



## **Woodmore Elementary School Swing Information Session | April 25, 2023 Questions & Answers**

### **Was there a lead and asbestos abatement done? If so, were there any areas found to be contaminated?**

Our evaluation did not have to do with asbestos. We evaluated the building for structural issues and operational issues. If a building was determined to be "poor," the decision was to demolish the building and rebuild. That has been the decision across the board.

### **Will Meadowbrook Elementary School be occupied by its current students?**

There are no students currently attending Meadowbrook ES. The school is an available school district swing space.

### **Will before and after care swing with Woodmore?**

All before and after care is done solely through AlphaBest. Woodmore ES is working on the permitting process to ensure they can continue at the new location.

### **The current transportation has been troublesome, to say the least, this year. How do we know it won't be worse next year? What is the plan for improving transportation?**

The Transportation Department and all of PGCPs are doing everything possible to hire more bus drivers. So, we are in the planning phase now, trying to improve the on-time performance to get all students to school on time.

### **Where will be the new Fairwood location?**

Some property in the community was designated by the developer for us to build the school on. The ETA would be the fall of 2027.

### **Will Mr. Zanghi still be the principal?**

Yes.

### **What is the ETA for Fairwood Elementary opening?**

The ETA would be the fall of 2027.

### **What is Meadowbrook's address?**

3501 Moylan Drive, Bowie, MD 20715

### **Do we have access to the structural report's findings?**

When it is reported to the Board, it will be available. Currently, the report has yet to be fully reported.

**Will anything new be built in that location once the current Woodmore is demolished?**

Once the building is demolished, the building will be surplus back to the county. However, the Department of Capital Programs does not have any information on what the county's plans are for the location.

**What is the condition of Meadowbrook in terms of cleanliness?**

Meadowbrook has been well maintained, so it is available to the school district as a swing space. A new 250-seat modular was just added to the campus this year.

**Why were parents not notified earlier?**

We did not finalize the report until March. As soon as we were aware that Woodmore had issues, we started making arrangements to determine what options were available before we came to the community.

**Is the current Meadowbrook location an operating elementary school or an administrative office?**

Meadowbrook serves as a "swing space," and the District has swung several schools into the building. Currently, the Department of Capital Programs temporarily occupies the space while work occurs on its original office space. The Department is located in the brand-new ten-classroom modular unit of Meadowbrook ES. The modular was built for the recent Hyattsville MS school swing.

**Do we know why Meadowbrook was closed?**

It was closed several years ago due to population.

**Will they redo boundary lines?**

There have been boundary changes that have already occurred, which are not impacted by this swing plan, and those boundary changes will remain enforced.

**Why is the school being moved? If it's due to structural reasons, why not rebuild at the same location?**

If the District builds at a new location, it can build a bigger, better location. It will also be more centrally located so more students can attend. As well the county has a plan for the site.

**Will there be two new schools built, a new Woodmore ES and a new Fairwood? Or will the Woodmore name change to Fairwood Elementary?**

There will be one school built, not two.

**Will the new location be called Woodmore?**

A final decision has not been made at this time.

**Will there be an opportunity to see the swing location prior to the first day of school?**

Yes. Principal Zanghi completed walkthroughs of the space and is advocating for families to have the opportunity to see the space before the start of school. Families can expect additional information regarding those opportunities at a later date.

**What is the plan for car riders? It has been challenging; will that be improved at the swing location?**

All students will be provided transportation to the swing site. The District and the school have not outlined a plan specifically for car riders at this time. However, Principal Zanghi is scheduled to meet with the Safety Office to develop one. The Safety Office will view what dismissal looks like at Woodmore ES currently, review the Meadowbrook ES site, and then help the Woodmore ES leadership team map out a plan. We understand this may be a challenge, but the District will provide support to ensure the best plan is in place.

**Will Woodmore be a swing school until 2027?**

The Woodmore ES building will be demolished. The Woodmore ES school program will remain at the swing location of Meadowbrook ES until 2027.

**Where would I park my car to pick up my child?**

The school administrative team, with support from Transportation, will develop an arrival/dismissal plan.

**Your presentation references the 23/24 school year at Meadowbrook. Will the students remain there until 2027?**

Yes, students will remain at Meadowbrook until Summer of 2027.

**With the move to Fairwood, will there be a rezoning of the school district for students attending?**

No.

**Could you respond again to the lead and asbestos findings?**

No lead or asbestos investigation was conducted. The investigation that was conducted focused solely on structural and equipment conditions.

