

Career Center Working Group

MEETING SUMMARY

Career Center Working Group

Meeting No. 12

Date: June 13, 2018

Location: Arlington Career Center

Participants: Kathleen McSweeney (KMc), CCWG Chair
Matt Mattauszek (MM), ACG
Sarah Johnson (SJ), APS
Michael DePalma (MD), APS
Robin Cook (RC), APS
Sarah Putnam (SP), APS
+ Attached List of Attendees Below

In April and May, there have been ongoing public conversations about the Career Center as part of the CIP discussions. Members of the CCWG working group expressed frustration with some of the conversations, and posed questions as to whether the work of the CCWG was being pre-empted by the discussions taking place. Others wondered whether the conversations were changing the CCWG charge.

To understand where the group was in terms of some of the major issues raised, Kathleen began the meeting by asking four questions:

1. How many high school students should ultimately be on this site?
2. What are the considerations if the 800 additional seats are neighborhood seats?
3. What are the considerations if the 800 additional seats are option seats?
4. Is this the site for a 4th Arlington high school?

1. How many high school students should ultimately be on this site?
 - a. The group members asked questions about the intent of this question, and which students we were talking about – with the 800 or without the 800? There remains confusion for some group members about how many students are on this site now, and how many would be here with the expansion of Arlington tech and the addition of the planned 800 seats. Also, members asked if this was a short-term or long-term question. Kathleen encouraged the members to answer in both the short- and long-term, if possible.

- b. Polly succinctly outlined the number of students:
 - 600 – Arlington Tech students (with funded, planned growth)
 - 300 – Arlington Community High School (ACHS) students in the Fenwick building
 - 300 – CTE students
 - 150 – Onsite, full-day program students (Teen Parenting, Academic Academy, HILT, PEP)
 - Current total: 1350
 - w/additional 800 students: 2150
 - note that long-term, the CCWG has expressed the opinion that this should be a high school campus. The group recommends that the Montessori program should move to another site, and the ACHS students should co-locate with the CP library on the south block.
- c. The site could accommodate more than 2000 with appropriate parking provided onsite, but no more than an additional 1000 (includes the 800) students should be added to the site. (Betty)
- d. Only the 800 planned for students should be added to the site (Veronica)
- e. 2000-2500 students total. Need parking. (Pete)
- f. Only the 800 seats. Don't want more students here than are at the other high schools. (Megan)
- g. 1300 additional students – the 800 plus up to 500 additional seats. (Colleen)
- h. Concern should be with the student/teacher ratio, but no more than 1500 additional seats (800 plus another 700). If elementary students are staying, then only another 200-250 seats could be accommodated with the 800 already moving here. (Kim)
- i. This should be a 2000 seat high school, and eventually the Montessori program should be re-located, and Patrick Henry should go away. (Lander)
- j. 800-1200 additional high school students could be added to the site, and they should be neighborhood seats combined with the 600 Arlington Tech students to create a high school. (Susan)
- k. The neighborhood high school should be comparable to the other schools in terms of numbers. Need to make sure CTE seats remain open to students who want to take those classes. (Maura)
- l. No more than 2400 high school and adult students (ACHS) on the site. This should be the total of students served at any given point during the day. (Nathan)
- m. Not sure there is a magical number. Assumptions change based on other items – which students are here. Would really like to see a dance program added at this high school, would draw a large number of students. (Sarah)
- n. 800-1200 is the max number. (Christine)
- o. 800-1200 is the max number. (Jim)
- p. A total of about 3000 could be accommodated if Patrick Henry school is relocated. If Patrick Henry stays on the site, no more than 1400 additional students should be accommodated. (Michael)

