

**CIP Community Forum (Meeting #5)**  
**Thomas Jefferson Middle School (live streamed on Periscope)**  
**April 13, 2016, 7:00pm**

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Staff: John Chadwick, Meg Tuccillo, Lionel White, Zach Larnard, Connie Skelton, Leslie Peterson  
Approximately 25 community members  
Meeting convened at 7:09pm

Introductions (J. Chadwick)

Presentation: Background (J. Chadwick)

- Overview of CIP Process
- Community Engagement
- High School Feedback Preferences
- Middle School Feedback Preferences
- Elementary School Feedback Preferences

Presentation: Instruction (C. Skelton)

- APS Strategic Plan 2011 – 2017
- Existing High Schools/Programs
- Existing Middle Schools/Programs
- Existing Elementary Schools/Programs

Presentation: Current and Projected Seat Needs (J. Chadwick)

- Greatest Needs Through 2025-2026

Presentation: Financial Overview (L. Peterson)

- Financial Process
- Ten Year Forecast
- Debt Service/Debt Service Ratio

Presentation: Funding Considerations (J. Chadwick)

- Students and Instruction are the First Priority
- Must Address Most Critical Needs within Debt Capacity
- Current Funding Does Not Allow for Construction of All Projected Seats
- New Comprehensive HS Limits Ability to Address Critical Needs at Other School Levels
- Bond Funding Available for All New Capital Projects: \$128.4 to \$153.4 million
- Arlington Tech
- Possible Option Sets
- Option Set A
- Option Set B
- Option Set C

- Option Set D
- Option Set E
- Option Set F

Questions and Answer Session (7:50pm)

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**Q: All of the cost estimates for new schools do not include the cost of land, correct?**

A (JC): That is correct. Land acquisition costs are not included in any of the cost estimates.

**Q: Do any of the estimates include structured parking? Isn't it required at any of the new school sites?**

A (JC): The estimates do not include the cost for structured parking; however, it may not be required for all projects depending on the site conditions.

**Q: How many students are currently at Kenmore?**

A (JC): Approximately 900.

**Q: When you say "small high school," could that mean an annex at an existing high school (like a 9<sup>th</sup> grade academy)?**

A (JC): Yes, it could. The issue is that we have built three new comprehensive high schools in recent years that were subject to extensive community processes. If we increase the size of those schools, it will be of great concern to the communities involved in those processes.

**Q: What potential sites could be used for a new comprehensive high school?**

A (JC): Suggestions we have received include the Buck property, Carlin Spring site, Long Ridge Park, Kenmore, Career Center; it is very difficult to identify suitable sites for a comprehensive high school.

**Q: 300 seats at Wakefield and Yorktown brings the size of those high schools to what?**

A (JC): 2200 seats.

**Q: What is the back up plan if there is not sufficient interest in Arlington Tech to meet the enrollment goals?**

A (CS): We feel confident in the potential Arlington Tech program, but the demand is not certain. The plan for Arlington Tech came from the Citizen's Advisory Committee at the Career

Center, which looked closely at the potential to make the Career Center a capacity-bearing school.

**Q: Some of the option sets have small high school and large middle school. Are those basically the same facility?**

A (JC): Essentially yes; we are looking to build facilities that are adaptable in the long term.

A (CS): A good example is the space we are in now; we have reclaimed much of this cafeteria space (at Thomas Jefferson Middle School) for classroom space. We want to be flexible enough to accommodate developments in education that we can't even imagine now.

**Q: How many students are enrolled in the IB program? Is there demand for another similar program?**

A (CS): IB is a program that requires a lot of community and staff buy-in. It does not seem like something that the Wakefield community is interested in.

**Q: What are the enrollment caps for elementary and high schools?**

A (JC): The school board's preferred school size is 725 for elementary schools and 2,200 for high schools.

**Q: In the last community meeting, there were a lot of questions about whether Stratford and Wilson are fully funded in the CIP. Are they?**

A (JC): Yes, Stratford and Wilson are fully funded in the CIP.

**Q: For the high schools you suggested a few potential properties. What properties are you considering for the new elementary school in North Arlington?**

A (JC): APS will initiate a process for a new North Arlington elementary school similar to the South Arlington Working Group (SAWG) that identified Thomas Jefferson as the site for the new elementary school in South Arlington.

**Q: There is a big push in the County for Parks & Recreation space and you are looking for space for a new comprehensive high school. Has there been talk about working with the County on identifying space?**

A (JC): There are many conflicting and competing needs for space and resources in Arlington: parks, schools, affordable housing, other community-serving facilities. We need to work together to make the best decisions for the County in light of all of the considerations.

A (MT): Aurora Highlands is a good example of that type of APS/County collaboration.

**Q: There is only one option that's affordable, and it only gets us halfway to the seat deficit gap. Why are there all the other options if we can't afford them? Where is the "give"?**

A (LP): There will be some "give" because the \$153.4 million is the funding we had available through 2024; that number will be changing but at this point we don't know how much more funding will be available. In looking at the Option Sets under consideration now, the reality is that there is probably a good majority of these that would be able to be funded in the next CIP 10-year planning horizon depending on what you are building when.

**Q: When will we have the "real" numbers?**

A (LP): The first time you will see the new numbers is when the Superintendent's budget is released. We know that the \$153.4 million is going to increase. We just don't know by how much.

**Q: How will short-term Washington & Lee capacity needs be addressed?**

A (JC): We will suggest that the School Board consider a boundary change to balance out the enrollment across the three comprehensive high schools.

**Q: Is it correct to say that our projected debt service ratio will determine how high our spending capacity will be?**

A (JC): Yes, that is correct.

**Q: The School Board is reluctant to approach the County about shifting some of the County's debt capacity to free up capacity in the schools. The County Board says they don't hear from parents about increasing debt service for the schools, yet they hear from people about parks, etc. So, we need to mobilize to let the County Board know that the schools need additional funding.**

A (LP): The current CIP was approved with the understanding that the County would shift some of the bond funding capacity to allow for projects in the CIP, so the County has shown a willingness to shift debt capacity to address APS funding needs.

**C: We need to take a new comprehensive high school off the table if we are going to be realistic. We can't afford it. The deficits in near term years are real. We need to get something in the pipeline as soon as possible.**

**Q: Has there been consideration to duplicating or expanding the H-B Woodlawn program?**

A (CS): Yes. We are looking at how we may be able to replicate successful programs such as H-B Woodlawn or ATS or some of our immersion programs.

**Q: At what part of the process are the options actually prioritized?**

A: The Superintendent's recommendation will include prioritization of the options under consideration.

**Q: How are the enrollment projections made? I have never seen a survey as a current parent in terms of intention to remain in the school system. New multi-family development is likely causing complexity in projecting future capacity. Are the projections posted online?**

A: Enrollment projections are posted on the APS website. New housing is considered in our projections. Projections six years out are more speculative at the elementary school level than at the middle and high school levels where students are already in the system.

**Q: Why are the optimization numbers for middle schools lower for middle schools than high schools?**

A: The high school model lends itself better to maximizing use of classrooms (e.g., the 7/8 model) than the middle school model.

Presentation: Next Steps (J. Chadwick)

- Superintendent's Recommendation, May 5
- School Board CIP Work Session #1, May 10
- School Board CIP Work Session #2, May 17
- CIP Public Hearing, May 19

Dot Exercise (Z. Larnard)

- Consider Option Sets
- Use Three Dots to Indicate Top Option Sets
- Put One Dot Per Option Set
- Staff Will Collect Responses

Adjourn to Dot Exercise at 8:32pm.