

KCPS Six-Year Strategic Facilities Plan
Community Engagement Meeting

GALES, September 27, 2017
6:30 P.M.

Topic 1: How should the former elementary schools be used?

Name: Karen Miller

- Would it be possible to renovate the WES building for middle school?
- No, would need to do an addition
- As a taxpayer, how soon are we going to get rid of the WES and MES? The central office should be moved out of Rock Hall and get rid of that building as well. Worton is the center of the County.
- Dr. Lever: Several possibilities. Could use WES for c.o., community purposes, other agencies. Must explore various options.
- Dr. Couch: If we don't have educational uses for the vacant buildings, we surplus them back to the County.

Name: John Carol

- It's a matter of having schools that will attract families and teachers.
- Need to surplus those vacant buildings.
- Could the B.O.E. then lease a space?

Topic 2: What are your thoughts about co-locating the Middle School and High School in the same structure, or in nearby structures, at the high school site?

Matt Copsey:

- Moved here two years ago, am commuting to Baltimore.
- No economic growth. What's the point of staying?
- Not in favor of all grades being in one building.
- Dr. Lever: Recognize the importance of the separation of students within a building
- Dr. Lever: Polled audience - all parents want elementary schools to remain as is

Name: Brian Matthews:

- There must be a separation if all students are in one building.
- Toured a 7-12 school in R.I. The school was walled off entirely. Found ways to make it work.
- Dr. Lever: Were there common spaces used? Yes

- Dr. Lever: Look at the most expensive areas and try to share those spaces.
- Then becomes a scheduling issue.
- Interested in the concept of relocating the middle and high schools into a state of the art facility.
- I think we could attract new families.
- Would keep elementary schools in the small communities.
- Every community wants the best education for students. As long as families are comfortable that their children would receive a better education with resources, I don't think it would be a fight.
- How about a daycare for children thru adults?

Name: Francoise Sullivan

- If you centralize, the transportation would change significantly.

Topic 3: Other concerns, observations, or questions

Name: Karen Miller

- Has it been taken into consideration the amount of renovations that need to be done currently at RHES? Would it be cheaper to put them back into a building that was built to accommodate small children and get rid of the existing building?
- Full renovations would be extremely difficult. May be feasible to do small projects in the current 3 elementary schools.
- Daycare could be offered in any of the buildings, empty or operating schools. Might attract teachers.

Name: Harry Pisapia

- The jobs aren't here.
- Small towns will suffer if the community elementary schools are closed in order to build one centrally located school complex.
- Northern end of county is the place to look for expansion of work force, but no one wants to take it on.
- Dr. Lever: Change could occur, increasing enrollment. No way at this time to know what may change. People will move for a good educational program.

Name: Barbara Reed

- Can we offer Q.A. families to come to Kent?
- Dr. Couch: Have to have an agreement with Q.A. Already checked into this, there will be no agreement.
- Would consider other options for my children if the bus ride is too long.
- County needs reliable day care

- Is there money in the budget to help the drivers - put an aid on the bus - if a proposal makes long bus rides?
- Would you look at placing the 3 elementary schools at the current KCMS?
- Attractive schools could be the centerpiece for the county and would help to attract teachers.

Name: Francoise Sullivan

- Have heard there is talk about putting a daycare at the WES building
- Go to KCPS website. Forward slash consolidation gives full report. Survey is open on school website. Let people know.

Name: Bryan Matthews:

- Projection dates are stretching to 2040. At some point, new facilities will have to happen. Is the group considering of what is in the plan 20 to 30 years?

Tour of the School by Principal Amy Crowding. Mrs. Crowding took the group through the school pointing out areas of concern: Stairway that prevents the school from being ADA accessible. She outlined concerns with traffic patterns in the hallway next to the cafeteria. The cafeteria is undersized and the school has multiple lunch periods to accommodate larger student population.

The lockers are not needed in the school and there is a large space, formerly the shop area, that could be converted into classroom space. In addition, the locker rooms could also be converted into classroom spaces to accommodate the larger student population. She is currently using every space available for her staff and students. Mrs. Crowding also noted that the roof is in bad shape and needs to be replaced.

Reminder of Strategic Planning Committee meeting this Friday, Sept. 29th from 4:00 - 6:00 at KCMS. Open to public

Meeting adjourned at 8:00

Tour of Galena Elementary School offered to those in attendance