

Maury Community Meeting Feedback (2/12/17)

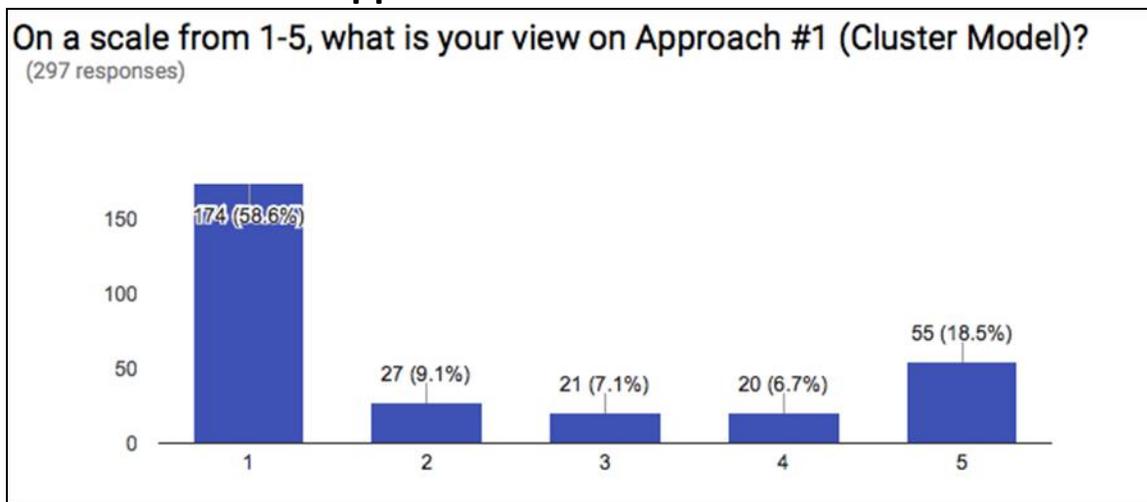
At the January 12, 2017 community meeting, DCPS presented four approaches to address the growing student population at Maury. DCPS then posted a survey to record community feedback on each of the following approaches:

Approach #1: Cluster Model
Approach #2: Boundary Revision
Approach #3: Expanding the Building within the Current Budget
Approach #4: Expanding the Building with an Enhanced Budget and Delayed Start Date

You can review the presentation here: <http://bit.ly/2ilbccq>

DCPS received 297 responses on the survey. A summary of the feedback as well as a sampling of community responses are included below. For each of the approaches, we pulled out the most common themes and quotes (in italics) from real responses. In addition to the comments, we received several questions related to the modernization project. We have listed the questions at the end of the document and will be responding to those questions next Friday, 2/17.

Approach #1 – Cluster Model



*1 = strongly oppose, 5 = strongly support

Overall sentiment

- Generally, the community is strongly opposed to pursuing a cluster model. However, there is a small minority that strongly supports a cluster model.
 - 58.6% 'strongly oppose' a cluster model
 - 9.1% 'oppose' of a cluster model
 - 7% are neutral
 - 6.7% 'support' a cluster model
 - 18.5% 'strongly support' a cluster model

Common themes in community feedback

Opposed to Approach #1:

