

School Closure Proposal: Washington Metropolitan High School



Special Community Meetings

December 9, 2019

December 12, 2019



Goals for Today

- Share context and background on the school and program
- Share the factors and considerations that informed the closure proposal
- Gather feedback on these factors

Agenda

TM Welcome

TM Background and Context

TM Overview of Proposal

- Rationale
- Student Transition Plan and School Options

TM Table Discussions

TM Questions and Answers

TM Closing



Proposal

DCPS is proposing closure of Washington Metropolitan High School at the end of the 2019~~20~~20 school year.

Background and Context

f Opportunity Academies offer a personalized competency-based learning program where students who are off-track for graduation or promotion.

f Wash Met opened in SY08 under the name Youth Engagement Academy and was located in the Ellettsville MS building.

f In SY16-17, we started (-)Tj 0.0 /T9 0 Td00.004 T1oolmene (-)Tj 0.(t)12.2who17 0 T[(0

Background and Context

In SY 1617 the four DCPS alternative schools (Ballou STAY, Luke C Moore, Roosevelt STAY, Washington Metropolitan) participated in a redesign process through Breakthrough Schools. DCPS made the following investments:

- Students moved to competency based, personalized model through Summit Personalized Learning; staff received targeted professional development
- Opportunity Academies were provided College Summit (Peer Forward) and Tenacity courses to prepare for college and career
- Students were eligible for paid internships throughout the school year through Career Bridge and had a designated coordinator
- Additional CTE offerings were added based on student feedback
- The Dangers of the Mind SEL program was introduced
- The Opportunity Athletics League was launched through DCIAA

Key Factors and Considerations

Enrollment and Utilization

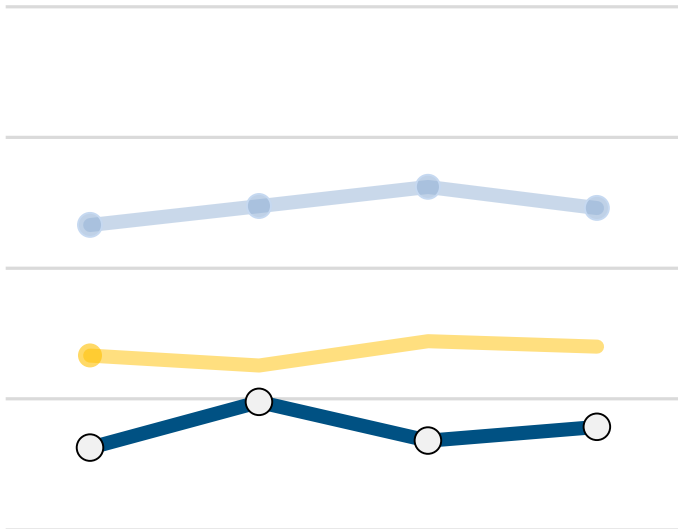
- The school's enrollment has fluctuated over time, but remains the smallest Opportunity Academy.
- Students primarily live in Ward 8, and they've continuously enrolled additional students from the Ward.
- The school is utilizing 32% of its building. All other Opportunity Academies have higher than 70% utilization rates for their buildings.


Student Engagement

- Attendance rates are less than 40%, much lower than the attendance rates at other Opportunity Academies.
- School has consistently rated lower than other Opportunity Academies on student satisfaction as shown in our Student Satisfaction Index.

Factors and Considerations: Enrollment

- Compared to all other Opportunity Academies Wash Met has consistently enrolled less than 200 students over the past four school years.
- Wash Met's students primarily live in Ward 8, and they've continuously enrolled additional students from the Ward.





Factors and Considerations: Student Engagement



Transition Planning and Supports

DCPS is committed to:

- Supporting students through 1:1 placement and transition conversations with students and families.
- Working with receiving schools to ensure necessary connections and resources are in place.
- Working with school staff to ensure that the school is positioned to support students' course completion this year.

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What Does Transition Look Like for MIDDLE SCHOOL Students

Scope of Transition

- Currently there are approximately 70 students enrolled in a middle grade, of these 53 are risingth9 graders.
- Many of the middle grade students are overage and could be eligible for high school placement
- We anticipate only needing to transition a subset of students to middle school next school year.

Support for Placement

- Students will work with a placement and enrollment specialists to identify an appropriate placement – neighborhood middle school or enter the lottery for an out-of-boundary school
- The Office of Secondary Schools, Student Supports, and Office of Teaching and Learning will work with school staff to ensure all students will have an individual transition plans.



Possible School Options and Offerings

Opportunity Academy Highlights and Offerings:

Competencybased, self-paced personalized learning

- College Summit Peer Forward
- Array of CTE offerings including:
 - Barbering
 - Cosmetology
 - Culinary Arts
 - Digital Media
 - Early Childhood Education
 - Mass Media
- Career Bridge Internships
- Athletics through the Opportunity League

Neighborhood High School Highlights and Offerings:

CTE Programming in every neighborhood HS

- JROTC
- World Languages
- Architecture/D2pture/g•ArCn8.8 (B)- (f)-p ne(o)-2 (n



Table Discussions



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Next Steps

f All meeting materials will be posted on the Strategic School Planning blog:
<https://dcpsplanning.wordpress.com/>

f In addition to the feedback sheet, feedback can be shared by calling (202)478–9289 and leaving a voicemail.

f Timeline & Next Steps:

- Submit feedback by Friday, December 20. Feedback sheets available in the Wash Met main office or available online via the blog.
- The goal is to make a final decision before the end of January 2020.

THANK YOU!

For questions, please contact Dcps.Planning@k12.dc.gov.