

# BALTIMORE CITY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL

October 18th Community Meeting Question & Answers



## SWING SPACE QUESTIONS

- Q What activities and extracurriculars can be maintained at their current quality while in the swing space? There was some brief mention of implementing some athletic fields but what about art studios, theater departments, science labs, etc.?**

Additional details about extracurriculars, including athletics, in the swing space will become available as planning continues during the design phase of the project. Program spaces like art rooms, science labs, etc., will be established at the swing location.

- Q Will all sporting events be away games for the time that the swing space is in use? How have other schools dealt with the loss of this major source of school identity and atmosphere?**

Details about extracurriculars, including athletics, in the swing space will become available as planning continues during the design phase of the project. The development of athletic schedules, including dates, times and locations will likely begin the summer before the school swings into the space.

- Q Since we were told that the facility will not be open for viewing by prospective families, will there be photos provided early on to show the facilities (typical classrooms, art rooms, auditorium, cafeteria, etc)? What is the general condition of the swing space? The lack of A/C, ADA accessibility, and competitive athletic facilities is definitely concerning.**

Planning for facility adjustments to the swing spaces will continue during the design phase of the project and updates will be shared with families. Many of the upgrades to the building for science labs, etc., will not occur until right before City College will swing into the building. A method to provide AC to the building for the swing use is being explored.

- Q Starting Bell Time - You said that decision is not made by the principal but by North Avenue. Can you give me the contact information for the person(s) that make that decision?**

School bell times are set by the Transportation office which can be reached at [transportation@bcps.k12.md.us](mailto:transportation@bcps.k12.md.us). Bell times are typically set in the spring for the following school year.

- Q Would there be on-site parking for students at the swing space?**

There are two large parking lots at the Thurgood Marshall Building.

- Q Will there be a space in Thurgood Marshall where students can stay after school (Library, cafeteria, auditorium, classroom, etc.) until they can be picked up by someone to take them home? They could label it as a "study hall" or something like that. Currently students are not allowed to stay in the school, after school ends, unless they are in an organized activity (sports, club, etc.). Since transportation from school is going to be more complicated for some families, it seems like there should be an after-school space (in the school) where students can wait for their ride home.**

Upon review of the swing space, school administration will identify if a space could be used to temporarily hold students while they wait for pick-up. This student space would need to be monitored and as such, included in the school's budget.

# SWING SPACE QUESTIONS CONTINUED...

## **Q MTA Bus Service - Can you give me the contact information for the person(s) at North Avenue and the MTA who will decide about bus service?**

The Transportation office coordinates with MTA and can be reached at [transportation@bcps.k12.md.us](mailto:transportation@bcps.k12.md.us).

# DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION QUESTIONS

## **Q Is this news of construction new to everyone or was the school community aware that it was imminent?**

Three community update meetings were offered during the feasibility phase for stakeholders to view the proposed renovation plans for the City College building. [Click here to view previous presentations.](#)

## **Q I know that the design process is just beginning, but I would imagine that the school already has a running list of required renovations in addition to a wish list. Is any of this information available to the public sooner than later?**

The design plan is based around an educational specification (ed spec), which outlines the educational program space needs for the school. The design will provide the required ed spec spaces as well as needed building systems updates. The ed spec spaces were noted in the feasibility meetings and will be referenced during the design updates for the community.

## **Q Of the BCPS schools that have gone through the renovation process, how many have finished on-time or early? Is the 36 month construction schedule a worst-case scenario or is that common for similar scale projects?**

There have not been recent renovations projects of this size at City Schools. The previous high schools that were renovated were smaller. The 36 month construction schedule is typical for projects of this size, and is our intended schedule for this project. However, construction timing is always a variable given unforeseen building conditions that could be found, market conditions at the time of construction, etc.

## **Q Is limiting the work to what can easily be completed in a two-year time span (rather than in three years) going to be part of any meaningful discussion? A one year reduction could really lessen the negative impact of the swing space.**

The construction schedule will be looked at throughly throughout the design process. However, given the size, breadth and depth of this renovation project, it is extremely unlikely that the construction will require less than three years.

## **Q What is the budget for construction? Is there an already established amount designated for City as part of the 21st Century Schools overall budget?**

The renovation of City College is funded via House Bill 1 (also know as Built to Learn Act). This is different funding than what was used for the 21st Century School Buildings Program. The current construction estimate for the project is \$196M. However, this is a very volatile time for construction costs, with a lot of significant market changes occuring. So, that is a current estimate and may change.

## **Q Is it intentional that City and Poly are scheduled to be under construction at the same time (i.e. disrupting both schools so as to have some sort of “fairness” in that everyone is in upheaval together)?**

If projects do not proceed at the same time, one or more of the schools would be waiting seven to eight years before the project(s) would even start. That timeframe would cause issues with the funding source and estimate for the project. In addition, it would leave those school in an insufficient space even longer.