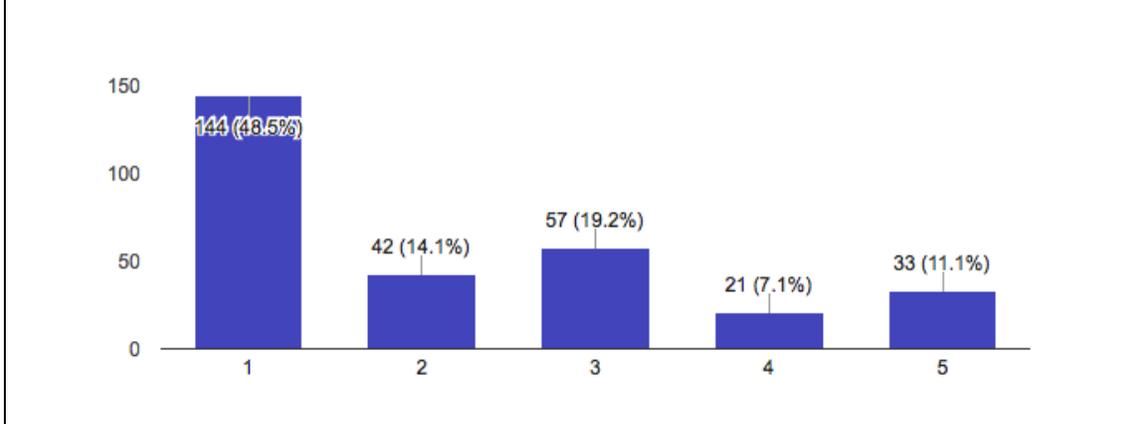
- **Too disruptive to school culture at Maury**
 - *The thing that makes Maury so great are the teachers and leadership. I'd need to know that they would remain in order to support a cluster model.*
 - *I am concerned that it would be very difficult to merge the two schools successfully and that, without the leadership of Principal Albert-Garvey, the merger would not succeed. I would also like my kids to go to a neighborhood school that we can walk to together.*
 - *The resulting school would become one of the largest elementary schools in DC. This would lead to a fundamental change in staffing, programming, culture, and space requirements that haven't been fully considered. Maury's success is due in large part to its small close-knit community and a merger of this size would throw our school community into disarray.*
- **Logistically difficult**
 - *Splitting up siblings, logistical issues, difficulties in administering 2 totally separate campuses, parent volunteer fatigue... I just don't see how it would work well enough to be good for the kids.*
 - *Cluster models create a significant burden on kids and parents (e.g., two drop-offs). It also creates administrative difficulties. Principal Albert Garvey is amazing but how do we ensure that her (and the community's) efforts aren't lost when managing across multiple locations. This option still doesn't address the infrastructure needs of the students.*
 - *As a parent of 2 children, the division between ECE and higher grades would complicate drop-off/pick-up with 2 working parents. Also, would affect our vision of living in walking distance to a neighborhood school - may result in us looking for other education offerings.*
- **Interferes with Miner's plans for their school improvement**
 - *Why should Miner families be completely disrupted by the lack of money to renovate Maury? It is totally unfair.*
 - *As a Miner parent, I do not agree to this change. Miner is a good school and should not be forced to relocate any of its students.*
- **Not enough concrete details regarding a cluster in order to support this plan**
 - *There has not been enough research done, or at least not enough presented to our community, to understand how this would work and the benefits and drawbacks to this model. I believe having the whole school on one campus creates a better sense of community. Having a smaller overall group of students in one school community makes it easier to do fundraising, put on events, etc.*
 - *Without a more thought-out plan, I cannot support this. There are many aspects that I love about Maury (emphasis on empathy, learning Mandarin). Would all of these carry over? How would the schools be divided? As a parent of two kids close in age, I don't want to have to do pickup/drop-off at two different schools on a daily basis.*
- **Don't want to lose a neighborhood school**
 - *I think it is difficult build continuity and culture in this model. It is important to me that there is one Principal that is in charge that the teachers respond too. I also do not like the idea of having the children walk that much farther to school. It takes away from the community/neighborhood school concept.*
 - *We are interested in a neighborhood school close by our home. That's why we moved into this school district and are committed to staying in-bounds for this school.*

Supportive of Approach #1

- **Improves diversity at both campuses**
 - *It's the right use of resources. It mixes socioeconomic status to a larger degree, which is good for educational outcomes for the least well off.*
 - *Research has repeatedly confirmed that desegregation does not diminish the performance of high SES students and has measurable, long-term benefits for low SES minority students.*
- **Solves capacity issues in an efficient way**
 - *I think it's a great idea to use the more modern Miner building to supplement the size of Maury. It would also help stitch together Tennessee Ave into a more cohesive whole.*
 - *Schools are 5 minutes apart; Miner has a large space to utilize. Neighborhoods aren't distinct.*
 - *As a taxpayer, resident and homeowner on Capitol Hill for the last 16 years, I believe that Approach #1 is the most fiscally responsible approach. DC taxpayers have already invested in the construction of the new Miner Elementary School. The school is modern, meets Ed Spec, has plenty of outdoor play space and dedicated parking for staff. By increasing the utilization of Miner, we are improving the return on investment already made in the school and, encouraging broader integration and revitalization of our community.*

