

Rock Terrace School/Tilden Middle School Roundtable Discussion Group

Summary of Meeting #5—February 12, 2015

The Rock Terrace School/Tilden Middle School Roundtable Discussion Group (Roundtable) met for its fifth meeting on February 12, 2015. The meeting was held in the Library Media Center of Tilden Middle School from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. The materials handed out at the meeting follow this summary.

Ms. Deborah S. Szyfer, senior planner, Division of Long-range Planning, Department of Facilities Management, Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS), and Mr. Paul Falkenbury, u, from Samaha Associates PC, facilitated the meeting. Ms. Szyfer reviewed the agenda, outcomes for the meeting, and the feedback from the previous meeting. The Roundtable members shared input that was received from the Rock Terrace School and Tilden Middle School Parent Teacher Associations and meetings with school staff members.

The remainder of the meeting was dedicated to identifying opportunities and challenges associated with the possible collocation of Rock Terrace School and Tilden Middle School. The discussion was organized into the following categories:

- Programmatic
- Administration
- Art/Music/Physical Education/Library Media Center
- Professional Development
- Teacher/Staff/Student Needs.

The notes that were taken during the meeting follow this summary.

Maryvale Elementary School/Carl Sandburg Learning Center Roundtable Advisory Committee

Agenda
February 12, 2015, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.
Tilden Middle School

Desired Outcomes

By the end of this meeting, we will have:

- Reviewed outcomes, agenda, and feedback items;
- Discussed PTA and staff input;
- Discussed various aspects of the possible collocation;
 - Programmatic
 - Administration
 - Art/Music/PE/IMC
 - Professional Development
 - Teacher/Staff/Student Needs;
- Discussed next steps and provided feedback.

Activity	Facilitator(s)	Process	Time
Review of Agenda, Outcomes, and Feedback	Debbie Szyfer	Review/Inform	7:00-7:05 5'
Discussed PTA and staff input	Debbie Szyfer	Review/Inform	7:05-7:15 10'
Discuss Programmatic Opportunities/Challenges	Gwendolyn Mason/ Debbie Szyfer	Discuss/Clarify/Capture	7:15-7:30 15'
Discuss Administrative Opportunities/Challenges	Gwendolyn Mason/ Debbie Szyfer	Discuss/Clarify/Capture	7:30-7:50 10'
Discuss Art/Music/PE/IMC Opportunities/Challenges	Gwendolyn Mason/ Debbie Szyfer	Discuss/Clarify/Capture	7:50-8:00 10'
Discuss Professional Development Opportunities/Challenges	Gwendolyn Mason/ Debbie Szyfer	Discuss/Clarify/Capture	8:00-8:10 10'
Discuss Teacher/Staff/Student Needs	Gwendolyn Mason/ Debbie Szyfer	Discuss/Clarify/Capture	8:10-8:25 15'
Next Steps and Feedback	Debbie Szyfer	Determine/Share	8:25-8:30 5'

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Summary of Meeting #4—February 4, 2015

The Rock Terrace School/Tilden Middle School Roundtable Discussion Group (Roundtable) met for its fourth meeting on February 4, 2015. The meeting was held in the Library Media Center of Rock Terrace School from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. The materials handed out at the meeting follow this summary.

Ms. Bruce Crispell, director, Division of Long-range Planning (DLRP), Department of Facilities Management, Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS), introduced himself and indicated that he was substituting for Ms. Debbie Szyfer, senior planner (DLRP), who had to attend another meeting. Mr. Crispell reviewed the agenda and then followed with discounting and providing clarification regarding rumors and misinformation about the Rock Terrace/Tilden Middle School Collocation Roundtable discussions.

Mr. Paul Falkenbury, from Samaha Associates PC, reviewed each of the remaining six collocation concepts. The participants proceeded with the task of reviewing the pros and cons of collocation concepts 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, & 8. The discussion included the following key items/concerns:

- Emergency Preparedness
- Safety issues
- Adaptive Playground area
- Greenhouse location
- Parking for staff

A summary of the pros and cons for each concept follows this summary.