- q. 800 students is the max amount that should be moved here, because there are no commitments being made that the Montessori program will be accommodated elsewhere. (Kia)
 - r. Based on existing programs and 1350 seats, the Montessori program/PH school onsite with no trailers (since it doesn't seem that Montessori may move anytime soon), the site should accommodate 800-1000 additional students with underground parking and a field. (Polly)
 - s. Agree that PH/Montessori program should be moved to a new site, and ACHS co-located with library on south block in order to make this a true high school campus. In the meantime, about 1400 HS students could be added to the site (800 plus up to additional 600 – not sure if that included ACHS students onsite for now). (David)
 - t. If keeping all programs on the site, then add a max of 800 students. Can't provide enough sports facilities here, but some sports can be offered. ACHS shouldn't be co-located with HS, move Montessori and create a new home for the library on the south block. If those programs are relocated, then the Career Center numbers can be increased to reach the population for this school to participate in the class 5 or 6 VHSL league. (Nancy)
 - u. Torn between the desire to see a truly urban high school on this site and think that is what we need here in Arlington. Respectful of the needs expressed by others in the community, and the desire that this high school have parity with the other Arlington high schools. (Lida)
 - v. No additional students should be added to this site. Wants reasons for more students. Inadequate parking. 3000 students can't fit on 12 acres. (Kristi)
2. Considerations if the 800 seats are neighborhood seats?
- a. A neighborhood high school cannot be supported on this site because too many years would pass before the necessary amenities could be provided. The only possibility is if this high school curriculum is a different kind of high school. (Veronica)
 - b. Don't see a neighborhood high school here. It wouldn't be comparable to the other high schools. (Pete)
 - c. Patrick Henry/Montessori students need to be accommodated on another site for this to be a class 6 high school for sports purposes. It should have 2 fields, a gym, track, pool, theater w/some sports offsite. (Megan)
 - d. A high school without amenities will fail to attract students. Haven't adequately funded amenities for programs that are here to this point. (Lander)
 - e. Need all amenities and would like to see boundaries/attendance zone before can give an answer. (Kim)
 - f. Integrate multi-purpose field(s) on the site. There is an opportunity for this to be a different kind of high school. Decisions made here to make these neighborhood seats will necessarily impact elementary school seats. (Colleen)
 - g. This should be a hybrid high school – with neighborhood and choice seats. Could be placed with indoor sports and sports that require smaller spaces (i.e. not football or sports requiring large, regulation fields). Students within the 1.5 mile radius could have the option to transfer to Wakefield to participate in sports. If there are seats available at this school, other students should be able to transfer in. Proximity to both Arlington Tech and CTE

- programs is a plus. We should be rethinking high school here, and this is an opportunity for a variety of students to get their needs met. This school should be an urban model and not break the bank. Also, mentioned that a dance program located here would provide another form of PE/physical activity and serve a need. (Sarah)
- h. Likes Sarah's hybrid plan. There isn't room here for all amenities, but it should have at least one field. (Christine)
 - i. Sarah's proposal is interesting. If the Patrick Henry building is taken down, we could put 3000 students here (total). A high school here shouldn't be too small – minimum of 1400 seats total. (Jim)
 - j. 800 seats here will be a program or choice school. If we can't have everything the other high schools have, this shouldn't be made into a high school. The majority of students likely zoned into this school and who will attend are likely a higher percentage of students and possibly those with IEPs. These kids deserve equal amenities if they don't have a choice in attending. Sees this as a civil rights issue. (Kia)
 - k. Support what Kia said. A neighborhood high school should be contingent on the completion of several phases being delivered. The south block development is likely very long-term, and the end result of several phases. (Michael)
 - l. There would have to be a substantial investment made. With neighborhood seats, it would be difficult because it is not equitable. If we do this as neighborhood seats, the the solution needs to be Arlington wide, but in the model of feeder or choice schools like they do in DC or Montgomery County. (Polly)
 - m. The students need outdoor space – this needs to be rectified regardless whether the seats are choice or neighborhood. At least one field is needed. (Nancy)
 - n. For this plan to happen, we need to have earmarked funds with completion dates that don't change. Leaders may change over time on the County and School boards. Need to make clear that funds are set aside to achieve this plan for the long term. (Lida)
 - o. No comprehensive high school should go here, according to the Arlington Heights Civic Association resolution. (Kristi)
 - p. Want to make sure we protect the Arlington Tech students coming in. Not sure that just having a smaller school (like Arlington Tech) meets the needs of the site. The best vision is still a comprehensive high school, but there are issues with civil rights and legal issues being raised. (David)
 - q. Want larger numbers for neighborhood seats with access to all amenities and full course offerings here on day one. If things are phased in, then we need to be smart about it. How can we use these seats most effectively? Need to provide seats for all the students that are here. Make sure we retain the commitment to existing students on the site as well. (Maura)
 - r. Would love to see this as a neighborhood school. (Susan)
 - s. Wrestling with the 4th high school. There is a specialness about the Career Center, the CTE and Arlington Tech programs are magnets, and another magnet is taking the next step with this property and building it out. The big picture is a 50-year plan. Arlington Tech has demonstrated viability but needs amenities. (Alisa)