Approach #2 – Boundary Revision

On a scale from 1-5, what is your view on Approach #2 (Re-Draw Boundary)?
(297 responses)



*1 = strongly oppose, 5 = strongly support

Overall sentiment

- Generally, the community is strongly opposed to altering the boundary.
 - 48.5% are 'strongly opposed' to altering the boundary
 - 14.1% are 'opposed' to altering the boundary
 - 19.2% are neutral
 - 7.1% 'support' altering the boundary
 - 11.1% 'strongly support' altering the boundary

Common Themes in Community Feedback

Opposed to Approach #2:

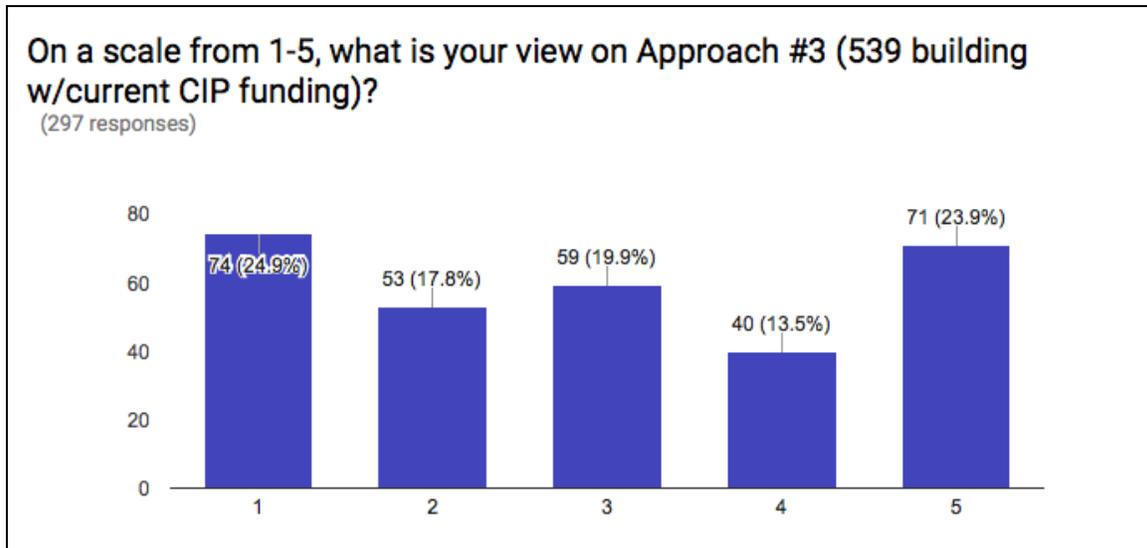
- **Too soon for another boundary change**
 - *Boundary change would be too disruptive to the community after boundary change 2 years ago*
 - *It was just redrawn two years ago. It isn't fair to put this neighborhood through the same high-stakes process again.*
 - *Really unfair to families that just bought in the expanded zone, who likely have newborns/1/2 year olds who don't get grandfathered. Boundary uncertainty has knock-on bad effects on housing prices even for families not directly affected. People should be able to trust school districts for long enough to move, have kids and enroll.*
- **Reducing the boundary would hurt Maury's diversity**
 - *Expanding the boundary was a big mistake that DCPS will not admit to, and is going to exacerbate our overcrowding problem. But we should solve that with expansion. Contracting the boundary again is going to make our student body less socioeconomically diverse, which I believe would be detrimental to our students.*
 - *It is unfair to the families who have intentionally purchased houses that are in-boundary for Maury so that their children would have the opportunity to attend. Reducing the boundary risks creating a school that isn't quite big enough to ensure student and programmatic diversity.*