**Will students be in classrooms indoors or in a temporary classroom (such as trailer style)?**

Woodmore will occupy both spaces at Meadowbrook. A new modular building was constructed this year at the school site.

**Does Meadowbrook score better structurally?**

Yes, much better.

**Understanding that before and after care are aware of the move, is there a plan to make sure before and after is in place at Meadowbrook ES before the 2023-2024 school year begins?**

That is the goal. The before and after care program that the school has already started the permitting process to have its program at Meadowbrook ES. We will continue to keep families up to date with that process.

**Why isn't Meadowbrook currently being used as an elementary school for students?**

The school district uses this school as an available swing space when needed.

**Will there be tour or orientation opportunities?**

Yes, there will be an opportunity for families to tour or have orientation at the Meadowbrook ES location prior to the start of the school year.

**How long will they be in a temporary school?**

From Fall 2023 - Summer 2027.

**Are they going to put more parking at Meadowbrook to accommodate car riders?**

Currently, there is no plan to change the parking lot. Once the dismissal process has been studied, there may be an opportunity to address the bus lane, but no additional parking will be added.

**Will Woodmore ES be the only students occupying the new Meadowbrook ES in 2027?**

Yes, only Woodmore ES students will be attending Meadowbrook.

**How far is the new location from the present school?**

Approximately 7 miles.

**Is it too late to transfer to another school?**

The Associate Superintendent for Elementary Schools will be speaking to the Transfers office to determine if an extension is possible. If an extension is granted, then communications about the extension will come from Woodmore ES school leadership.

**When will we be able to see the floor plans for the new school?**

Floor plans are provided in the presentation.

**Do families have the option to attend another school if they were offered, e.g., TAG?**

**Since parents were just notified well after the deadline to apply, can we revisit this?**

Please email that concern to both the Office of Student Records, Transfers and Archival Services and the TAG office, and we will see what we can do to assist you provided you were already offered the TAG program.

**What will happen to the Woodmore Elementary site?**

It will be surplus to the county.



**What is the acreage of the swing school vs Woodmore?**

It is approximately the same size.

**Is the new Woodmore ES still up to the 5th grade only?**

Yes. Grade levels will remain the same.

**Is Meadowbrook handicap accessible?**

Yes.

**Will there still be an adequate Teacher to Student ratio?**

The teacher/student ratio will not be impacted by this swing.

**Will other schools be part of the swing location? If so, what schools?**

No, only Woodmore ES will be going to Meadowbrook.

**Will the student population at the new school be larger or similar to Woodmore current population?**

Same. The entire Woodmore population will be moving to Meadowbrook.

**Can we ensure AlphaBest is at the school?**

The school has already started the permitting process to have its program at Meadowbrook ES. We will continue to keep families up to date with that process.

**Does Meadowbrook have modern technology in the classroom? If not, will classroom technology from Woodmore be moved to Meadowbrook?**

Everything currently in Woodmore ES will be moved over to Meadowbrook ES. It is our intention to make sure there are adequate materials for instruction, including technology.

**Will class size change?**

No, there will be no impact on class sizes.

**If WES was so poor structurally, why did it take so long to make this change? What is the plan ongoing for improving the quality of our schools?**

Woodmore ES was part of a study of 84 schools. This was part of an initiative to evaluate school buildings and determine where funds should be spent for schools that may have deteriorated faster than anticipated. We grouped schools that had a history of steam leaks or were built around a period of time. We performed the study on all roughly 84 schools and schools that were given the grade of poor. It was decided to demolish or surplus. Schools that require moderate repairs will be repaired. Currently, planning is underway to determine funding for those schools. However, this is an opportunity for the elementary school to be included in the District's innovative Alternative Construction Finance (ACF) program. Through this financing model, the District can fund the construction of a new elementary school while the school community temporarily occupies a swing facility. The new facility will include state-of-the-art technology, safety features, and new furnishings and fixtures.



**Do you think it would be wise to check out the asbestos level in Woodmore and the new location?**

The Meadowbrook ES location has been abated for its previous swings. If Woodmore ES is determined to need abatement, it will occur once demolition begins.

**Can parents be notified in a timely manner about the AlphaBest permitting process? If they cannot be in place by the first day of school, parents will need to know ahead of time to make arrangements.**

Once the District or School has confirmation, that information will be shared with families.

**Is this school larger than the current Woodmore building?**

With the addition of the new modular building, the Meadowbrook site is larger - by capacity.

