

From: ["Perkins, Will \ \(Council\)" <WPerkins@dccouncil.gov>](mailto:WPerkins@dccouncil.gov)
 To: ["Hunt, Kelly \(Council\)" <khunt@dccouncil.gov>](mailto:khunt@dccouncil.gov)
["Janeese Lewis-George\ \(Council\)" <Janeese@dccouncil.gov>](mailto:Janeese@dccouncil.gov)
 Date: 8/17/2023 12:34:02 PM
 Subject: FW: Swing Space for Whittier Elementary School

FYI - official DCPS response to Whittier requests for swing space at 3rd & Sheridan

-----Original Message-----

From: Powe, Donielle (DCPS) <Donielle.Powe2@k12.dc.gov>
 Sent: Thursday, August 17, 2023 11:43 AM
 To: Perkins, Will (Council) <WPerkins@dccouncil.gov>; Evennou, Danielle (DPR) <danielle.evennou@dc.gov>; Botstein, Clara (EOM) <clara.botstein@dc.gov>; Umana, Claudia (DCPS) <claudia.umana@k12.dc.gov>
 Cc: Lewis-George, Janeese (Council) <jlewisgeorge@dccouncil.gov>
 Subject: RE: Swing Space for Whittier Elementary School

Hi Will,

Here is the language that was sent out-

I hope this email finds you well. I am writing to acknowledge your email regarding the Whittier community's desire for a closer "swing space" during the upcoming modernization at Whittier Elementary School. We acknowledge your concerns about the school year lottery and the challenges associated with the construction and relocation of temporary classroom structures.

As you mentioned, Whittier Elementary School is scheduled for modernization, with construction set to commence in the school year 2025-26. During this period, students and staff will be relocated to a "swing space" at Sharpe Health (4300 13th St NW). We understand the impact this commute would have on families, particularly with younger children, such as your son who will be starting PK during the renovations.

When planning for swing space, DCPS (District of Columbia Public Schools) considers factors such as travel distance, time of travel during pick-up and drop-off hours, and availability of swing facilities during a building modernization. While our goal is to minimize the disruption to students and families, in the instances where there is no available swing space within two miles of a school undergoing modernization, DCPS will provide swing space transportation. This transportation service will provide buses to pick up and drop off students from their permanent school location.

DCPS is committed to conducting an equitable review of modernization planning for all schools in the Capital Improvement Plan, including analyzing project scope and revising details such as swing space plans. In the case of Whittier's project and the proposal to temporarily relocate the Whittier campus to one-third of the DPR (Department of Parks and Recreation) field space at the Takoma community park, located at Sheridan and 3rd Street NW, is not feasible due to the impact on DPR's operations and the families that they serve.

Furthermore, when deciding to create modular spaces for school swing sites, it is done with the intent to use the space for multiple modernization projects due to the time and cost of the construction. DCPS typically spends approximately \$1 million to swing a school to a new building location during the modernization process. This projection includes move services, new signage, minor improvements, and other necessary items. Based on recent projects, we estimate that constructing a trailer complex on the field space at Takoma Community Park could cost approximately \$18 million. Due to the costs of construction, DCPS prefers to use trailer complexes for a minimum of 6 years once constructed. In this case, DCPS does not project using the proposed complex to support additional modernizations.

We understand your concerns about how the temporary move could have a negative impact on enrollment. While some schools have experienced a drop in enrollment during the modernization process that is not always the case, and it is not a guarantee. As your school community thinks about potential changes to enrollment, I can share some details about how DCPS does annual planning.

- In October, your school principal and LSAT (Local School Advisory Team) will receive information about past enrollment to reflect on trends.
- In November, your school principal and LSAT will receive a draft enrollment projection for School Year 2024-2025 and have an opportunity to comment and request changes. This will be a wonderful opportunity to discuss how to plan for any expected fluctuation in enrollment.

We value the partnership between the Whittier community and the educational authorities, and together, we can ensure the best possible outcome for our scholars.

Thank you for bringing this matter to our attention, and we look forward to collaborating with you and the Whittier community on the upcoming modernization project.