- **Many families recently moved into the boundary specifically to attend Maury**
 - *Re-drawing the boundary would do nothing to address the growing need for in-boundary slots and would exclude families who have moved in-bounds under the assumption that they would be able to send their children to Maury.*
 - *Redrawing boundaries excludes families who may have purchased their home in part because of being inbound for Maury.*

Supportive of Approach #2:

- **Seems like a good solution for the neighborhood:**
 - *This seems reasonable given the size of the building, distribution of students at neighboring schools, etc.*
 - *This is probably the most cost-effective and least disruptive to Maury (and Miner) as operating school. If boundaries were small enough to leave some room in overall enrollment, Maury could accommodate some percentage of OOB students. This might be a way to maintain socio-economic and racial diversity within a neighborhood model that reflects existing patterns of housing. I would NOT support this in conjunction with a cluster. I still have some concerns that the addition for 457 students would put too much pressure on common areas and outdoor play space.*
 - *While not politically popular, this seems like a reasonable solution to the overcrowding.*
- **Would support if grandfathering existed**
 - *I don't think this is right for families who were just brought in to be cut out again. However, if treatment of sibling enrollment/preference for the younger siblings of students is addressed to not disadvantage existing Maury families, it may be workable.*
- **Support because Maury boundary is far too large for the site**
 - *It is FAR SMARTER to re-draw the boundary to push more students INTO MINER other under-enrolled schools than to spend taxpayer dollars to enlarge Maury to accommodate 539 pupils. As was said at our meeting, the physical footprint of the Maury property is "one of the smallest in the city", yet the city has redrawn Maury's boundary to force it to expand to be one of the LARGEST in the city. Again, this poses a quality of instruction and work issue, a health-safety issue, and is a bad use of taxpayer dollars. FIX THE BOUNDARY, right-size Maury using a SMALL phase-two renovation budget and maintain quality learning and play space, while enriching MINER, which is grossly under-enrolled.*
 - *What makes Maury special is our small community! We know each other and care about and for each other. But that can only happen with a smaller size school. It was a true neighborhood school. When the boundaries were broadened that has greatly compromised this unique community care.*
 - *Maury is a very small school without much property that is overcrowded and Miner is huge and under enrolled. It would be extraordinarily foolish not to redraw boundaries.*

Approach #3 – Expanding the Building within the Current Budget



*1 = strongly oppose, 5 = strongly support

Overall sentiment

- Generally the community is fairly evenly split in its opinions about Approach #3
 - 24.9% say they 'strongly oppose' this approach
 - 17.8% 'oppose' this approach
 - 19.9% say that they are neutral
 - 13.5% 'support' this approach
 - 23.9% 'strongly support' this approach

