Rock Terrace School
Tilden Middle School
Roundtable Discussion Group
Public Information Meeting
March 4, 2015
Agenda

- Introductions
- Background
- Roundtable Discussion Group
- Facility Concepts
- Timeline
- Questions and Answer
- Feedback Forms
Background

Gwendolyn Mason

Director

Department of Special Education Services
Background—Rock Terrace School

- Serves students ages 12-21, countywide
- Focuses on school-to-work programs for students with cognitive disabilities
- Assessed for revitalization/expansion through FACT in 2010–2011
- Received highest score in last FACT assessment; greatest need of all secondary schools
- Rock Terrace School is in need of an up-to-date facility to support students and programs
Background—Tilden MS

- Tilden MS scheduled for revitalization/expansion project in August 2019
- Currently housed on Old Georgetown Road in the closed Woodward High School facility
- Tilden MS is scheduled to move back to the Tilden Lane location
- Tilden MS is centrally located in the county with good access and large middle school site
- Signature Programs include LFI, Aspergers, and LAD
MSDE Capital Funding

- Rock Terrace School in need of an up-to-date facility
- Unlikely to acquire state funding for stand-alone special education centers
- State has funded collocated special education centers
  - MCPS example—Matsunaga ES/Longview School
- Students in stand-alone centers have limited instructional and social opportunities for participation with non-disabled peers when appropriate
BOE Policy IOB—Education of Students with Disabilities

- Improve educational results by assuring access to instruction in the general education class to the maximum extent possible.

- Participate to the maximum extent possible students with disabilities with non-disabled peers in all aspects of school life, including academic, social, and extracurricular activities.

- Provide a continuum of services for students with disabilities and educating them in the least restrictive environment appropriate for the child.
Roundtable Discussion Group

Deborah Szyfer
Senior Planner
Division of Long-range Planning
Roundtable Discussion Group

- On October 28, 2014, superintendent of schools recommended Roundtable to explore possible collocation of Rock Terrace School and Tilden Middle School
- On November 17, 2014 Board of Education approved the Roundtable
Roundtable Discussion Group Charge

- Review the possibility of collocating the Rock Terrace School and Tilden Middle School
- Collocation
  - Not full inclusion
  - Supports BOE and MSDE goals
  - Provides to the maximum extent appropriate interaction of students with disabilities with non-disabled peers in all aspects of school life, including academic, social, and extracurricular activities
Roundtable Discussion Group Charge

- Roundtable Discussion Group:
  - Guided staff and architects in preparing concepts to collocate the two schools on the Tilden MS site
  - Analyzed each of the concepts
  - Serves in an advisory role to the superintendent
  - Submits a summary report to the superintendent that include analysis of each site concept

- Roundtable is **not** a decision-making forum and will **not** vote on any of the concepts
Roundtable Representation

- Staff and parents from Rock Terrace School
- Staff and parents from Tilden Middle School
- MCCPTA Special Populations Committee
- Walter Johnson Cluster
- Staff from Walter Johnson High School
MCPS Staff Role

- Facilitated Roundtable meetings
- Developed concepts with architect
- Provided information requested by Roundtable
Roundtable Activities

- Identified opportunities for special education students to receive instruction in the general education setting to the maximum extent appropriate
- Discussed the facility and site implications
- Conducted site visits to other collocated and soon to be special education programs
- Analyzed the building and site concepts developed by Samaha Architects, PC
Roundtable Criteria

- Plan the physical structures with logistical aspects in mind to ensure that all programmatic needs are addressed
- Meet sensory, motor, and behavioral needs of all students
- Respect and preserve identity of each school
- Provide opportunities for students to interact when appropriate
- Provide supports to teachers to enable successful inclusion outcomes
- Make sure the facilities are built with the future in mind to accommodate future enrollment and technology changes
Roundtable Criteria

- Keep the needs of the neighborhood with respect to transportation and parking
- Maintain career experiences for Rock Terrace School students
- Maintain outdoor space at Tilden Middle School that is unique to the school culture
- Maintain autonomy and integrity of Rock Terrace School and Tilden Middle School for the students
- Create a state-of-the-art facility—cutting edge and innovative
- Be mindful of the sensory needs of the student
- Extra sensitive communication in a building (implementation)
Planning Grid

- Table that documents and tracks issues and questions raised by Roundtable
- Will be included as part of the roundtable report