At the conclusion of the meeting Mr. Crispell discussed the need to schedule time to meet with the constituents that they represent to present the concepts and solicit input. It was suggested that talking points be provided by MCPS staff to each principal for the PTA and staff meetings. Printouts of the concepts would be provided for the constituent meetings. The Roundtable will continue its discussion about the possible collocation at the next meeting, scheduled for February 12, 2015, in the Library Media Center at Tilden Middle School.

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Concept 1

Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Separate entrances• Separate bus loops• Easy access for Tilden to outdoor space from cafeteria• Clear identities for both schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bus loop & main entrance for Tilden on opposite ends• Not as cost effective• Rock Terrace needs easier access to fields without crossing service area• More land footprint covered (less green space)• Tilden MS not on Tilden Lane• Tilden doesn't have access to adaptive play area• Greenhouse closer to parking• Adaptive play area too close to road (safety)• 3rd story too close to Marcliff Road and neighbors• Adaptive play area too close to bus loop

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Concept 3

Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Want more separation between schools• Want better separate identities of schools• Main entrances connected to bus loops	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No separation between two schools• Culinary Arts not near kitchen; if separate kitchen, ok• Greenhouse should be connected to school• Garden area should be close to greenhouse• Need clear delineation of which school is which, especially w/entrances so close together• Need daylight access in Rock Terrace dining• Adaptive play area close to parking and service

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Concept 4

Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3 courtyards• Separate gyms• Combined courtyard for schools to share• Greenhouse location	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Basketball and tennis courts are far away from Rock Terrace• Two parking lots—can there be one?• No wellness track• Overlapping fields• No stage for Rock Terrace• Combined courtyard• Athletics together• Rock Terrace classrooms have strange configuration• Not enough sun for greenhouse• Entrances too close together• All buildings need computer labs/space to access computers outside the classroom Separate

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Concept 5

Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Separate administration/school entrances• Tilden Middle School is on Tilden Lane• Dining has easy access to outdoors• Outdoor student areas separate from traffic (safer)• Service space works w/parking• Greenhouse location—seems to have room for garden beds	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Shared bus loop—chaotic (All special education buses at Tilden Middle School leave early)• Main entrance for Rock Terrace hidden• Adaptive play area needs to be isolated from distractions (switch adaptive play area with tennis courts)• 3rd story on Tilden Lane closer to neighbors• Separate administration and media centers

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Concept 7

Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shared administrative suite • Shared media center • Walking loop for both schools • Separate main entrances • 3rd story tucked in away from street/neighbors • Service area doesn't have to be crossed • Location of greenhouse – lots of sunlight • Cool shape • Easy parking access for both schools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rock Terrace far from fields • Adaptive play area close to parking • Greenhouse location to road • Loss of green space • Collocate parking – save green space • Too far to outside from dining • Need to provide room for garden beds – 8 – 4' x 10's near greenhouse • Shared bus loop – looks like they could be separated • Tilden Middle School cafeteria too far from exterior fields/courts

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Concept 8

Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tilden can exit straight outside from dining • Athletics together • Don't need to cross over service drive to exit • Long corridors provide accessible link between schools • Separate media centers • Don't cross service lane to get to play area • Admin. Space is close but not shared • Separate entrances • 1 parking/save green space 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where is Tilden drop off? • Separate media centers • Rock Terrace dining area doesn't have windows • Admin. Space isn't shared • Put garden beds near greenhouse • Parking/access to Rock Terrace is difficult • Shared bus loop (need to be spread apart and made into two) • Service access to Rock Terrace is limited • Too much shared space • Crowded hallways near gym—problematic for Rock Terrace—Can the gyms be switched? • Doesn't make sense for Tilden Middle School to go through Rock Terrace to get to 2nd gym