Common Themes in Community Feedback

Opposed to Approach #3

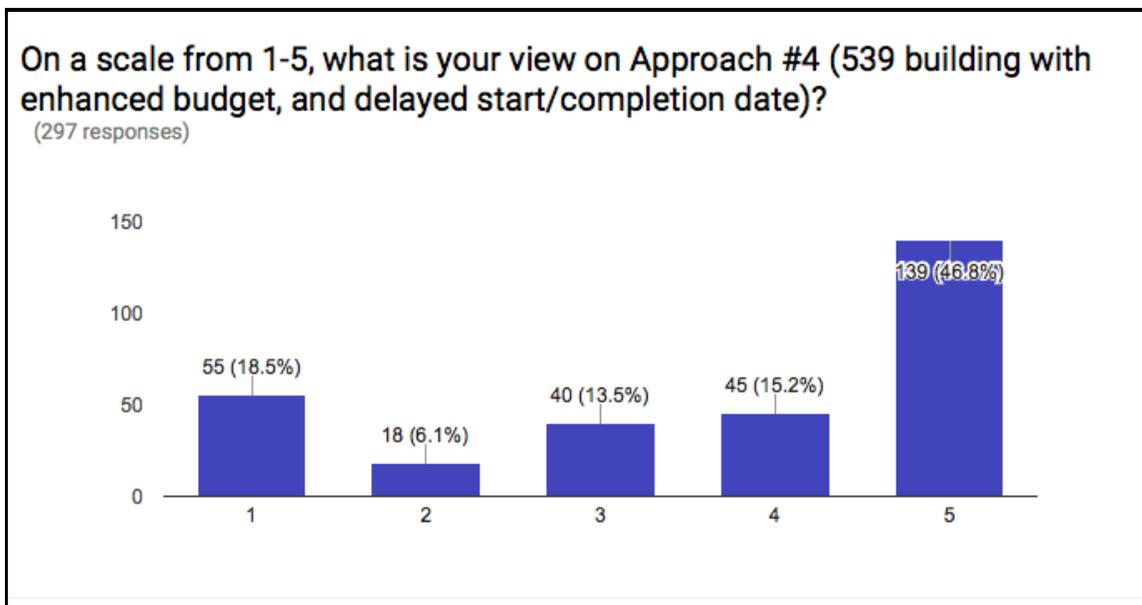
- **Concern that the project will still not be possible within the designated funding**
 - *I would support this more fully if I thought that this was a realistic option. We have been told that this is not possible to build for 539 students with the current funding.*
 - *I don't believe a 539 capacity building is possible with the current budget. We were told the current budget allows for a smaller capacity of around 435.*
- **Concern about lack of outdoor space**
 - *Footprint of the site is too small. The site will be taken up with building and parking, leaving very little or no room for student outdoor play space.*
 - *Under the current enrollment, the outdoor space available to students for physical education and recess is at its capacity. Any increase in capacity of Maury Elementary will only stand to exacerbate the situation -- reducing the available outdoor space in order to accommodate more or larger buildings to accommodate more students.*
 - *I oppose this option because Maury's current footprint is too small for 539 kids, and the design further reduces the already small amount of outdoor play space.*
- **Concern about continuing overcrowding in common areas – particularly the multi-purpose room**

- *I don't know how 500+ kids eat lunch, play at recess and have PE classes with the current multipurpose room*
- *I would like to see the building expanded to serve the population but do have reservations about the ability to meet these needs within the current budget. For example, the multipurpose room is already overcrowded and double booked. We have extended lunch periods. PE is forced out when the room is needed for other purposes and whole community events like school-wide morning meeting are at capacity. I cannot imagine this space working with an extra 150 students.*
- **Concern that this will be a short-term solution and that additional changes will be needed to fully address the problem**
 - *Why bother doing it if you aren't going to do it right? It's a short-term solution that will need to be fixed in a couple years wasting taxpayer money and causing a lot more disruption for the students.*
 - *This alternative smaller expansion will help a bit in the near term, but I do not think it addresses the long term needs for space that the school will have.*
 - *Although most realistic in terms of funding, this is not a sustainable, long-term solution.*
- **Concern that this does not meet the Educational Specifications or best practices**
 - *The Educational Specification was developed for a reason: because it's what we're supposed to provide for our kids to have the best educational experience possible. We don't need taj mahal schools, but we do need to meet the basic specification.*
 - *This option is described as "not meeting best practices." Why would we pursue something that is described as being substandard?*
 - *From the presentations and material provided it does not seem that it is possible to meet educational standards when building for 539 students and the current budget. If a reassessment shows otherwise then I would be more favorable.*

Supportive of Approach #3

- **Least disruptive to the school community due to shortened construction schedule and time in swing space**
 - *I would be ok with this only if it truly meant only one year of the kids needing to be in a swing space.*
 - *While not ideal, this solution seems to have the least impact to families targeted for Maury.*
 - *While the plans aren't ideal, this has the least impact on our families by completing the project within 1 year to meet the school's future needs.*
- **Important to plan based on the full-enrollment needs of the community**
 - *It's a no brainer: use the space you currently have to fit all of the students in the boundary.*
 - *Of course you should build the building to hold all the kids that live in the school's boundary!*
 - *I am in favor of this so no one has to be displaced or go to a new school*
- **Most realistic option**
 - *This option, although not great, is the most likely to succeed because it's based on money that we have available now.*
 - *Seems like best option. Keeps boundary and is not dependent on other funding.*
 - *I think this estimate of students is more accurate and the funding is 'guaranteed'.*

