

3/29/22 JHS Town Hall Questions/Feedback

Q: Can you describe the time commitment level to being on the Master Planning Committee?

PPS will have a detailed schedule of MPC meetings in the coming weeks as the architectural team is selected and develops the master planning engagement process. On past projects the MPC met every 4-6 weeks for about 6 months. MPC meetings are typically scheduled to start in the early evening on a weekday night and they last a couple of hours. Members are expected to attend every meeting.

Q: Are you anticipating the kids will move off site during construction? If so, do you know where?

One of the ideas that came out of the Jefferson Conceptual Master Planning process from 2019 was that it was important to community members that Jefferson students remain close to where they currently are because of the connection to the nearby Middle College Program. They interact so closely with PCC.

Our current plan is to keep students on the site in temporary classrooms that are safe and away from the active construction area. That proposal can possibly change during the course of the master planning process as the school community weighs in on the plan.

It is very challenging to move an entire school community and we have limited options to do that in the case of Jefferson. The Marshall campus that has been used as the swing site for other high school modernizations is much further away from Jefferson than the other schools that have used it.

Q: Will Harriet Tubman Middle School be a part of the new Jefferson High School at the same site?

PPS is now looking for a new permanent home for Harriet Tubman Middle School. The target is to have Tubman moved by fall of 2027. This date is related to the ODOT construction schedule. PPS is looking at about 10 sites in detail and has reviewed well over 20 sites in total. One option is to relocate it permanently on the Jefferson High School campus. We are looking at the constraints and pros and cons of that option. It's still early in the examination process but it is one of the things we are considering. We have a series of meetings and documents that we are going through about where Tubman will be relocated.

In order to move a school you need an ideal site of 6 to 9 acres and it also ideally needs to be in the catchment area. The land would need to be development ready with utilities in place and unfortunately there is not a site like that in the catchment area. The PPS School Board and community members are looking for alternatives. Plus, we want to do it without displacing another historically black school. Our options are getting more constrained. In urban environments you sometimes co-locate schools together. Other cities have done that but we are just exploring the potential at this time.

Q: Given that the Jefferson MPC is forming and looking to start in the next month or two, when would a decision about co-location be made?

We set a target to determine the new site for Tubman by May of this 2022 but there is some flexibility to that. That goal was set to account for the negotiating and acquiring of new property that often takes a lot of time. The short answer is we want to make that decision over the next several months.

Q: Can you talk about the intersection of the Jefferson Modernization and the Center for Black Student Excellence (CBSE)?

The PPS team developing the Center for Black Student Excellence is focusing on developing the community engagement plan. One of their first tasks will be to define "What is the Center? What are the educational strategies that the Center is intended to create and what are the desired student outcomes?" After 'what the Center is' has been determined, the CBSE Team will follow up with "At what sites will the Center be located? What physical supports are going to be needed for it?" The Center is not envisioned to be one place or one building but a kaleidoscope of different strategies and improvements. As it becomes more defined what the CBSE goals are and how physical facilities can support those goals, those physical supports will be embedded into various projects and sites, including the Jefferson Modernization. Whatever physical infrastructure the CBSE is later determined to need at Jefferson, we have full confidence the Jefferson Modernization project can accommodate those needs.

Q: Will the Center for Black Student Excellence (CBSE) Communications Team be engaging with Jefferson feeder schools? *The Center for Black Student Excellence Team is currently developing a very thoughtful outreach plan. They will be going out to various schools and into the community to reach students, families, stakeholders and community groups that will directly benefit from this initiative. They are also focused on partnership developments. This is not just a PPS effort. It's also going to rely on partnerships and the support of the community. The goal is to be very intentional about those conversations and the development of positive outcomes.*

Q: Does PPS still own the site that Whitaker M.S. was on and has that site been considered for Tubman?

PPS does own the Whitaker Middle School site but It is well beyond the catchment area for Harriet Tubman so it is not under final consideration.

For more project information and the latest updates please visit the Jefferson Modernization website: <https://www.pps.net/JeffersonBond>