**Will school hours change?**

There will be no change to the school hours.

**At the swing space, is there a plan to improve the drop-off and pick-up of students so parents don't have to sit in their cars waiting for long periods of time?**

The school administration and Transportation team will work together to develop a pick-up/drop-off plan for the swing location.

**Can children transfer to Kingsford Elementary?**

The Associate Superintendent for Elementary Schools will speak to the Transfers office to determine if an extension is possible. If an extension is granted, then communications about the extension will come from Woodmore ES school leadership.

**Have other before and aftercare programs been notified and agreed to transport children still?**

They have not been notified yet. The District wanted to ensure families were contacted first. After this meeting, the District and school leadership will work together to contact those programs that service our schools to make sure they are aware.

**Will the bell from the original school on Woodmore's grounds that sits in the main lobby move into the temporary location and/or the new building?**

Principal Z will ensure the bell has a prominent spot at the new location. Leadership is currently looking into how to arrange that.

**Will the Fairwood school end in fifth grade?**

Yes.

**Are there any supports the Woodmore School community may need in making this transition over the Summer or in the Fall when they start?**

The school administration also stands ready to provide support.



**Who do we email regarding the TAG enrollment request since being notified of this swing?**

You may send the email to our TAG office or email Dr. Lassiter at [Kassandra.Lassiter@pgcps.org](mailto:Kassandra.Lassiter@pgcps.org).

**What is the transfer process?**

Please refer to the website here: [www.pgcps.org/offices/student-records-transfers-and-archival-services/how-to-request-a-student-transfer](http://www.pgcps.org/offices/student-records-transfers-and-archival-services/how-to-request-a-student-transfer)

**Will the new Fairwood school be the same student population as Woodmore is currently?**

There will likely be more students if another school is merged into the current Woodmore ES population.

**Do you anticipate an increased enrollment of students once the new site is completed?**

Yes.

**Why didn't Woodmore continue in its current state while the new school was being constructed?**

The structural study results showed a poor rating, and PGCPs recently was able to identify funding now to build a new school.

**Will there be frequent communications on the progress?**

Additional communications about the swing plan will be communicated through regular school communications. Communications about construction progress at the new Fairwood location will come from the Department of Capital Programs through community meetings and website updates.

**When can we access the new school blueprints (Fairwood Location)?**

The Blueprint Schools Program, or Alternative Construction Financing program, allows the developer to create the school blueprint. The District has not selected a developer for the project yet. Plans would likely be developed by early 2025.

**Are there any concerns about overcrowding if the new location might be smaller than the current school?**

The new site has a larger student capacity. There will be no overcrowding as a result of this swing plan.

**What will the name of the school be next year and in 2027? Are we sticking with WES or Fairwood Elementary?**

The final decision has not been made.

**I'm optimistic, but has this process been executed successfully in PG County previously such that you are confident in the timeline?**

Yes, we will get this done. PGCPs is opening five new schools this fall - on time!

**Will Woodmore offer the same programs and clubs at the swing location?**

Principal Zanghi cannot promise that the same programs and clubs will be offered, but the school's location has no impact on that. If teachers are available to oversee the clubs, then the school will support them as usual.

**How will the swing impact the welcoming of incoming kindergartners? Will it be just as informative as it has been at Woodmore?**

Principal Zanghi will continue to have an orientation day where they can come in and meet their teachers. The only difference is that we will likely have the same opportunity for the other grades served. More information to come.

**Will the community have a say in the new building's name?**

Yes, there is a PGCPs administrative procedure (3500) that governs the naming of schools.

**Who will share the blueprints once they are selected?**

The Office of Alternative Infrastructure Planning and Development (Blueprint Schools Program) will host community meetings where the developers selected will present to the community on plans and progress.

**How long will it take for Woodmore to be back?**

Summer of 2027, the new school will open.

**Will all the current teachers and staff of WES transfer to Meadowbrook if they choose?**

Yes, all staff will swing to the new site.

**Are we going by the school name of Meadowbrook? Or are we still known as Woodmore ES next year?**

Woodmore ES will remain the name of the school during the swing.

**How will teachers pack their rooms up? How will teachers unpack before the school year starts?**

The teachers will be provided with boxes and labels by a professional move vendor before the end of school. However, the swing will not take place until mid-summer 2023, so teachers have time to pack up their classrooms. The moving company will ensure all materials are moved over to the swing space. Before the start of the 2023-2024 school year, teachers will unpack their classrooms per usual.