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Staff and Parent Feedback

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Tilden PTA Feedback

- No kids on main road
- Outside access after lunch
- Maximize green space-share space
- Separate student drop-off
- Shared parking
- Future for expansion of Tilden Middle School

Tilden Staff Feedback

- Like two distinct entrances
- Accessibility to outside during lunch
- Not much energy for shared LMC
Yes to much energy shared building service, cafeteria
- Stage—full size stage for both schools
- Noisy classes near each other
- Stage—what role could foundation play in larger stage?
- PE-stage for table tennis; concern about size of auxiliary gyms to support table tennis
- Green space-maximize
- Tilden on Tilden Lane
- What is 1st thing you seen on site?
- Schedules-what if they are aligned; could schools share one bus loop?
- Adaptive physical education area-noise area-need for quiet area

Rock Terrace Parent Teacher Group Feedback

- Sensory room
- Fields ok-no need for adaptive physical education area
- Wellness path a good idea
- Separate spaces
- Classrooms toward back
- Specials in central location
- Concern with Montgomery College and Dawson's Market and relationship to school
- Meet the needs for students programmatically-noise and sensory needs-1 versus 2 bldgs.
- Therapy pool

Rock Terrace Staff Feedback

- Fenced area for adaptive physical education area-good idea
- Location of adaptive physical education area; should be located in the rear of the school
- Full size basketball court
- Full size stage
- Fitness room needed

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Opportunities and Challenges

February 12, 2015

Physical Education/Stage/Cafeteria/Art/Music

- Could Rock Terrace School share Tilden Middle School Weight Room
- Possibility to provide an adaptive PE gym for the LFI and Rock Terrace students
- Could schools share one larger stage? Both schools have a theater program. Also, Rock Terrace School holds its Graduation during day on the stage.
- Noise between dining
- Rock Terrace-Wellness Path
- Possible inclusion opportunity for Rock Terrace students in PE/Music/
- Possible inclusion opportunities for Tilden MS students Culinary Arts/Horticulture/Shop
- LFI students included in choral and art with Tilden Middle School
- Make some spaces larger b/c of paraeducators at Tilden Middle School
- Both schools require outdoor PE area. How will the spaces be shared?
- Rock Terrace-Concern PE will be reduced to and not have access to fields, Tennis/basketball courts
- PE staff from both schools would need to work on master schedule
- Rock Terrace Greenhouse attached consider ☀️ +Garden Beds

Library Media Center

- Could this space be shared?
- Rock Terrace needs equal access to the Library Media Center used
- LMC used all day for instruction by Tilden MS
- High and upper school kids using space with middle school
- Separate room for Sensory needs

Rock Terrace Instructional Area	BOOKS/shelving				Tilden Instructional Areas			
(Acoustic/Lighting Treatment)								

Administration

- Rock Terrace Consulting with a General Education Teacher vise a versa + cross pollination-Tilden
- Rock Terrace staff access to copiers-Tilden
- Rock Terrace two separate entrances-Tilden + administrative suites collocated Door between for needs counseling/staff
- Rock Terrace distributed as 1st responders

- Walkie talkies-How do they work it out with two schools? Separate channels + one shared
- Public Address system—one system or two?

Programmatic

- Opportunity for inclusion field trips and assemblies outdoor education
- Opportunities for Tilden Middle School to take advantage of Rock Terrace programs (career oriented for High School)
- Start times/Scheduling-How does inclusion work?

Facilities/Site

- NOISE/Light/Age sensitivities need to be addressed
- Separate entrances for Tilden Middle School signature students and Rock Terrace School
- Parent drop-off for Tilden Middle School needs to be addressed
- Front Entrances—Rock Terrace prefers cozy over grand whereas Tilden MS prefers grand
- Health Room—can it be shared? Works elsewhere 18–21 yr. olds. Need to consider privacy and supervision. Consider no walls in the rest area