

**School District of Philadelphia  
New Ryan Avenue School  
Community Engagement Meeting  
Tuesday, February 19, 2019**

**Introduction**

Councilman Bobby Henon:

- 1<sup>st</sup> of two meetings this week
- Schools here are overcrowded and the new school is needed
  - o Selected K-8 school to be the first choice for the area
- School District is currently choosing from two options and is seeking community feedback:
  - o Front yard of Lincoln high school is not the first choice for anyone here
  - o Asked for poll on cards to see site A vs B from the community – to be collected by board after meeting and on Thursday
  - o Questions and concerns to be written on cards
- Boundary meetings will also be held with the public

**Official presentation**

Danielle Floyd:

- Meeting now to seek direct feedback from community to discuss locations for facility
- Based on community feedback during the spring meeting, the School District has decided to build a new K-8 school
- Enrollment increasing continuously – seat deficit rising to 2,300 by 2022-2023 without action taken immediately
  - o Seeking balanced enrollment and eliminating overcrowding
  - o Making changes to learning environments and bettering them
- Background on to-date decisions:
  - o Number of meetings have already been held from April-September 2018, selected K-8
  - o Request for proposal sent out for development/design build
    - Selected Gilbane Development Company, Stantec (Designer)
      - Ranked 1 nationally as K-12 schools builder/designer
      - Extensive track record for K-8 in Philadelphia region
      - Completed 136 schools together
  - o Request for proposal sent out for an enrollment study for the new school and students that will attend from what areas
  - o Two potential locations for building developed based on the following factors:
    - Walking patterns
    - Traffic
    - Site use
    - Site assessment

Gilbane/Stantec:

Terry McKenna/Luis Vildostegui

- Gilbane Development Company is the developer/Gilbane Building Company is the builder

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- 5<sup>th</sup> generation family owned company, largest that is still family owned in US (1890s founded), Philly office since 1947
- Largest K-12 developer and contractor in US, Stantec is largest engineer/designer in US
- Stantec
  - Philly office
  - Stantec model requires that architects, engineers and designers all work collaboratively
  - Leading designers for K-12 in US
- Site: has been studied in-depth
  - Have looked at several other sites also
  - Building may take different shape than the pictured areas, this is a rough estimate
  - Site A -
    - Northern site
    - On top of baseball and softball field
    - Pocket of trees, flat setting
  - Site B
    - More southern site
    - Location of original Abraham Lincoln high school
  - Walking distances
    - In general, site A has longer walking distances, crosses traffic
    - In general, site B has shorter walking distances, could create path without crossing traffic
    - From Rowland: In General-
      - Site A – 4 city blocks
      - Site B – 1 city block
  - Access to locations
    - Site A
      - Clear, unobstructed lines of sight
      - Rowland drive lanes, will be redesigned, with separate drop off and bus loops
      - There will be a walking path to Ryan Ave. drop off
      - Observed current walking is mostly Meehan students near the site A area
    - Site B
      - Traffic is constrained
        - Lincoln loop would also have to be used for new school
        - Parent drop off in front of school- new location
      - K-8 students would need to cross the parent drop-off lane to access play fields
      - Current drop off rhythm would be interrupted on Ryan Avenue and traffic will buildup

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- Safety
  - Site A
    - Currently doesn't have level of security that would be needed
    - New school would bring activity, lighting and security to the site near Pennypack Park – improving the level of safety for the entire campus
  - Site B
    - Higher visibility from both Ryan and Rowland avenues
- Existing Environmental Constraints
  - Site A
    - Will be built over existing baseball and softball fields
    - Clean soil, easy construction of building
  - Site b
    - Will be built over the existing playing fields and abandoned foundations of the former Lincoln high school
    - Will cost money to remove existing foundations
- Community use
  - Site A
    - Relocate baseball and softball fields for HS
  - Site B
    - Sports fields used by community to be relocated
- Interactive feedback
  - See attached poll results
- Next Steps – Danielle Floyd
  - Questions are also online for people to respond – poll open until next week.
    - <https://goo.gl/forms/00sY5RrBOFmU2wFq1>
  - Minutes will be posted
  - Meeting information will be sent to parents from their Parent portal accounts
  - 6 PM on Thursday, 2/21. To present same material.
  - Summary will be provided to the board of education from community feedback
  - March 14<sup>th</sup> meeting with community at 6 PM ay Lincoln HS to present final site selection and building design
  - Enrollment study confirming building capacity, educational program, and building floor plans happening now
  - Construction tentatively starting in May 2019.
  - Additional information posted on website
    - [www.philasd.org](http://www.philasd.org)

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Questions

- As the expansion will affect all the schools in the northeast area, will the schools have to add more grades in the schools? Will they get small school houses?
  - o Clarifying question around reorganization
  - o Will new school be 6-8 or k-8? Met with stakeholders from schools and are not going to 6-8, **going with k-8**
  - o Grade organization will change for Forrest, Mayfair, Pollock and Holme
- Lincoln HS is already overcrowded and dismissals are too crowded. What are plans for added traffic of people?
  - o Planning for adding better/improved access to site – plans to hire a principal early for the school to figure out a lot of the questions from the beginning.
  - o Start and end times of school need to be decided later for adding another school to the site
  - o Need to figure out from design perspective how to include pedestrians
  - o Safety is a concern already – (follow-up question) what will happen when we add 1000 new students?
    - Middle school will go away, this school will take the place so the increase won't be as large as anticipated.
- Small building at Thomas home that currently houses the
  - o Pre-k accommodations
    - eligibility – how we will accommodate families that are eligible for pre-k
  - o Pre-k can possibly accommodate closer to parent's homes, decreasing their commute times – would like to provide
- How is the community notified of when the meetings are?
  - o Daily news (northeast times), letters, flyers, online,
  - o Councilman's office coordination with getting the word out
- How long will survey be up?
  - o Until Thursday, 2/28
- Specific improvements planned for Lincoln?
  - o Starting meetings with school leadership teams
  - o Starting with the educational vision for the school and how they can make those visions come through
  - o No final decisions just yet, just going through plans
- What is the current budget proposed for new school
  - o 70 million for design, construction, and fit out for the school
- Other meetings had, they collected info for people, these weren't utilized? Publicize these better?
  - o We will need to better publicized.
- Resounding vote for k-8, but no mention today for the resounding vote for not front of school? Not mentioned today that the promise was athletic fields in front of school.
- Expansion timeline and organizing with other schools
  - o 2021

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- Timeline for catchments?
  - o School district has contracted with Cooperative Strategies to study
  - o 2 parents from each school, rep from district, rep from Bobby Henon's office have had several meetings already & will have two more meetings
- Boundary decisions?
  - o Sometime next year – will give information in advance to families if their school is changing.