

## **Suitland High School Project Update Meeting | June 5, 2023 Questions & Answers**

### **What are the timelines for each phase?**

Phase 1 is a 24-month duration, Phase 2 is 17 months, and Phase 3 is 11 months. The phases will overlap, so the total project duration is estimated to be 51 months.

### **I'm aware of the small gym (girl's) gym being demolished. Is there a new tentative completion date? The last date was 2026. Is this the same tentative final date?**

Completion of all 3 phases of the project is projected for Fall 2027.

### **How wide will the hallways be?**

The hallways are 10 feet clear.

### **Performance is very important to our CVPA students. Will the students completely lose the use of a performance space, and if so, when? And what accommodations will be made for the CBPA students?**

At the completion of Phase 1, the CVPA building will be demolished. At that time, the project leadership will work with school administration to identify new practice and performance spaces to be used in the interim while the new performance and practice spaces are being constructed.

### **When will Phase 1 be completed?**

Summer 2025

### **Initially, we were told that the project would be completed in 2025. Do you know what changed?**

Permitting challenges have caused some changes to the original schedule.

### **Has there been any financial downsizing since the original construction planning?**

We have been working diligently to develop cost-saving strategies to help mitigate increased project costs as a result of construction cost inflation. Due to the state of the industry, project costs have increased, but the Department has been and will continue to look for and develop cost-saving measures.

### **Have you gotten all the permits yet?**

Permits will be received in the next couple of weeks, which will allow for the start of construction and kick the project off.

### **Tell us more about spaces dedicated to teachers.**

There are teacher lounges and workspaces throughout the academic wing of the building.

### **What is the cost at this time?**

The agreement with the Joint Venture partner is not to exceed \$335 M in construction costs.



**Do you have all of the funding to complete all 3 phases of this project?**

Funding is set up based on a yearly request, and funding will be allocated for a 4- to 5-year period from both the state and the county. The Department has recently submitted for and received additional funding for this project from the state.

**What is the plan to be energy efficient to eliminate/recycle paper waste in the bathrooms and control temperatures in the building?**

PGCPS has a sustainability program that will ensure that proper waste and recycling receptacles are located throughout the building. As to temperature controls within the building, there will be a building management system, which runs the heating and cooling systems throughout the building, controlling temperature, humidity, and fresh air flow.

**What's the capacity for the enrollment rate?**

The school is being built to accommodate 2000 students: 1,500 for the high school and 500 for the CVPA program.

**Will there be metal detectors installed?**

No.

**Isn't the current auditorium a historic landmark?**

It does not have a historic landmark designation.

**Is the plan still to house the students at the current school throughout the construction of the new school?**

Yes. Students will stay in the current high school building until the end of Phase 1. Students will then be moved into the new high school building to allow for Phases 2 and 3 of the project.

**What will happen to the big trees in the current quad area?**

There will be an entirely new campus, which means all current trees and vegetation will be removed. However, a multitude of new trees and vegetation will be planted on the campus during Phase 3 of the project.

**What's the seating capacity in the auditorium?**

There will be 800 seats in the new auditorium. The dining commons will serve as an auxiliary space with a large projection screen and sound system, seating 400-500.

**How large will the cafeteria be?**

The dining commons is designed to accommodate 450 students.

**What permits are you all still waiting on receiving?**

We are awaiting the issuance of our site permits, which will allow us to commence the site construction activities.

**Will keys be necessary, or will doors be keyless (for teachers)?**

Both. The building will have card readers and intercoms at major entrances, but all doors will be keyed as well.

**Why was the number of seats lowered to 800?**

Due to Suitland's unique program, the building will have two theaters as opposed to 1. The main high school auditorium will accommodate 800 people, while the additional CVPA theater will accommodate 350.

**Will the switchover for heating and cooling be predicated on a specific date, or will it be like the current system?**

The district is moving to a system that allows for the electronic, remote control of the seasonal temperature switchover, as opposed to the current manual system.

**What is the hold-up with the site permit?**

The permitting process is one that includes multiple agencies and often entails a chain of approvals, meaning that one agency must approve the permit to move on to the next agency for approval. With the Suitland site permits, one agency raised some concerns over the water run-off plan and anticipated impacts that needed to be addressed prior to the permit moving forward.

**Will students key enter the buildings?**

No.

**Can you speak about traffic concerns after completion and its effect on the neighborhood?**

Traffic in and out of the site is not going to change from what it is now. All traffic will come in and out of the site through the current Silver Hill Road entrance. There will be no effects on the surrounding neighborhoods.

**What measures will be taken to prevent strangers from entering the buildings?**

All facilities have locked doors and key fobs. During arrival times, staff and security will be present. After that time, doors will be locked, and all visitors will need to be buzzed in through the security vestibule where they will need to sign in and present credentials.

**We need a central location for books, like a warehouse or a very large room, in order to centralize book distribution. Is that in the plan?**

No. There will be stacks of magazines, newspapers, and a selection of books, but the majority of the media center will be seating, working, and collaboration spaces. Students will have access to the District's digital catalog of books, which they can order, and it will be delivered to the school's media center and held for the requesting student.

**Why is the main partnered contractor for construction a company based in NY?**

The joint venture consists of Turner, a large international contractor, and Corenic, a local minority-owned contractor. Turner, though headquartered in New York, is well established in the DMV area and has been working locally since 1975. Turner is extremely experienced in PK-12 projects and is invested in Prince George's County and the District's goals.

**How will the apartment complex next to SHS be separated from the school?**

There will be 7-foot-high perimeter fencing surrounding the site except for the Silver Hill Road portion.

**Since the teachers from CTE will be relocated from the Main Building...will more temps be located at the Annex?**

No, during Phase 3 of the project, the annex building will be demolished to make space for the athletic fields. The CTE program will be moving out of Suitland and relocating to Carlson High School, which will be the CTE hub for the southern half of the county.

**What measures will be taken to prevent students from holding doors open to let strangers into the building?**

While there is nothing in the design that will prevent students from holding doors open, there are other security items and protocols that are in place to ensure anyone who enters the building is vetted and accounted for. These include security cameras, a secure vestibule, and security officers employed by the school's administration.

**I may have missed this information, but will there be a track field? If so, will it be available for the community to use?**

There will be a track around the football field in the stadium. There will also be an area adjacent to the stadium that is designated for field activities. These will be available for community use.

**What is the city's concern with the current plan for runoff?**

The concern was about potential water run-off and overflowing of streams that may occur during construction. These concerns have been addressed.