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Opportunity/Challenge</th>
<th>Response/Proposed Recommendation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Facility Issues</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Will the revitalization/expansion project for Tilden MS be delayed due to the possible collocation?</td>
<td>The timing of the Tilden MS revitalization/expansion project will not be impacted by the possible collocation with Rock Terrace School.</td>
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<tr>
<td>What is the cost for the possible collocation of Tilden MS and Rock Terrace School?</td>
<td>No cost estimates have been developed for the possible collocation. If the Board of Education approves the collocation of the two schools, a feasibility study will follow which will determine the scope and cost for the collocation of the two schools.</td>
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Facility Concepts

Developed by Samaha Architects, PC

Paul Falkenbury
Principal
Tilden MS Site
Concept 1

Pros
- Separate entrances and bus loops
- Easy access for Tilden to outdoor space from cafeteria
- Clear identities for both schools
- Some school staff members like two building concept

Cons
- Bus loop & main entrance for Tilden on opposite ends
- Not as cost effective
- Rock Terrace needs easier access to fields
- Bigger footprint/less green space
- Tilden doesn’t have access to adaptive physical education area
- Adaptive play area too close to road (safety)
- 3rd story too close to Marcliff Road and neighbors
- Repeats all spaces that could be shared (i.e. building services, kitchen)
- Students would have to go outside to visit other school
- Doesn’t promote social inclusion
Concept 3

Pros
- Two separate entrances with shared administration suite
- Main entrances connected to bus loops
- Economies of scale with shared Administration and staff areas
- Maneuverability between schools better than Option 1
- Tilden MS has good access to fields

Cons
- No separation between two schools
- Culinary Arts not near kitchen
- Garden area should be close to greenhouse
- Need clear delineation schools
- Need daylight access in Rock Terrace dining
- Adaptive physical education area close to parking and service
- Rock Terrace does not have good access to fields
- Music next to classroom (noise)
## Concept 4

### Pros
- 3 courtyards
- Separate gyms
- Combined courtyard for schools to share
- Greenhouse location
- Clearly defined school division
- Separate entrances; shared administration
- Music room proximity to cafeteria/gym and other classes (noise)

### Cons
- Basketball and tennis courts are far away from Rock Terrace
- Combined courtyard
- Concern with location of greenhouse
- Entrances too close together
- Large building footprint
- Adaptive physical education area close to parking and service
- Shared media center
- Service area too close to adaptive physical education area
Concept 5

Pros
- 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 area works with parking
- Greenhouse location—seems to have room for garden beds
- Tilden is visible from Tilden Lane
- Offices are separate

Cons
- Rock Terrace main entrance is hidden
- 3rd story on Tilden Lane closer to neighbors
- Separate administration and media centers
- Adaptive physical education area not adjacent to Rock Terrace building and between basketball and tennis courts not ideal
- Tilden MS entrance should face street not woods
- Music next to classroom (noise)
- Administration office should be central
Concept 7

Pros
- Separate main entrances with shared administrative suite
- Shared media center
- 3rd story tucked in away from street/neighbors
- Service area doesn’t have to be crossed
- Location of greenhouse provides ideal sunlight
- Cool shape
- Easy parking access for both schools
- Aesthetically pleasing from Tilden Lane

Cons
- Rock Terrace far from fields
- Adaptive play area too close to parking
- Greenhouse location not ideal
- Loss of green space
- Parking not shared
- Tilden Middle School cafeteria too far from courts
- Rock Terrace students cannot access courts
- Music next to classrooms—noise
- Location of service area near Rock Terrace
Concept 8

**Pros**
- Tilden dining adjacent to courts
- Athletics together
- Long corridors provide accessible link between schools
- Separate media centers
- Good location for service area
- Administration space is close but not shared
- Two Separate entrances
- Shared parking
- Best plan
- Seems to preserve green space
- Shared parking
- Outdoor fields close to Rock Terrace

**Cons**
- Administration and media centers not shared
- Rock Terrace dining area doesn’t have windows
- Parking/access to Rock Terrace is difficult
- Location of gyms—Tilden students would need to go through Rock Terrace to get to 2nd gym
- Entrances too close
- Music next to classrooms—noise
Superintendent and Board Timeline
Superintendent’s Recommendation

- Will consider the analyses and input from the roundtable and community
- Will make a recommendation on March 23, 2015
- Will not impact the revitalization/expansion schedule for Tilden MS (August 2019)
BOE Timeline

- April 14, 2015  BOE Work session
- April 27, 2015  Public Hearing
- May 12, 2015  Final Action

- If collocation is approved by the BOE, it would occur at the completion of the revitalization/expansion projects of both schools.
Questions/Answers

www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/planning/CommunityInfo_Roundtable.shtml