

Summary of Feedback from Public Information Meeting on March 4, 2015

Attendees

of parents attending (if multiple schools, elementary school was used for the count):

Luxmanor ES=15; Tilden MS=4; Farmland ES =4; Walter Johnson HS=2; Rock Terrace School=1

of neighbors attending: 14

Concept Preference

Concept 7=1 preference

Concept 8=2 preferences

No collocation=22

Straw Poll

Although not part of the MCPS process, an attendee took a straw poll with the following question:

Do you think there was enough time to look into the feasibility of the collocation?

Yes=5

No=approximately 45 (they estimated 75 but staff took a head count and there were approximately 50 people in attendance)

Positive Elements of Collocation:

- County meets its regulations
- Cost saving benefits
- Support the idea of collocation but not on the Tilden Lane site
- Support for collocation but is concerned about bullying of special education kids by neurotypical kids
- Value of middle school students continuing to work with special education needs
- New facility, especialoly to replace Rock Terrace, which is a complete disgrace to the county
- If age appropriate, addition of cognitively disabled students is a huge positive
- Prefer collocation with one building and 2 entrances
- Inclusion between people with disabilities and the general population is important to the well being of children and adults in the community
- I can understand collocating middle school children with middle school children
- Collocation is a great idea. I am in favor of shared resources for both programmatic and physical but need to address traffic along Marcliff

Negative Elements of Collocation:

- Concept of collocation on a property of this size detracts from education of both schools
 - Tilden MS students will not have same opportunities as children with larger space footprint
 - The site is too small at only 19 acres. Average middle school is 20 acres.
 - Loss of green space and fields—there is a shortage of fields in the county; we are supposed to be emphasizing exercise and good health practices especially in preteens and adolescents.
 - Community infrastructure cannot support an additional school
 - Too many schools in a small geographic area (Luxmanor, Tilden, Green Acres, Rock Terrace would be a fourth school)
 - Too much traffic; curb cut concerns; doubling the bus traffic
 - Although collocation is a great idea, this not a great location because site is too small
 - Concern with added traffic off transporting high school students to WJ HS.
 - Marcliff Road and Tilden Lane are not designed to accommodate traffic
 - Collocating high school kids with middle school kids-in appropriate and older students (18-21); concern with wide range of age; some are concerned with older special education students with younger non-disabled students
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- Not enough time and resources were put into planning for the collocation; not enough study on how space will be used
 - No consultation with the community; does not appear that neighbors were notified
 - Lack of transparency
 - Is Tilden Middle School really the most beneficial collocation for Rock Terrace School and most convenient?
 - Poor safety for our children who would be walking to the school
 - Three story versus two story building for Tilden Middle School
 - Move building back from roads and have buffer of trees.
 - Very disruptive to the neighborhood
 - Does not conform with Master Plan
 - Dedicating 1/3 of the campus to Rock Terrace School is not appropriate
 - No access from Tilden Lane on any site plans; why is this?
 - Very poor designs; too much concrete
 - No care for residents of Marcliff Road
 - All are a terrible idea; overall a very bad idea for our neighborhood and children; poor consideration for Tilden MS students
 - There seems to be no room for growth in the plans.
 - That people are so angry and scared about the proposal. They need educating.
 - The neighborhood has been extremely challenged lately to maintain its identity—especially with all of the nearby development. To locate a school, that is needed by all county residents, in a small neighborhood like Luxmanor, has no positive elements.
 - Too many students in a neighborhood location

- The number of resources that the schools would share pales in comparison to the number of resources that are separate.
- This is an atrocity of design and plan

Additional Comments:

- I believe that building a new Rock Terrace School on the grounds of the Woodward would be a better option but I was told that this is not viable because there is no current project there.
- Several attendees asked if Woodward site was or could be considered because it is a larger site on a major road.
- Please consider keeping Tilden Middle School at Woodward site with possible collocation on a major road and more space; relocate Luxmanor ES to Tilden MS and sell Luxmanor for residential development or use as a holding center
- Planning for 1200 students and up to 1500 students by our own admission. Why not use current site given expected growth-this is a common sense solution
- No other alternative sites were presented preventing a discussion in regard to the best alternatives, but rather the Roundtable only discussed how they could make this option work.
- Consider reduced access from Luxmanor neighborhood using one entry point down Tilden Lane from Old Georgetown Road and site bounded by speed bumps residential lanes and home
- Locate 9-12 students at WJ HS to provide same benefits.
- Although concern with the age disparity two comments were provided as justification for wide range at one school.
 - Continuity for Rock Terrace School families. While this has value, what is more important is certainty for Rock Terrace families, more so than continuity. Separate middle school and high school at separate schools, if known and identified would treat Rock Terrace School families equally to other MCPS families.
 - Administrative Efficiency. If older kids are not at school most of the day, why could they not be reasonably accommodated at another location?
- Could the older students (18-21 year olds) be located in a different location?
- Not against no growth or large building. Concern with older students and middle schools students
- Have enjoyed the interaction of my children with LFI programs at each school. I have concerns about their perceptions when they are vulnerable and behind a fence in a secured area. It seems that a vulnerable population is being introduced to a very large community of teenagers. I am not sure everything has been considered about the impact.
- Confident that MCPS will design a nice school however large or small it may be.
- Consider giving detailed information about child development and types of diagnoses present at Rock Terrace School to help the neighbors understand.
- When others ask about 18 year olds with 11 year olds, ask how other schools do it such as Sidwell and Bullis.
- Straw poll was largely that neighborhood feels they were not represented.

- If there is a fence; what type of fence would be constructed on Cushman Road side of ball field; this could effect property value and aesthetics of neighborhood.
- Need more information. Project has not been presented to the community properly and cannot support the project as it has been represented.
- Neighbor supports the collocation presented by the Roundtable. No preference for a specific concept.
- As a taxpayer, I am concerned with appropriation of funds for a concept that common sense suggest would carry significant risks
- There are enough funds and benefits in MC to collocate according to age appropriate assignments
- I do not believe that collocation is a viable proposal. Each concept had no way of remediating the cons. It appears that regardless of the concept, the main sacrifices will be on the part of Tilden Middle School students. Each concept has cons, that when eliminated, create others. This is simply not fair to ask the Tilden Middle School students and families to make this sacrifice.
- Makeup of the roundtable did not includes parents and staff of students at any of the feeder elementary schools. The population that will actually attend the new school. Instead the representatives will not have students at the new school.
- Speaker mentioned some athletics together. Not good for a 6th grader to be with 18-20 year olds.
- You had input from this population of students that will attend the new school three days before we were told a report was to be submitted to the superintendent. That is a process that smacks of a done deal and we don't want such input.
- There was no real consideration of no collocation. And there was no serious consideration of the options that had two separate facilities. Maybe the make-up of the roundtable played a part in shaping the conclusion.
- I have never seen a three story middle school in Montgomery County. Then on top of that you are adding another pretty large facility—Rock Terrace School—on top off this large facility.
- Delay the process until substantive issues have been reviewed by the community. The collocation issue needs to be studies at length between the community and MCPS. We need an open and transparent process.
- Luxmanor PTA parents have not been involved at all in the roundtable discussion panel and their input has been negligible.
- Will the existing roads accommodate the follow of traffic that four schools will generate plus parents driving students from Green Acres School?
- Will devalue our homes on Marcliff Road.
- Do not support any concepts until the traffic on Marcliff Road is resolved.
- We feel that having two schools on the Tilden Lane site is not appropriate.
- Have you considered the impact of our students attending these schools?
- Our neighborhood will be destroyed.
- Concern about accidents of students.
- Concept 8 drop off area to close to Marcliff Road; place drop off area on Tilden Lane or consolidate student drop off area

- Establish ground rules for preserving existing green space; accommodate extra capacity by going vertical building to minimize parking area.
- Consider option to keep students at Rock Terrace School until funding becomes available.
- Neglecting the expansion of student body at Tilden Middle School due to multiple constructions along Rockville Pike that will feed into the school.
- All plans would cause traffic jam on Marcliff Road because bus loops and parking are located on this road.
- We live on Tilden Lane and are concerned about traffic. Transportation did not care about what happened on the road when it was a holding school.
- Bus drivers drive too fast and don't stop at stop signs.
- We have difficulty getting out of our driveway in the mornings on Marcliff Road. The street is not wide enough. What will happen with the additional busses
- Support for no collocation because it :
 - Won't alter physical character and safety of the neighborhood
 - Won't triple the car traffic where my children play
 - Collocation means three large schools within a few hundred yards of each other in a residential neighborhood
 - Won't have middle school students interacting with 21 year old developmentally challenged adults
 - Minimizes the disruption to the lives of the Rock Terrace School students
 - Streets in the neighborhood already in abysmal shape