



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF
PHILADELPHIA

**Welcome
Families, Staff & Students!**

**Ben Franklin - SLA
Relocation Town Hall Meeting**

October 7, 2019

Agenda

- **Welcome**
- **Opening Remarks from Superintendent Hite**
- **Exploring Relocation Options To Get Staff and Students Back in Classrooms**
 - The initial criteria considered
 - Sites considered, sites eliminated and why
 - Remaining options & additional supports
 - New criteria considered
 - Potential new options
- **BF-SLA Campus Construction Update**
- **Exploring the Recovery of Lost Instructional Time: Next Steps**
- **Closing Remarks from Superintendent Hite**



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF
PHILADELPHIA

Opening Remarks

Dr. William Hite, Superintendent

Initial criteria for identifying possible relocation sites

- **Site Availability by this Thursday 10/10** - mitigate any further loss of instruction
- **# of needed classrooms** - (23 each for BF & SLA)
- **Dedicated point of entry for relocated school community** - support safe and orderly school operations for both schools
- **Ability of site to accommodate additional student supports** - *i.e. meal service etc.*
- **Access to technology**
- **Ability to support CTE programs**
- **Proximity to public transportation**

With that criteria in mind, we explored many different relocation site options

| Sites Considered | Site Visit Findings | Viable Y or N? |
|--|---|----------------|
| West Philadelphia High | No classroom space available. | No |
| Philadelphia Military Academy @ Elverson | Enrollment increased this year. Not enough classrooms available for use. | No |
| W.S. Pierce Elementary | Bldg vacant for 10+ yrs. Not move in ready. Capital investment needed to bring back online. | No |
| Alcorn Annex | Not enough classroom space available. | No |
| Former SLA Location - 22nd & Arch | Owner has received letters of intent to lease space. | No |

With that criteria in mind, we explored many different relocation site options

| Sites Considered | Site Visit Findings | Viable Y or N? |
|--------------------------------------|---|----------------|
| Comcast Building | Open access, representing a safety issue for students | No |
| Convention Center | Open access, representing a safety issue for students | No |
| Art Institute | Only interested in a long-term lease, 1 yr+ | No |
| Various former Archdiocese locations | Not enough classrooms; Too small | No |
| Colleges & Universities | Cannot secure spaces/bldgs for needed amount of time | No |

If getting students back to school on Thursday is paramount, there are a limited number of options

| Sites Considered | Site Visit Findings | Viability? |
|----------------------------|---|--------------------|
| 6. 440 N. Broad St. | Works only as a drop-in site. Fitting a school at SDP Headquarters would require major renovations and moving of current staff. Building is more utilized. No heat or A/C on the fifth floor. No egress for 500 students. | Limited/Short-Term |
| 8. South Philadelphia High | Separate space and entrance available. Minor repairs required. Furniture and instructional materials would need to be provided. | Yes |
| 9. Strawberry Mansion | Separate space and entrance available. Minor repairs required. Furniture and instructional materials would need to be provided. | Yes |

A Task Force from this morning's Town Hall got together to discuss other criteria for consideration

- **Ideas discussed that are off the table**
 - Moving back into the Ben Franklin - Science Leadership Academy campus before all major construction is complete
 - Implementing a schoolwide virtual learning model for either school
- **New considerations to consider**
 - No co-location with another school - let's not disrupt other school communities
 - Move date to get kids back in school from Thursday Oct. 10 to Monday Oct. 14
 - Ben Franklin - must stay in one location
 - SLA - open to considering a campus model - holding classes in multiple bldgs in close proximity to one another (walkable for student)
- **Ideas discussed that are “must-haves”**
 - Identify solutions that work in short term (60-90 days) **AND** for the entire school year - **IF NEEDED** (*Contingency plan*)

With this new criteria in mind, there are other options we can explore for Monday Oct. 14 opening

| New Sites Considered | Things to explore to determine viability |
|---|---|
| 440 N. Broad St. | Need time to explore moving District staff and professional development from entire 1st floor to dedicate the space to a school |
| 3300 Henry Ave. (former Eastern University Charter) | 28 classrooms. Separate building w/ parking. Must explore leasing options. |
| Charter High School of Architecture and Design (CHAD) | Centrally located but we need to confirm # of classrooms likely not more than 10. Would need to explore additional options for campus model. Co-location with CHAD. |
| Former Delaware Valley Charter | Close to public transit and likely have 23+ classrooms. We need to determine what renovations would be needed. |

Website where all environmental testing results and construction updates can be found

www.philasd.org/capitalprograms/BFHS-SLA-Project

Ben Franklin-SLA Input Form link on each school website and on District website

www.philasd.org

If you have other ideas about potential relocation sites we should consider, please submit them using this link

Additional resources and supports we can provide for both sets of options

- TransPasses for all students as needed
- Buses from Ben Franklin-SLA to temporary locations if not convenient to public transportation
- Use of CTE equipment at other locations
- Instructional materials available at temporary location
- Transportation from site to new school

Ben Franklin-SLA Campus Construction Update

Asbestos Abatement Work

- Complete Asbestos Abatement of SLA Commons, Penthouse, Basement and Mechanical Room proj. 10/20/19

Construction

- Completion of all remaining construction activities proj. 12/31/19

Exploring the recovery of instructional time

| | |
|---|---|
| Consideration 1: Adjust Professional Development Time | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● October 25, November 15, January 24, February 28, April 24, and May 22, adjusted from 3-hour early dismissals to full day● Provides additional hours for the educational program, but does not make up “days” as half days are counted |
| Consideration 2: Adjust November 5th from school closed for election to full day. Cancel PD on December 23rd | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Consideration if alternative site is a polling location● Winter break will start one day earlier for teachers● One additional day of instruction |
| Consideration 3: Adjust spring break, April 6-10th | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● School year ends at the same time● One to four additional days of instruction● These days are already designated for make up days |

Next Steps:

- Consult with each school community to determine best option for their unique needs.
- Communicate decision to each school community by October 25, 2019.
- Work with PDE to discuss waiver so we can count instructional hours instead of 180 days.



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF
PHILADELPHIA

Closing Remarks

Dr. William Hite, Superintendent



Thank you!