3. Considerations if the 800 seats are choice seats?
 - a. Traffic and parking are issues for the neighborhood, so opposes choice seats at the site. (Kristi)
 - b. This process has led [me] to the belief that we can't add a comprehensive high school here. This is a unique site, and a cookie-cutter solution doesn't fit here. (Betty)
 - c. Option schools require additional buses and lead to additional traffic. (Christine)
 - d. Students in choice schools need balance in their lives. Sports are an important outlet for students. It isn't just about the building or the seats. (Lander)
 - e. H-B Woodlawn is the only other [high school] that is choice. This site would have 2500 students with no field for several years. Outdoor recreation space is required. (Megan)
 - f. Transportation and parking are critical for an option school. (Pete)
 - g. Sports choices are needed but note that many high school students take buses now to do a sport. Flexibility is important here. (Michael)
 - h. Doing nothing is unacceptable. This school needs improvements. Montessori won't be here forever, and [use of] this site needs to be maximized. (Maura)
 - i. Many others indicated that their answer to the previous question also answered this question.
 - j. We need to think outside the box here. Fear that choice seats would make this a traffic nightmare. (Jason)

4. Is this the site for a 4th High School?
 - a. Since we were running low on time, this question was handled as a quick poll of the group. The only answers available were Yes, No, Maybe and Pass.
 - b. 12 people answered YES.
 - c. 2 people answered NO.
 - d. 8 people answered MAYBE.
 - e. No one PASSED.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Feels that there are too many choice seats here already. Stressed the importance of indoor recreation spaces. Would want to see these 800 seats (students) go into trailers at the other high schools before this would be made into a substandard neighborhood high school. (Christine B.)
- The Feb 26th slides depicted a version an option with a football stadium. Can't get everything on the site but should be looking to maximize all 12 acres. Agrees with what Kia said. Sarah's proposal is interesting, but this makes it an option school. The seats would not be filled because the neighbors would opt out. She is a "maybe" on the last question. Expand the programs here and give the students the amenities they deserve. It is unfair to make this a neighborhood school, and it is already a hybrid. (Erin)

CCWG Attendees

Alisa Cowen, Career Center Advisory Group
Betty Siegel, FBC AWG
Christine Ng, Environment and Energy Conservation Commission
Collen Pickford, FAC
David R French, Yorktown HS PTA member/parent of student attending programs at
Career Center
Elizabeth Gearin, Planning Commission (PC)
Fikru Abebe, Ethiopian Community Development Council
Jason Kaufman, Douglas Park Civic Association
Jim Lantelme, PFRC
Kia Haynes, Arlington Montessori Action Committee (AMAC)
Kim Phillip, BHMA
Kristi Sawert, Arlington Heights Civic Association
Lander Allin, Pike Presidents' Group (PPG)
Lida Anestidou, At-Large Member
Maura McMahon, Alcova Heights Civic Association
Megan Haydasz, At-Large Member
Nancy Birnbaum, ATAC
Nathan Dudani, Wakefield (Student)
Pete Durgan, Penrose Civic Association
Polly Hall, Washington-Lee HS PTA member/parent of student attending
programs at Career Center
Sarah McKinley, Columbia Heights Civic Association
Susan Rochard, Arlington Tech Parent Group
Veronica Bartlett, Arlington Community High School (School Testing
Coordinator)