



## Murch SIT Meeting Notes

Meeting Date: 2/11/16

### Swing Space Update

- **Transportation:** DCPS will be working with Murch leadership and parent volunteers to develop a survey to better understand transportation needs.
  - Meeting is being set up with School Leadership and parent volunteers for the week of February 22<sup>nd</sup>.
  - SIT Member asked if there can be multiple pick up and drop off locations.
  - SIT Members cautioned about using the responses as an exact number and that there should be a buffer to account for extra ridership. DCPS agreed.
  - A SIT member asked how much flexibility in these numbers will there be in the RFP for the transportation company.
- **UDC Pick Up and Drop Off:** DCPS has had conversations with DDOT about expanding the pick up and drop off area along Van Ness St. DCPS/DDOT will be conducting a site walk to finalize the plans.
  - A SIT member asked if a parent could join in the walk. DCPS said they would talk with DDOT.
  - A SIT member asked us to walk the Yuma St side of the field with DDOT and noted that UDC has some ideas as well, so they should be included in a walk.
- **Aftercare:** DCPS will be meeting with representatives from X-Day, Capitol Languages Program, and Murch Leadership next week (Note: now scheduling for week of Feb 22). Both programs have informally requested to share space in the trailers.
- **Move Coordination Meetings:** DCPS and DGS will be working with the Murch leadership and staff to develop a moving plan. First meeting will be at the end of February. Contractors will be responsible for the move and providing the necessary materials.
  - A SIT member asked if there are any lessons learned from a similar project. DCPS shared that Lafayette was very similar and will connect Principal C with the Lafayette Principal.
- **Update on UDC Discussions:** Dr. Beers apologized for the roll out of the swing space plan and shared that DCPS has continued discussing the option of a 2-year stay at UDC. Dr. Beers also shared that DCPS will be requesting funds to cover the cost of swing.
  - Dr. Beers shared that there are a number of elements at UDC that need further evaluation, including the timing of the field work and what that would mean for play space and disruption to students and potential work on Building 41. Dr. Beers also shared that coordination with the State Department is still needed.

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- DCPS and UDC want to have a meeting with all interested parties so they understand what a 2 year option would look like for all parties. A meeting was set with 2 SIT members, DCPS, UDC, Murch Leadership, and Field LLC.
  - Several SIT members expressed their frustration at how it was rolled out and are concerned that many families are going to choose another school because of this.
  - SIT members shared that it is tough for them to get families on board with details still up in the air.
  - A SIT member noted that she does not believe UDC is even talking with Field LLC and that there is no agreement between the two parties.
- **Schedule:**
    - UDC Swing Design Complete (locations, not program placement): Mid-March
    - Obtain Swing Design Permits: May
    - Begin Site Preparation/Site Utilities at UDC: June
    - Deliver Swing Trailers to UDC: Late June
    - Complete Swing Space Construction: August

### **Building Update**

- DCPS shared that MCN-Build prepared their cost estimate and the project is coming in over budget. They noted that the biggest cost drivers are the underground parking and the location of the cafeteria. In order to get the project in budget, roughly \$10M in scope/design changes is needed.
  - Several SIT members expressed frustration and stated that they told DGS a year ago that the budget was not enough, but they were promised it was.
  - Several SIT members asked if DCPS will be asking for more money to cover the different. Dr. Beers stated that there will be an ask to cover the swing space, but there are several projects in the city that he needs to consider, so DCPS will not be able to ask for additional money on top of the swing space ask.
  - A SIT member asked if it is even possible to remain on schedule if we don't change the scope and ask for more money. DCPS and DGS said they would review and follow up by the next SIT meeting.
  - A SIT member asked if the project can now be done in one year if there is no underground digging. DGS stated they will have to work with MCN to evaluate that.
- DCPS shared two very preliminary concepts that the design team put together to address the programmatic cost concerns:
  - Scenario 1 (image in slides): Moves the cafeteria to the existing multi-purpose space (originally proposed as media center) with a small addition for a kitchen. The media center would move to the location previously identified as PK commons space. The media center and gym would have slight reductions in SF and the PK commons would be lost. This option moves the kitchen away from the loading area.

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- Several SIT members were concerned with the loss of the PK commons space. They noted that they don't want PK students eating in their classrooms anymore, especially with the current rodent problems.
  - A SIT member asked for a square footage comparison between this design and the design in October. DCPS said that they will work with the design team on preparing that.
  - There were several concerns about the loss of green space, especially if a new location is needed for PK/K play equipment.
  - A SIT member asked if there would be bathrooms near the gym.
  - A SIT member asked how the public can access the cafeteria, especially for voting.
  - A SIT member asked if the whole school can fit in the gym.
  - Scenario 2 (image in slides): This option would expand the gym and create shared gym and cafeteria space with an operable partition to create two separate spaces so gym could still occur at the same time. This option preserves the PK commons space and still has the media center in the current multi-purpose space (reduced size).
    - Several SIT members noted that this option is not workable because of the size of the school.
    - A SIT member asked if there are any other schools in the district with the student population of Murch that share a cafeteria and gym? DCPS shared that they do not believe so.
    - In general, the SIT did not like this option. DCPS agreed that it would create operational challenges for the school.
  - Parking: There are three parking options being explored by DCPS/DGS:
    - ~25 surface parking at the corner of Davenport and 36<sup>th</sup> St. Would require a change in the PK/K play location.
    - 50% reduction in the number of underground spaces below the gym. Entrance off Reno. This option would require additional "Value Engineering" in the building.
    - Raise the gym ~ 8ft and having parking at grade under the gym.
    - A combination of the surface parking and the other two locations would get us the anticipated parking count necessary for zoning.
    - Several SIT members were concerned with the impact on the play space if there was surface parking. DCPS shared that further evaluation is needed to determine where the PK/K play areas would go if there was surface parking on the corner of 36<sup>th</sup> and Davenport.
    - SIT members shared that neighbors would be frustrated because they would be looking at a parking lot.
  - A SIT member asked if the schedule can be maintained with HPO and CFA reviews. DGS stated that it can.

The next SIT meeting was scheduled for **2/24 at 6pm**