Best,

Donielle Powe
She/Her
Interim Deputy Chief, Intergovernmental Affairs

Office of the Chief of Staff
District of Columbia Public Schools
1200 First Street NE, 12th Floor
Washington, DC 20002
E: donielle.powe2@k12.dc.gov
W: <https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fdcps.dc.gov%2F&data=05%7C01%7CWPerkins%40dccouncil.gov%7Cf9f2a93f83c04713536608db9f38b48b%7C062a7efd755b41aaa0f97825db041d3d%7C1%7C0%7C638278838141654857%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6I1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=psIF3mqhSkx3Tas5TRfe9dRizmtgfwvkDfWcPpwKaU%3D&reserved=0>

-----Original Message-----

From: Perkins, Will (Council) <WPerkins@dccouncil.gov >
Sent: Wednesday, August 16, 2023 3:49 PM
To: Powe, Donielle (DCPS) <Donielle.Powe2@k12.dc.gov >; Evennou, Danielle (DCHR) <Danielle.Evennou@dc.gov >; Botstein, Clara (EOM) <clara.botstein@dc.gov >; Umana, Claudia (DCPS) <Claudia.Umana@k12.dc.gov >
Cc: Lewis-George, Janeese (Council) <jlewisgeorge@dccouncil.gov >
Subject: RE: Swing Space for Whittier Elementary School

Oh great! Thank you for letting me know. Could you please send us a copy of what was sent in case we get any further questions about it? Thanks!

Will P.

-----Original Message-----

From: Powe, Donielle (DCPS) <Donielle.Powe2@k12.dc.gov >
Sent: Wednesday, August 16, 2023 3:38 PM
To: Perkins, Will (Council) <WPerkins@dccouncil.gov >; Evennou, Danielle (DPR) <danielle.evennou@dc.gov >; Botstein, Clara (EOM) <clara.botstein@dc.gov >; Umana, Claudia (DCPS) <claudia.umana@k12.dc.gov >
Subject: RE: Swing Space for Whittier Elementary School

Hi Will,

I am circling back to close the loop on this. Our Facilities team did respond to the parents and closed this one out.

Best,

Donielle Powe
She/Her
Interim Deputy Chief, Intergovernmental Affairs

Office of the Chief of Staff
District of Columbia Public Schools
1200 First Street NE, 12th Floor
Washington, DC 20002
E: donielle.powe2@k12.dc.gov
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-----Original Message-----

From: Perkins, Will (Council) <WPerkins@dccouncil.gov >
Sent: Friday, August 4, 2023 12:02 PM
To: Evennou, Danielle (DCHR) <Danielle.Evennou@dc.gov >; Botstein, Clara (EOM) <clara.botstein@dc.gov >; Powe, Donielle 9/11/2023

(DCPS) <Donielle.Powe2@k12.dc.gov >; Umana, Claudia (DCPS) <Claudia.Umana@k12.dc.gov >
Subject: FW: Swing Space for Whittier Elementary School

Hi everyone,

Can y'all confirm if DPR/DCPS/DME are working on a reply here for the parents? Understand this is a complex email that may take some time to answer properly, just checking that they're in the queue for a reply soon. Thanks!!

Will P.

-----Original Message-----

From: Whittier PTO <whittierdc.pto@gmail.com >

Sent: Wednesday, August 2, 2023 12:19 PM

To: Freeman, Thennie (DPR) <thennie.freeman@dc.gov >

Cc: Lewis-George, Janeese (Council) <jlewisgeorge@dccouncil.gov >; Angela Anderson <angela.c.anderson@verizon.net >;

alicia bolton <aliciabolton614@gmail.com >; Palmer, Erin (SMD 4B02) <4b02@anc.dc.gov >; Smith, Zurick (SMD 4B03)

<4b03@anc.dc.gov >; Johnson, Tiffany R. (DCPS) <tiffany.johnson3@k12.dc.gov >; Webster, Toussaint (DCPS) <

toussaint.webster@k12.dc.gov>; Ross, Ely (DCPS) <ely.ross@k12.dc.gov >; Ferebee, Lewis (DCPS)

<lewis.ferebee@k12.dc.gov >; Kihn, Paul (EOM) <paul.kihn@dc.gov >; Perkins, Will (Council) <WPerkins@dccouncil.gov >;

Cohen, Michael (SMD 4B07) <4b07@anc.dc.gov >; Lewis, James (Council) <jlewis@dccouncil.gov >; Starghill, Christian (EOM)

<christian.starghill@dc.gov >; Smith, Zurick (SMD 4B03) <4b03@anc.dc.gov >; Escobar, Yamileth (EOM)

