

Watkins Community Meeting

November 17, 2015



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Project Overview

- Start Date: June 2016
- End Date: August 2017
- Watkins Elementary will receive a complete modernization to serve students in grades 1 through 5.
- All of the classrooms will be “right-sized” and upgraded to meet 21st Century Educational standards.
- Windows were replaced during Summer 2016

Single-Loaded Corridor With Commons



Modernized Classrooms

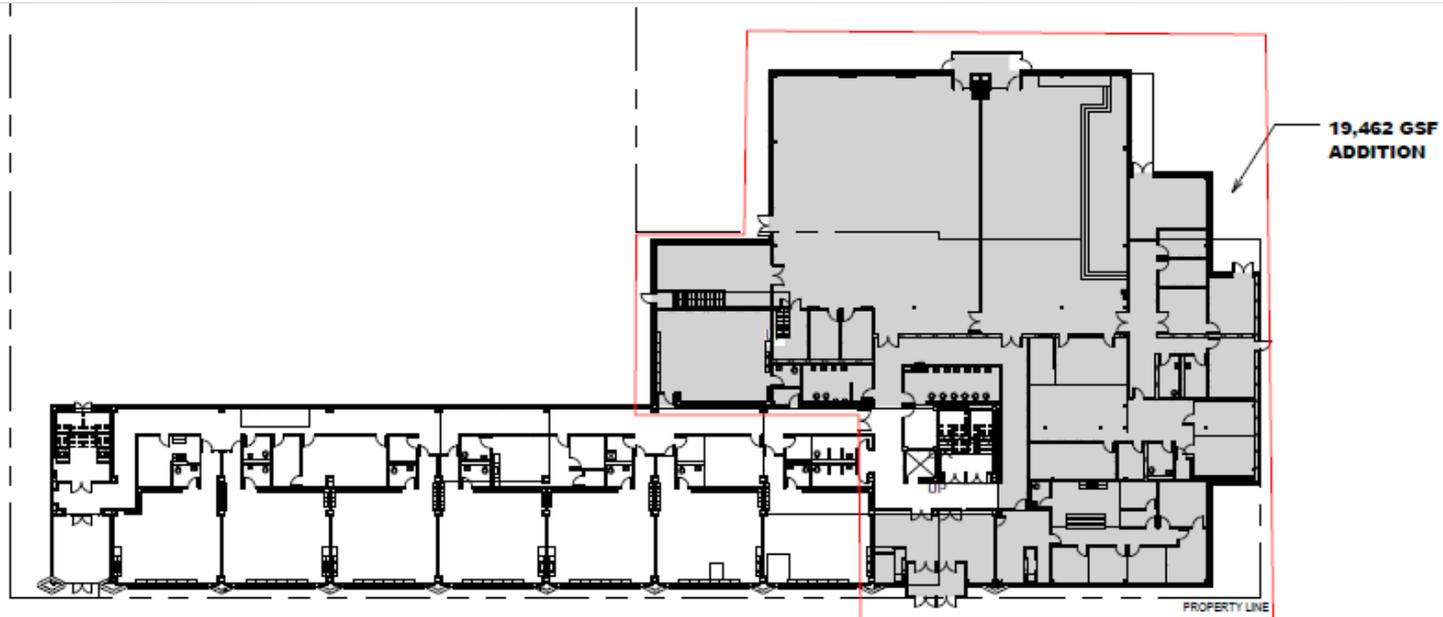


New Gym and Cafeteria Spaces



Construction Phasing

Construction Phasing



- DCPS and DGS are moving away from the “Summer Blitz” approach to construction.
- The Watkins project involves a significant amount of demolition and new construction, which will take much longer than a summer.
 - This has educational and operational implications.
- This forced DCPS and DGS to evaluate “swing options” for SY16-17 .
 - Both on-site and off-site options have been evaluated.

Evaluating Swing Options

- Evaluated pros and cons of swinging on-site and swinging off-site
- Criteria:
 1. Impact on educational environment and school operations
 2. Impact on student and teacher quality of life
 3. Impact on school community and logistics
 4. Proximity of off-site swing options
 5. Costs and impact on overall project budget.