Approach #4 – Expanding the Building with an Enhanced Budget and Delayed Start Date



*1 = strongly oppose, 5 = strongly support

Overall Sentiment

- A majority of the community is in support of expanding the building with an enhanced budget and delayed start date.
 - 46.8% say they 'strongly support' this approach
 - 15.2% say they 'support' this approach
 - 13.5% say they are neutral
 - 6.1% say they 'oppose' this approach
 - 18.5% 'strongly oppose' this approach

Common Themes in Community Feedback

Supportive of Approach #4

- **This is the best long-term option for the Maury community.**
 - *Ultimately this seems to make the most sense in the long run and the best way to get the right sized school, for the property. Hands down the best for the community.*
 - *My view is that this is the ONLY good option. We would accept the inconvenience of delays and alternate sites if it means we get the right building for our community in the end.*
 - *I am generally in favor of the 539 expansion, and this is my favorite option. This makes Maury sustainable for years to come and with the current boundary.*
 - *This would seem the best option in the long run. However, at what costs to other schools.*
 - *The school is relatively stable, enrollment is growing, interest rates are low. The city is in a growing phase - let's quit doing half renovations on aging buildings and build the best we can for the future.*
 - *I believe that is worth waiting and having the students in a swing space for two years to have*

- the potential to get the project right. I know it will cause some short term difficulties but will pay much bigger dividends for our students, teachers, and community for many years.*
- **This is the best way to meet the needs of the school, including maximizing the site.**
 - *This is the only option that provides Maury the right-size school that it needs for all of its students to thrive, and is (and should have been) the proposal from the very start.*
 - *It's a better use of space, and a better long-term approach if you don't change the boundary, though it's a pretty huge building for the space and enrollment. Would have loved to see it in March when you clearly had it completed—we would have had an opportunity to get it funded instead of being stuck for TWO years*
 - *This creates the most space and meets the current needs.*
 - *This would be the most ideal approach ensuring students, educators and families have a building that meets their needs with the least disruption to in-bound Maury families*

Opposed to Approach #4

- **Having students and staff swing for 2 years is problematic**
 - *Absolutely no. I would have serious reservations about making my preschooler swing to two separate places and then back to a new school. This is a horribly disruptive way to start his school experience and I would likely pull him out of Maury if this decision was made.*
 - *I hate the idea of being out of the school for two years. That's a HUGE amount of time in my family's life, and we'll end up losing a lot of the community feel. I know families that would otherwise jump at attending Maury that are looking into other options in the meantime, because being off-campus for two years is so unappealing.*
- **Concerns that there will be too many students on the property**
 - *Too many children on a small footprint is not safe. No outdoor space. Too overwhelming for little ones.*
 - *No more outdoor play space. This is too much building on a small lot- doesn't make sense with Miner a few blocks away. However, given that option, delayed start and proper planning and funding would be key to making the project successful.*
- **Concerns that there will be no additional funding**
 - *I have very little confidence that we'll get the funding or that the timeline will be adhered to.*
 - *I just don't think it's possible to get more money but if you do then I support this*
 - *This is fine if you could guarantee both the funding and a significantly better outcome than with option 3, that balances out the physical and emotional havoc that will be wrought on some children and families being in two different swing spaces over the course of two years, but based on what I've seen so far I have little confidence either of those will happen.*
 - *Total pipe dream but sure if it happens I'll support it*

General Feedback Section

Funding discrepancy

- *We need to get the same spending that the children west of the park get: \$450/student*

Expand the school's footprint

- *It's nice that the city has finally come to the table after years of stalling and refusing to provide us information. But it is nuts that it wants to make this decision all of a sudden, after years of delay, therefore ruling out clearly superior options like buying the apartment building on our block to greatly expand what is one of the smaller elementary school footprints around.*
- *With expanded budget purchase 239 12th Pl NE, 20002. This would expand the campus size giving the school room for staff parking or additional outdoor recreation space or for the building expansion. The property is accessible from both 12th Place NE and C Street NE with the alley access providing an entrance and exit as a parking lot.*