<yamileth.escobar@dc.gov >; susan.fridy@gmail.com ; kbwilliams44@gmail.com ; peawhale@gmail.com ;

smartin118@gmail.com ; Mtewa, Khadija (DCPS) <khadija.mtewa@k12.dc.gov >; Lopez-Casasbuenas, Camila (DCPS)

<camila.lopez-casasbuenas@k12.dc.gov >; jrmailey2@gmail.com

Subject: Re: Swing Space for Whittier Elementary School

Dear DPR, DCPS, Mayor's office, and others,

Having not received a reply from anyone copied, I find myself writing again because I know time is of the utmost importance with addressing Whittier's concerns. As stated in the email below, The Whittier Elementary School Parent-Teacher Organization is reaching out to request a reconsideration of allowing Whittier Elementary School to use some limited DPR space as swing space during its modernization in 2025-2027. We are overwhelmingly disappointed with your Department's unwillingness to creatively work with Whittier Elementary School for swing space during its modernization.

The current plan is for Whittier's swing space to be at Sharpe, near Roosevelt High School, which is over two (2) miles away from our school. Truesdale is the next school up for modernization, which will also be housed at Sharpe, and we know that they have seen their enrollment drop and teachers leave as a result of the anticipated hardship from the increased commute to school. We are trying to prevent a similar exodus at Whittier and are asking you for your help.

Whittier has been advocating to have approximately one-third of the field space at Third Street NW and Sheridan Street NW. Initially, we were informed that was not possible because the field was recently restored. However, we have noticed that there are construction vehicles there digging up the area. Since the basis of your initial refusal is no longer in play, we would like to have you seriously reconsider our request. Secondly, we were told a vague "no" because of loss of future permit revenue. How much revenue do you typically earn from the area we are requesting, field #4? Please know, we are aware and have been informed the Council can work to find other sources to fill in that revenue. In addition, we know revenue from permits does not go directly to DPR – it goes to the general fund – so any lost revenue would be an issue for the District overall, not DPR.

Lastly, seeking a firm and final answer from DPR and DCPS as to why you believe the Sharpe campus plan is the best option for Whittier's swing space would be helpful for our families and community. Again, we are trying to prevent a loss of enrollment and amazing teachers at our school.

Can we schedule a meeting with you and your team to address our concerns?

We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely yours,

Angela Anderson

President, Whittier PTO

> On Jul 14, 2023, at 9:01 AM, Whittier PTO <whittierdc.pto@gmail.com > wrote:

>

> Dear DPR Director Thennie Freeman,

>

> The Whittier Elementary School Parent-Teacher Organization is reaching out to request a reconsideration of allowing Whittier Elementary School to use some limited DPR space as swing space during its modernization in 2025-2027. We are

9/11/2023

overwhelmingly disappointed with your Department's unwillingness to creatively work with Whittier Elementary School for swing space during its modernization.

>

> Whittier has been advocating to have approximately one-third of the field space at Third Street NW and Sheridan Street NW. Initially, we were informed that was not possible because the field was recently restored. However, we have noticed that there are construction vehicles there digging up the area. Since the basis of your initial refusal is no longer in play, we would like to have you seriously reconsider our request.

>

> Whittier is in urgent need of modernization so that its students and staff are safe. The planning process will start later in 2023, and the construction will begin in 2025 and be completed in summer 2027.

>

> The current plan is for Whittier's swing space to be at Sharpe, near Roosevelt High School, which is over two (2) miles away from our school. Truesdale is the next school up for modernization, which will also be housed at Sharpe, and we know that they have seen their enrollment drop and teachers leave as a result of the anticipated hardship from the increased commute to school. We are trying to prevent a similar exodus at Whittier and are asking you for your help. We are a school comprised over 90% of neighborhood families. We have an amazing team of staff, administrators, and parents, and we do not want to lose a single one because the swing space is so far away from our home base.

>

> Many Whittier families participate in DPR programs and camps and greatly appreciate what DPR brings to our community. We know DPR values its participants from our neighborhood and their well-being. Therefore, we would like to discuss a way to use a small portion of DPR green space so that our scholars can continue to learn in their neighborhood during the two years that their school is being modernized. Can we schedule a meeting with you and your team to address our concerns?

>

> We look forward to hearing from you.

>

> Sincerely yours,

>

> Angela Anderson

> President, Whittier PTO