Elementary School, Media Center – Wednesday, March 11, 2015  
(3:30-5:00 p.m. and 7:00-8:30 p.m.) 16400 Alden Avenue, Gaithersburg, MD
  - b. Goshen Elementary School, Media Center – Wednesday, March 25, 2015  
(4:00–5:30 and 7:00-8:30 p.m.) 8701 Warfield Road, Gaithersburg, MD
  - c. Laytonsville Elementary School, Media Center – Monday, March 30, 2015  
(4:00–5:30 and 7:00-8:30 p.m.) 21401 Laytonsville Road, Gaithersburg, MD
  - d. Washington Grove Elementary School, Media Center – Monday, April 13, 2015  
(4:00–5:30 and 7:00-8:30 p.m.) 8712 Oakmont Street, Gaithersburg, MD
  - e. Public Information Meeting (Gaithersburg HS, Cafeteria) – Tuesday, April 28, 2015  
(7:00-8:30 p.m.) 101 Education boulevard, Gaithersburg, MD
6. Ms. Morris handed over to Ms. Merlo to present the addition schemes for the Goshen site.
7. Goshen's current core capacity is 740. The building's program capacity is 533. The projected program capacity is 740. The current enrollment is 578 with a projected enrollment of 602 in the 2015/2016 school year. There are 5 program spaces in relocatables currently and the need for relocatable classroom space may increase over time based on MCPS's projections and the results of the capacity study. The program calls for a 10 classroom addition and support spaces to bring the buildings program capacity up to match the core capacity of the building at 740..
8. The first scheme locates a two story classroom addition where the relocatables currently are located on the black top and connects to the hallways at the end of this side of the building to create a circulation loop. The addition, being two stories with two new stairs, repurposes the existing stairs as program space. Included are support spaces and separate toilet facilities for students and staff. A one story Kindergarten addition is located by the existing Kindergarten rooms and requires the demolition and replacement of one existing room to be located in the new construction for a total of four new spaces with include one PreK classroom.
  - a. The pros for this scheme are: It has a compact footprint. Creates a looped circulation path on both first and second floors. Provides good access and connections to existing two story building.

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Some existing portable may be able to stay during construction. New K and Pre-K rooms adjacent to existing Kindergarten classrooms. Provides natural daylight to most classrooms. And the addition is away from fields

- b. The cons for the scheme are: Requires relocation of play areas. Current relocatables will have to be moved before construction.

*(The attendees chose this option as the preferred scheme.)*

- 9. The Alternate Scheme locates a 2 story addition at the north corner of the existing building. This addition is located to allow the blacktop play areas to be retained and not relocated. This plan is a single loaded corridor with support spaces on the North West side and classrooms towards the field side. This scheme only requires one additional stair. The Kindergarten addition is the same as the preferred scheme above.
  - a. The pros for this scheme are: fewer disturbances to play areas. Current relocatable classrooms do not need to move during construction. Connects to existing two story for ADA access and only one stair. Preserves natural daylight to existing classrooms. Kindergarten and Pre-K adjacent to existing K classrooms.
  - b. The cons for this scheme are: Small courtyard allows windows only to the classroom side of the existing building. Circulation does not create a loop. Small u shaped courtyard. Remote location for classrooms and access from the school.
- 10. A participant asked if this study process took into account that Goshen is a focus school. MCPS stated yes it does.
- 11. A participant asked what the plan was for relocating the black top play area. The design team stated that if the project proceeds then site issues including additional parking would be reviewed and modified if appropriate.
- 12. A participant asked where a location for future portables was anticipated. The design team stated that if the project proceeds then site issues would be reviewed and addressed.
- 13. A participant asked what the surface of the courtyard in the alternate scheme would be. The design team stated that if the project proceeds then these design issues would be reviewed and addressed.
- 14. A participant asked are the square footages of each scheme the same. The design team stated that the variations are due to one scheme has two stairs compared to one in the other scheme and the efficiency of the corridor is different but program space is the same in both schemes.
- 15. A participant asked if additional site work and parking was anticipated. The design team stated that if the project proceeds then site issues including additional parking would be reviewed and modified if appropriate.
- 16. A participant asked if the capacity of 740 included the portables. MCPS stated that the capacity is calculated on the building not the portables.
- 17. A participant asked if there was an alternative of a smaller addition if the parents didn't want a school of 740. MCPS stated that Goshen was only included in the capacity study as a component of the

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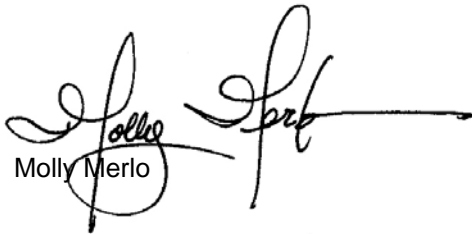
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Gaithersburg Cluster and on its own would not warrant an addition for capacity as it is not over the capacity threshold that triggers an addition. A discussion identified some parents concerns that students that may come to Goshen ES would need additional support and that the parents want to make sure that MCPS is prepared to provide that support so that achievement does not suffer. To this end many parents preferred to stay small over large growth capacity.

18. A participant asked if a holding school would be used during construction. MCPS stated that for additions the work is done while the school remains occupied and that procedures are taken to minimize disturbance to the educational delivery and provide a safe separation of staff and students from construction.
19. A participant asked what the impact of construction for the project might be. It was stated that the total anticipated project could be 4 to 5 years and that the construction would last approximately 18 months and a separate construction entrance and separation of construction activities.
20. A participant asked what the methods for enrollment projections included. MCPS stated that many factors are considered, including but not limited to, cohort movement, birth rates, housing turn over, new construction, mobility rates, and historic trends at the schools. MCPS has had the same demographer for many years and this offers a level of consistency.
21. A participant asked how long will the study take and follow up for recommendations to become actions.
  - a. Study brochure will be completed in the fall for the Superintendent to present his recommendations to the BOE.
  - b. Public hearings would be held in November.
  - c. County council will consider funding in Spring of 2016
  - d. Projects would be included in the CIP cycle in the fall of 2016.
  - e. Would be 4 to 5 years out for a construction date depended on funding availability.
22. A participant asked if the public has a say in the Superintendent's decision. MCPS welcomes feedback and it is accepted now and through multiple opportunities such as the final presentation to the community on April 28<sup>th</sup>. At any time comments can be forwarded to MCPS staff for consideration. All information is posted to the web site for each meeting including presentations and notes once available.
23. A participant asked what the minimum size of a school site is. MCPS stated that there is a FAARA policy that defines what a preferred site size is and that is published in the long range planning master plan.
24. A participant asked if there is a study to look for a new site. MCPS stated that process will not be initiated until this study is completed and the Superintendent has made recommendations to the BOE.
25. Information on all the capacity studies will be posted at the following location as materials become available. <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/construction/studies/gccstudy/shtm>
26. Ms. Morris thanked the participants for coming out and she encouraged them to attend the upcoming meetings. The meeting was adjourned.

*The above information is the writer's recollection of the discussions and decisions at the meeting. Should there be any additions or corrections, please notify the writer within two weeks of distribution for correction.*

NOTES BY:



Molly Merlo

REVIEWED BY:



Bill Brown  
Vice President

DISTRIBUTION: As indicated by (\*) above, also: