

## Public Questions & Answers at Town Hall #5

### **What is being done to get Student input from kids that attend the school in the future? What are you doing to get Student comments or involvement?**

*Our engagement team began connecting with current and future Jefferson students during the 2022 summer break, and has continued the work now that students are back in school. We have also set up tables at Jefferson to speak with students over lunch breaks. Throughout the fall/winter of 2022, we will be leading in-class and after school workshops with the Leadership class, Latino Network, SEI/SUN, Design class, and student clubs.*

*Working with current Jefferson students is important for our team because it helps us understand how young people are experiencing the school as it currently is, including what kinds of spaces and programs they find successful, what they would like to see change, and what they believe is missing that would support their social, cultural, and academic growth.*

*We will also continue to create opportunities for engagement with middle schoolers in the coming months to understand their visions and concerns about their future high school experience.*

### **Are you meeting with the Jefferson Teachers and Administrators?**

*Yes, as the process moves forward the design team will meet regularly with Jefferson Teachers and Administrators. Additionally, there are Jefferson teachers on the CPC and all staff and students are encouraged to attend the Town Halls and Design Workshop.*

### **Will people who are commenting on the design have an opportunity to see the other modernized schools?**

*Yes, CPC members will be touring recently modernized schools as part of this process.*

### **There is a rumor that Jefferson is going to be modernized only to then be sold to nearby Portland Community College**

*Jefferson is being modernized for the students, staff and community in this historic and important neighborhood. It is not going to be sold.*

### **What is the timeline for construction and reopening the new Jefferson. What kids currently in Elementary will be there first to attend? What are the details of the schedule?**

*The timeline for the Jefferson project includes the start of construction in 2024 and reopening of a portion of the school in 2026, with final site & building construction to be completed over the following year or two, depending on the final modernization or rebuild option selected. The first students to attend the reopened school will be current (2022-23 school year) 5th grade elementary students.*

**What is being done to change the school's name? Many members of the community would like to change the name to something they can feel better about.**

*There is a PPS process for changing the name of a school. It is a separate process than what is happening through the modernization effort but the two will have an influence on each other. During the August 24 Town Hall, Dani Ledezma, Sr. Advisor RESJ, spoke about the renaming process as part of that meeting's agenda (see video at <https://youtu.be/ik57e7Dy9r0>). During that meeting, she discussed the District's policy and administrative directive around the renaming process, which focuses on student experience around school identity (see more information at <https://www.pps.net/Page/15710>).*

*In addition, here is a link to the PPS Racial Equity & Social Justice department that manages the name changing process. <https://www.pps.net/Page/95>*

*At the same time, the Design Team understands that the Jeff community has been thinking about and discussing renaming over the course of many years, so we want to take all of the experiences & learnings of the community and incorporate them into the renaming process going forward.*

**Recognizing there is a strong interest in changing the school's name, are you still going to call it the Jefferson Modernization Project?**

*Yes, for the time being the name will remain the same.*

**Are there plans to design an aquatic center at the school?**

*There are no plans to create an aquatic center. It is not something that was budgeted or under consideration during initial planning due to the costs involved. Aquatic centers are not part of the Educational Specifications for Comprehensive High School Guidelines that our design teams follow when modernizing a school. Aquatic centers are generally built and operated by the Portland Parks Bureau.*

**Will the new school be designed to be safe in an earthquake?**

*All modernized and rebuilt schools are designed to meet or exceed current seismic safety code and will be built to withstand a major earthquake. The Jefferson Modernization was specifically funded in the 2020 Bond to be designed as a school & community emergency center for immediate access after an earthquake.*

**Why was Jefferson chosen to be last in the order of school modernizations?**

*Jefferson will not be the last high school modernization completed by PPS. With the first PPS Improvement Bond in 2012 Roosevelt, Franklin, and Grant were selected to be modernized. In May 2017 Bond, Benson, Lincoln and McDaniel (formerly Madison) were selected. That same 2017 Bond funded basic Conceptual Master Planning for Jefferson, Cleveland and Ida B Wells (formerly Wilson) to establish budgets for inclusion on the 2020 Bond. On the November 2020 Bond, only Jefferson High was included for full design and construction funding. Cleveland and Ida B Wells were not funded for construction but received funding for Comprehensive planning*