Don't move the student body more than once

- *DCPS needs to find a way to have this school move once. It is a waste of resources to have Maury move into Eliot-Hine for one year and trailers for the next year. It does not make any sense. Offer these kids some stability. This community has worked hard to create something which could be destroyed by families leaving to find some stability. For the current PS-3 class they will have 3 different "schools" (4 if you count old and "new renovated Maury") by the time they reach 1st grade.*
- *I support D.C. and DCPS doing the renovation right the first time with the right amount of funding. If DCPS is going to do it, then we need to make sure it is done correctly to ensure plenty of classrooms, good sized classrooms, a playspace large enough for children to run and play. I am concerned about the two years away from our school and the impact that will have on our community. As well, I am concerned that our school, administrators, and teachers will have to move three times to Eliot Hine, to trailer, and then back to Maury. If there are any solutions to shorten construction time or have the trailers for two years (to eliminate one move), I hope DCPS would consider it to make the transition as smooth as possible.*
- *In planning for the delayed start, I think it is important to setup the temporary trailer building as the proper option to house the students for the full two years if necessary instead of moving them to miner for one year and then trailers for a year. Also, since the planning is so far behind for the fourth option, I think we should stay at the current building for one more full school year and take the time to properly plan this project and not rush into a plan that hasn't been fully discussed with the community that will fill it.*
- *Please consider using trailers for two years instead of shifting students around.*

More transparency and better communication going forward

- *Why was option four withheld through all the initial discussions? It's absurd that you have had these plans on the back burner the entire time. Please move forward with greater transparency.*
- *This was not communicated well beyond the school. I am on several mailing lists and this is the first I've heard of this.*
- *I would also like to chime in as I know others have about the lack of communication on the part of DCPS here. I live in the neighborhood and had to find out from a local blog about it. That is disappointing*

Parking concerns

- *The neighborhood has already lost 17 parking spaces since 2010 with the last renovation. Maury has not worked with the neighborhood to be a good neighbor with regard to community impact.*
 - *Why do we still have 15+ parking spaces - on street parking accommodations should be made so that kids have the ability to use their school grounds. 1-2 handicapped and 1-2 spaces for teachers and admin that drive between schools should be max on site parking.*
 - *We need to remove the staff parking lot in order to increase the playground space. Staff can receive street parking permits or utilize other public parking spaces in the area.*
-

There are several questions listed below. We are working on answers internally and will have responses out next Friday (2/17).

Questions

- With regard to options three and four please clarify if it's actually possible to stay on the regular schedule with the current budget and still get the work done with the increased number of students. Is option three really a possibility? Or should we be looking only at options one and four? Again, realistically, it sounds like redrawing the school boundary doesn't solve our problem.
- When will DCPS make a final decision and what is the architect's assessment of the latest proposals?
- I want to know more about exactly how they know that there will be more students than the building can hold in a few years
- Expansion of the boundary was a huge blunder for a school facing overcrowding. Why not reverse the mistake?
- I'd like to see the metrics of what standards would NOT be met by following this approach. We know that the play area is impacted but the balance of data has not been transparent. Can we phase demo of the 1960's building? Why can't we afford to demo it? There must be a way to move forward now.
- When will a guarantee of funding be made?
- (Is this a fair option to propose? I thought we didn't have enough money to pay for 539 students in the timeframe proposed.)
- Why not take the multipurpose room out and make it bigger and higher for the same amount of money?
- Why has the re-design not addressed the problem of drop-off and pick-up causing vehicle traffic?
- How much did each PARKING SPOT for TEACHERS at Murch cost?
- Something needs to be done with building but I am not convinced that enough consideration has been made for how to creatively get more/keep outdoor space - for example why do we still have 15+ parking spaces?
- There are many aspects that I love about Maury (emphasis on empathy, learning Mandarin). Would all of these carry over? How would the schools be divided? (within the cluster model)