



Feedback received on Maimonides School Building Listening Sessions (Last Updated: 06/19/19)

Please note that this is a summary of and a listing of the input and comments gathered from attendees of the Maimonides School Building Listening Sessions on Tuesday, June 4, 2019; Thursday, June 6, 2019; and Tuesday, June 18, 2019. It is not intended to be comprehensive or capture all comments and input provided during these events and meetings. When questions were asked that could be answered at the sessions, they were answered then.

Summary of Most Frequently Heard Concerns/Comments

- Concerns about the youngest children going off site
- Negative impact of splitting the community
- Transportation, student drop off and pickup are major concerns. Many questions about how students would get to a Maimonides campus
- Negative impact and complications for families who would have students at both campuses; impact on drop off and pick up, impact on the siblings, etc.
- Do not want to transition students this September. It would be too quickly
- Concerns raised about after school and extended day programs and how students at the Maimonides campus would get to and participate in programs at Pierce and at private providers
- Concern about timeline - both for making a move this fall and the likelihood that the community would continue to be split through the renovatino project (5+ years)
- Use the space for something other than Pierce (specifically for BEEP and administrative offices)
- Any move has to be done in connection with and part of the renovation plan
- K-2 “could” move there **BUT**, not this year, only when the renovation is happening and transportation must be provided.

6/4 Listening Session

- Need to look at upper grades and identify if it is possible for Maimonides to work for more independent, older students.
 - Maimonides has stated no construction, but can we negotiate that we can change it to 6th-8th grade schools?
 - Would it be possible to have 9th graders at Maimonides?
 - PSB can't afford lease AND renovation.
- Really need to understand how to pick-up/drop-off for families with students at both locations.
- Could students at Pierce stay at Pierce until students travel back from Maimonides at the end of the school day?
- Could there be fewer logistical/operational issues with older children
- Older, independent kids benefit from access to this neighborhood
- Will Maimonides have dedicated spaces for music, art, etc.?
- What does the Pierce faculty think about this potential change?
- 5+ years is a really long time and will have a profound effect on the community.
- If we're using buses, is it possible to transport students between sites during the day?



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- What about having some K-4 at both locations so families aren't split?
- Concerned that we will have some other spaces + not get them back after we are done with Maimonides.
- Real concern about siblings not seeing one another during the school day .
- Any opportunity for changes in school assignment because other school's families may be closer to Maimonides than to Pierce?
- There does not seem to be a specific long term project plan, and there are so many variables.
- Encouraging that educational concerns are at the front of the thinking.
- What will the Pierce buildings become + how will they be used if 2 or 3 grades move to Maimonides?
- Are you planning to bus students; how will you address transportation?
- What is the plan for school nurses and cafeteria?
- Has the town considered taking or purchasing the houses across the street from Pierce?
- Personally opposed to busing as a means of transportation.
- Can parents have a choice? A choice based on some parameters (location, cars, etc.)
- Will staggered start times simplify or make it more complicated for families?
- This can be a great solution to the overcrowding at pierce and the many difficulties caused by the physical space.
- Could the \$\$\$ used for the lease be used instead to improve Pierce?
- Potential exists that with swing space for construction, students will be off-site for many reasons.
- Principal Lesley Ryan-Miller is an amazing leader + this change will make it much more difficult for the community to benefit from her leadership.
- A change like this will impact the entire school community, so the entire school community needs to have a say in it.
- Businesses will suffer if Pierce moves classrooms.
- What about Benefitness Health Club? Building is currently empty - can that be used?
- It's rushing to do this so quickly. It is too little time.
- There needs to be more options than just take it or leave it this September.
- Transportation between locations is important.
- Pierce School Extended Day and 4 or 5 other after-school programs pick up students here and Pierce and walk to their programs.
- What is the HVAC and air filtration system at Maimonides considering its proximity to route 9?
- What are the opportunities for 3-8 grades if we have more room at Pierce?
- What are the budgetary impacts given that leases may end and others will begin?
- What if you created a "new" school for specific grades at Maimonides for families that live near there?
- The opportunity to see older and younger students (class buddies) are very important.
- How would the space that is vacated be used? Would it all be used for Pierce or would it be used for other purposes?