*and design. A future bond would be needed to fund the construction of those two remaining high schools.*

**Could you share more information on the plans to potentially include a new Tubman middle school on the Jefferson property in conjunction with the Jefferson Modernization project.** *Both of these projects are important to the community but they are on separate tracks and very distinct timelines. The idea of placing a new Harriet Tubman Middle School on the Jefferson campus is one of several options but no decisions have been made at this time.*

*PPS is planning a series of meetings in the coming months with the communities involved. After those engagement sessions take place, a decision on Tubman's placement would be made by the PPS School Board in the spring of 2023.*

*Below is a link to the (9-22-22) BOE Facilities & Operations Committee meeting and at time stamp 1:32:02 staff and Board members talk about the Tubman project:*  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1DZ3hXX5OSw>

**Tell us how Sustainability is considered in the design? Will the new building provide greater resilience for students and staff as the climate changes?**

*Sustainable design is embedded in the new PPS Climate Justice Policy, including overall emissions reductions, energy efficiency and solar PV on new buildings. The new, energy efficient building will be able to stay cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter with much less energy used, providing greater resilience for students and staff as the climate changes. The Design team has developed a presentation about sustainability options and ideas for a new Jefferson and information can be found here: [JHS Sustainability/Climate Presentation 9-14-22](#) [JHS Sustainability/Climate Meeting Minutes 9-14-22](#)*

**Speak about the lessons learned in previous high schools and the experience of relocating an entire student population to another school vs. having the students stay on site?**

*For several of the modernized schools, Franklin, Grant, McDaniel, and Benson the students and staff went to the Marshall Campus while their schools were rebuilt. At Roosevelt and Lincoln the students stayed on site while those schools were built. The decision was determined based on proximity to the Marshall Campus and if staying on site did not significantly disrupt the learning environment.*

*All the design options for the new Jefferson High School will keep the students on the Jefferson Campus while the construction process is underway in order to minimize disruptions to their learning environment and allow students to maintain their connection to PCC.*

**Couldn't construction teams work after school hours and through the night to make it easier on the students?**

*Construction teams do work on weekends and after hours as part of normal construction timelines, however city noise and safety ordinances only allow work to take place within certain hours in consideration of the surrounding neighbors and businesses.*

**Jefferson is now a magnet school. Will it be rebuilt to be a comprehensive high school and how will it change the program into a neighborhood school?**

*Jefferson HS will remain a magnet/focus option school. Comprehensive Educational Specifications are in reference to how the physical spaces are allocated in a school program (classrooms, admin spaces, CTE spaces, etc.) The specifications can be found here: [www.pps.net/cms/lib8/OR01913224/Centricity/Domain/58/PPS\\_Comp\\_HS\\_Ed\\_Spec\\_V\\_2.pdf](http://www.pps.net/cms/lib8/OR01913224/Centricity/Domain/58/PPS_Comp_HS_Ed_Spec_V_2.pdf)*

**The parcel of land on the other side of Alberta will anything be done with that? It has been empty since I was in school in 1968?**

*We don't know yet what the specific plans for that area will be. We will certainly be incorporating that land into the planning and space utilization for the new school. This is a constrained site and we will be using every space in the final design. There are however limits to what we can build there due to city easement laws.*

**Are all high school modernizations on comparable budgets?**

*During the 2019 Conceptual Master Planning process, the three final high schools to be modernized, Jefferson, Cleveland & Ida B Wells, went through a community engagement and planning process to determine the overall scope and budget for these schools. All of the budgets for these schools were prepared with the same assumptions and historical cost data.*

**Throughout this process you are talking to many different people. How are decisions about the school's design actually made?**

*The high school modernization process includes many people and factors that influence it, including engagement through the CPC, District stakeholders, school & community partners, PPS educational & design guidelines, site & neighborhood context, and City land use & building code requirements. At the same time, while community & District stakeholders will advise the project team on the school design, it is ultimately the responsibility of the Board of Education to approve the final comprehensive plan as part of the high school modernization process.*