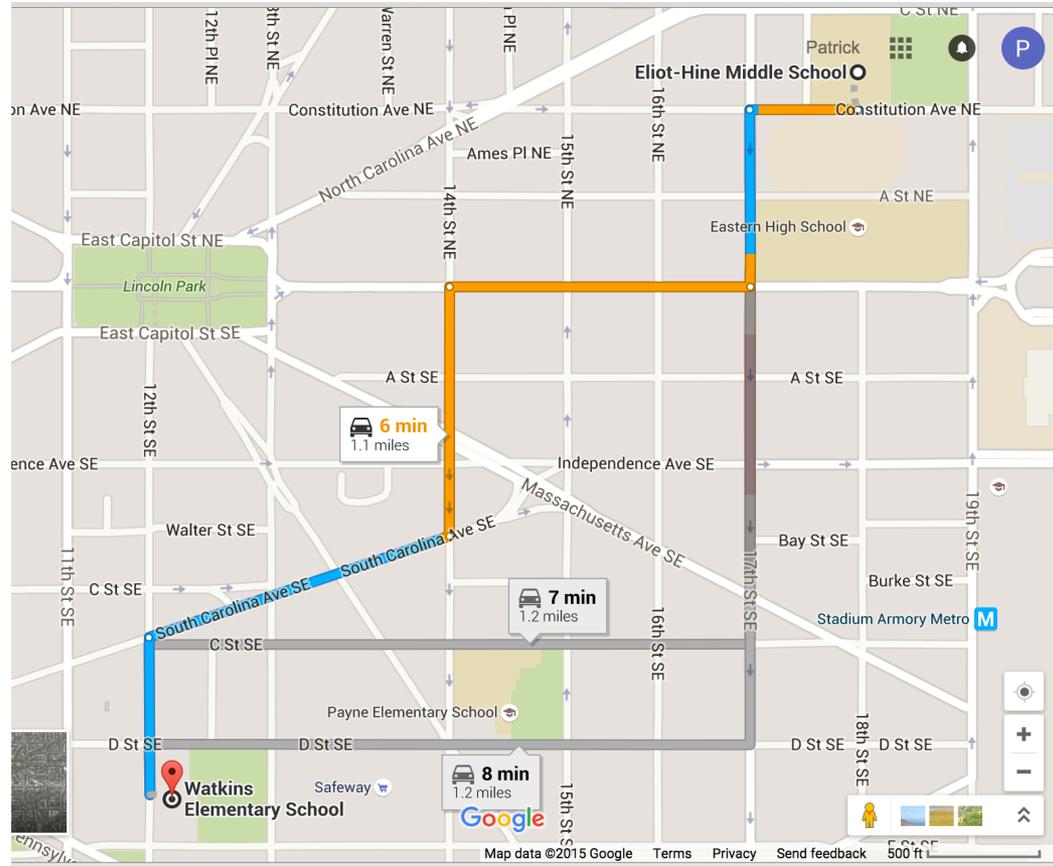
Scenario 1: Swing Onsite

- Would require a significant # of trailers on the DPR field.
 - Field and other amenities would be off-line for the year.
- Students would be next to an active construction site, but would remain in the “Watkins Community”.
- No parking for staff or visitors.
- Higher Cost: \$5+ million
 - Trailer construction
 - After-hours work
 - Field resurfacing



Scenario 2: Swing to Eliot-Hine MS

- Eliot-Hine MS is under-utilized and can accommodate both programs
 - Serves grades 6-8
- Building is located at 1800 Constitution Ave ~1mi away from Watkins and ~1.1mi away from Peabody.
 - C40 Bus line could be re-routed.
- Students would be away from construction site, but no longer in the “Watkins Community”.
- Logistical challenge
- Entire student population would be together.



Scenario 2: Swing to Eliot-Hine MS

- Eliot-Hine would receive pre-occupancy improvements, which would include:
 - Painting (welcoming for elementary students)
 - IT Upgrades to ensure wireless connectivity
 - Necessary modifications to meet the needs to elementary students
 - Play-space for elementary students.
 - Lighting improvements
 - Other cosmetic improvements to be determined.
- Student populations would be separate, including a separate entrance, gym, cafeteria.
- Entire student population would be together.
- Lower Cost: ~ \$2.5M
 - Pre & Post Occupancy Improvements.

Scenario 3: Split Program at Van Ness & Eliot-Hine

- Grade 1 would be at the newly modernized Van Ness (will be complete in Summer 2016).
- Grades 2-5 would be at Eliot-Hine.
- This option creates additional logistical challenges for families and school leadership.
 - Transportation routing would need careful planning.
- Other options explored:
 - Trailers at Peabody for 1st Grade (too small for 4 trailers and have play space and parking)
 - 5th grade at Stuart-Hobson (creates logistical challenge)
 - Trailers at Payne field (too small and would restrict their play-space)
- Lower Cost: ~ \$2.5 million
 - Pre & Post Occupancy Improvements



Next Steps

- DCPS will evaluate the feedback from the community on the scenarios.
- DCPS will make a final decision by Winter Break
- Further evaluation of program layout in swing scenario.
 - If off-site, work with both school leaderships to ensure programmatic needs are met. Careful planning and design around keeping student populations separate.
- **Coordination & Planning**
 - Transportation (C40 Bus Line).
 - After-school programming
- Determination of any pre-occupancy improvements.
- Project Website: Before Thanksgiving

Contact Information

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Please submit comments to Patrick.Davis@dc.gov by **December 4th**.