6/6 Listening Session

- What is the bid process? Overview and Timeline?
- Maimonides want zero modifications to the space
- Can the town consider Maimonides for more than one of its needs outside of Pierce (i.e. BEEP and other stuff?)
- How many classrooms in Maimonides?
 - 16 K-6 classrooms and 8 small learning spaces
 - Small OT space
 - Large room with dividing wall for Cafeteria and Kitchen
 - 1 small playground and 1 small field
- What is the timing?
 - Can begin as early as September 2019
 - Logistically there will be a phase-in and move-in
- How is the decision made that campus is for K-2 kids?
 - Space is set up for younger children and developmentally inappropriate for middle school students.
- Families for students in both cohorts?
 - Transportation is out in the open. Busing discussed.
- Specialties/Nursing and other safety concerns at Maimonides?
 - Must increasing staffing so that there is access to both buildings.
 - Operational costs for specialties and increased FTE.
- Special Education services at Maimonides?
 - Learning center teachers staffed at location,
 - Possibility to have services on both.
 - Will special education teachers have to travel?
- Bid process will conclude in July and process will pick up in August
 - Digital communication and probably start of year.
 - A lot of answers will depend on SC decisions, expect to come in September.
- Extended Day Programs and input on the move?
 - Whatever works best for families .
- Who makes the ultimate decision in terms of logistics?
- We want PSB to make an effort to communicate when the decision is made.
- Make clear what the needs are to the School Committee
 - Learning, Community, and Logistical
 - How do we get kids from one place to another?
 - What is the impact of having two locations?
- There is a fear that process is moving too quickly for everyone to be heard and that learning is compromised because of that
- Mid-Term need for Swing Space; Community will be split for 4-5 years if Maimonides begins in September 2019



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- Mid-year transition is difficult and hard on families who have already entrenched themselves at start of the year: should aim for September 2020 move-in.
- This is a walking community; how will reconcile that with Maimonides move?
- Where will kids at Maimonides walk to after-school?
- What other advantages do we get besides space?
 - Better scheduling; reduce transition times with more accessibility to space and increased learning time
 - Better flexibility for individualized/specialized instruction
- Concern is the distance between the two campuses; Exchange early-rises program space with Maimonides
- Try to find a second space close to Pierce as possible
- Worry that we are thinking too hard on this: lots of variables - is this appropriate to our needs? Really clear on how we develop this
- Need to negotiate the process; absolutely critical to have Maimonides as swing space for construction; we want K-2
- How will school committee make the decision to decide how to use Maimonides?
 - Lots of listening. There might be hard decisions.
- How will BEEP be affected if Maimonides becomes K-2?
- Can we line it up so that Maimonides becomes swing space during Pierce construction?
- Can we have a later start date?
- How will vacated space at Pierce be used if Maimonides used?
- How will additional questions be answered?
- Transportation must be provided as part of logistics between the two campuses. If transportation is not in place, then September move-in is off the table.
- How will communication with ELE populations? Feedback mechanism with families who do not speak English at home.
 - Communications must include translations.
- How likely can we have a two-phased usage of space at Maimonides?
 - Is this a feasible solution?
 - What are the options?
- Role of educators in moving between locations?
 - Increased complexity for January move and logistics
- Moving spaces, is there a possibility to phase-in; is this logistically fair?
- Community space of benefit of having Maimonides?
- Move Town Hall offices so that 1st floor is a cafeteria and space?

6/18 Listening Session

- How does this interplay with the Pierce Renovation from a financial perspective?
 - Does it delay it?
 - Does it take away money that can be used?
- How is this budgeted for the Middle School?
- What is the cost of transportation and Insurances?
- If district offices or BEEP classrooms move, how does that help Pierce?
- Concerns about how families will get students to the new school
- Better to move offices and BEEP then to move Pierce
- Difficult in Winter for families without cars to get students to Maimonides and Pierce
- It will be very hard to have children at both sites
- Transportation is very important
- Important to stay at Pierce
- Working families would find transition difficult
- Administrative offices can be anywhere
- Early Education would need to travel anyway
- Could some Kindergarteners stay at Pierce and others go to Maimonides
- If there is a bus for students from Pierce, what happens if a student needs to arrive late because of an appointment?
- Shuttle bus can't address all of the transportation needs
- Families need to be kept informed as this decision is made and not be surprised
- Can all students be dropped off and picked up at Pierce? That would make it easier for families
- What would happen to Enrichment programs and After School?
- What would happen with ELE classes? Would K, 1, 2, ELE all move to Maimonides?
- What classes share spaces now in Pierce?
- Chinese enrollment may decrease because of the political situation.
- If K-2 students move to a new campus, fewer families will choose to come to Pierce
- Think about BEEP or older students

Web Form - A sample of the comments submitted that were not captured in the lists above

- If a Brookline Village area town office can shift to Maimonides, it could free up space nearby so that Pierce can use it
- The location would be a good swing space and allow for some potential satellite services in connection with the High School due to the proximity of the HS and Lincoln School.
- If a Brookline Village area town office can shift to Maimonides, it could free up space nearby so that Pierce can use it



- There seems to be no MASTER PLAN for the district. Short term projects and overflow concerns are fine- but where do they fit into a decisive plan?
- I think that the creation of a plan and materials to outline that (which can be referred to consistently) would be essential to success.
- I also feel that now is the time to reevaluate the METCO program. As valuable as this program might be for diversity, I submit that alleviating overcrowding by giving priority to families that actually reside in Brookline is more important.
- I would support using it for some grades but would not siphon off the upper grades - I am against the idea of a middle-school environment separated off from the younger students.
- Thank you for thinking about solutions and exploring options and seeking feedback.
- Please do not move the kids before construction - or try to limit the amount of time the community is split to as little time as possible. Definitely we are not ready (emotionally, physically, academically) for a move in fall of 2019.