**Will Meadowbrook offer summer meal programs for 2023**

School and District leadership will discuss and communicate to families if this will take place.

**Will the new Fairwood site be k-8 or still k-5?**

It will be a K-5.

**Certain companies send items to teachers based upon the current address, for example, donors Choose. Will our address be updated so we can receive our mail?**

Yes, addresses will be updated.



**Will the school hours remain the same as WES hours?**

Yes, the school hours will not change.

**Will the bus pick-up times change?**

There may be some adjustments but no drastic changes.

**Will the county demolish the old site?**

Yes.

**Does Meadowbrook have a gym or other benefits that Woodmore doesn't?**

There are some benefits to the building. There's a very large dance studio that will be used as a gym. There are more classrooms that have their own bathroom for potentially some of the younger grades. The playground area is much newer and larger than at the current Woodmore ES. The facilities are a bit more up-to-date and have more natural light. The Meadowbrook ES also has a new ten-classroom modular unit.

**Should we be testing our kids for lead?**

No. There is no issue with lead that the District is aware of.

**What are the other five schools being completed during this period?**

Drew-Freeman MS

Sonia Sotomayor at Adelphi MS

Kenmoor MS

Walker Mill MS

Hyattsville MS

**With teacher shortage, how will a larger population at the new building in 2027 positions be filled?**

We will work with our human resources department to address staffing and filling vacancies.

**Will Woodmore's phone number remain the same?**

Yes.

**Is Meadowbrook School two stories with the portables or just one story?**

It is two stories and a 10-classroom modular unit. The modular unit also includes bathrooms.

**If we choose to transfer to Kingsford, will transportation be provided by the county, or would we be considered out of boundary?**

Transportation is not provided for transfers.

**Where will this presentation be so we can look back on it?**

Yes, the presentation will be available on the Department of Capital Programs site found here: [offices.pgcps.org/cip/](https://offices.pgcps.org/cip/).

**Which school can we apply to for pre-k students?**

Please check the [pgcps.org](http://pgcps.org) website.

**What is a portable?**

A portable is a standalone classroom. A modular is a building that contains multiple classrooms and bathroom facilities. What is at Meadowbrook is a new modular.

**Are there going to be water coolers at Meadowbrook? Or do we still have to utilize Deer Park?**

Deer Park.

**Why did the community not have a say in decision-making regarding building a new school at a new location versus a new one at the same location?**

The District's Master Plan dictates a lot of the actions taken. The District would have built a new school at Fairwood and merged the Woodmore ES population with an additional population. Due to Woodmore ES's poor structural rating, it has accelerated this timeline. We encourage you to review the Educational Facilities Master Plan and Capital Improvement Program on our website: [offices.pgcps.org/cip/](http://offices.pgcps.org/cip/).

**So why not continue at the current location until the completion of the new school?**

The structural study revealed a poor rating at Woodmore ES, and the funding was made available to support the building of a new school.

**Will the 5th graders at Woodmore still be allowed to have the graduation ceremony at the current Woodmore?**

Yes, Woodmore will complete this school year at the current location.

**Do you know why the students can't stay at Woodmore until the new school is finished?**

The structural study revealed a poor rating at Woodmore ES, and the funding was made available to support the building of a new school.

**Are more resources going to be invested in the buses? The buses are already late or don't show up. Since our children will be bused further?**

Across the United States, school districts are short on bus drivers. We are doing everything we can to retain and recruit bus drivers.

**Are the multiple school renovations through 2028 only for elementary schools? Or does it include middle and high school?**

The renovations and new builds include elementary schools, middle schools, high schools, and K-8s.

**Say more about the poor rating of the school.**

The Department of Capital Programs noticed a theme of issues in schools that were built in the 1960s and 1970s that had a steam plant. The Department hired four engineering firms to review the buildings over a four or five-month period and develop a report. Most of the buildings came



back "fair "or "satisfactory," a small portion came back "good," and a small portion came back "poor." What "poor" means is that there were so many structural systems (roof, floors, etc.) that needed repair. It was recommended to move students out and demolish as it would be more cost-efficient to build a new building. The new building will have all new furnishings and technology and be designed to be energy efficient.

**Why not build at the same location?**

The property will be surplus back to the county.

**Is there a list of all the new schools that will be rolling out in the coming years? (2026-2028)**

Please visit the Department of Capital Programs website to review all major school construction projects: <https://offices.pgcps.org/cip/>.