



# South Lake Elementary School

## Major Capital Project - Community Meeting 03

October 26, 2020





 TEAM

DLR GROUP



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MCPS Project Info

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Project Info -

<https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/facilities/construction/project/southlakees.aspx>

 NORMS

1. **Sign-in** under the Chat feature. List your name and relationship to South Lake Elementary (student family member, staff, neighbor, etc.). *Por favor ingrese nombre y relación en la ventana de Chat.*
2. Attendees will have the opportunity to **ask questions or share comments**. Questions and comments may be posted to the Chat window anytime during the Presentation. Questions will be addressed at various points during the presentation. *Ingrese preguntas y comentarios en la ventana de chat.*
3. **Online Survey** link will be available on Project Website after this Meeting. *Un enlace de cuestionario estará disponible en la ventana de chat.*
4. This session is being recorded and translated in Spanish. *Esta reunión se está grabando. Traducción disponible en canal español.*

 WHAT WE'RE DOING TODAY  
10/26/2020 - 7pm - 9pm

1. Introductions - MCPS / Design Team
2. Project Scope and Status
3. Community Feedback Recap
4. Project Goals / Objectives
5. Program / Design Concepts:  
Community Plaza  
Central Garden
6. Feedback Session
7. Conclusion / Next Meeting



### PROJECT SCOPE

#### Major Capital Project - South Lake Elementary School

- Replacement of 1971 structure.
- Update of 2005 Structure (Gym, K Classrooms, Art)
- New site program (Site Circulation, Parking, Play Areas, Field)
- Project to be Green Globes Certified

### ACTIVITIES

- Design Kickoff
- Ed Spec Review
- Meeting with Principal King
- Staff Engagement
- Site and Building Evaluations
- Site Survey Completed
- Community Meeting 01 (9/21/20)
- Community Meeting 02 (10/05/20)
- Community Meeting 03**

### PROJECT SCHEDULE

- Design Completion and Final Regulatory Approvals - **Dec 2021**
- Construction Completion - **July 2024\***
- Occupancy - **August 2024\***



**ONLINE COMMUNITY SURVEY -**

**Please share your Vision for South Lake Elementary School**

**Q1 - What role best describes your relationship to South Lake Elementary School?**

**Parent / Family , Teachers , Administrators , Staff**

**Q2 - What are the opportunities that you see to improve the school facility design?**

**Meet Space Needs - Community Access - Safe and Secure - Staging -  
Interior Environment - Natural Light**

**Q3 - What might some of the challenges be to improving the school facility design?**

**Maintaining 2005 Addition - Parking - Maximizing interior space / Exterior space -  
Providing adequate drop-off and staging**

**Q4 - What is your biggest hope/priority for the future of South Lake Elementary School?**

**Create a welcoming school that the community can be proud of!**



### Project Goals:

- Provide a **nurturing and effective** learning environment;
- Upgrade to **21st century learning needs**, meeting the MCPS Educational Specifications;
- Provide a **welcoming place** for parents, families, and the wider community;
- Increase the school's capacity to **better accommodate** the school's projected enrollment numbers;
- Incorporate **healthy and sustainable** design thinking into the design of South Lake ES.



### Specific Design Goals:

- Create a **gathering area** at the front of the school;
- Zone the school for **after-hours use**;
- **Improve connections** to the classrooms on the lower level to the rest of the school;
- **Improve access** to the play fields;
- **Improve vehicular circulation**: buses, staff parking, student drop-off and service;
- Address specific **areas of concern** identified by the school team: Serving/Dining, IMC, Art Room, etc.
- Understand and address **community concerns** (to be explored in this meeting and beyond)

# SLES Project Priorities

Broad

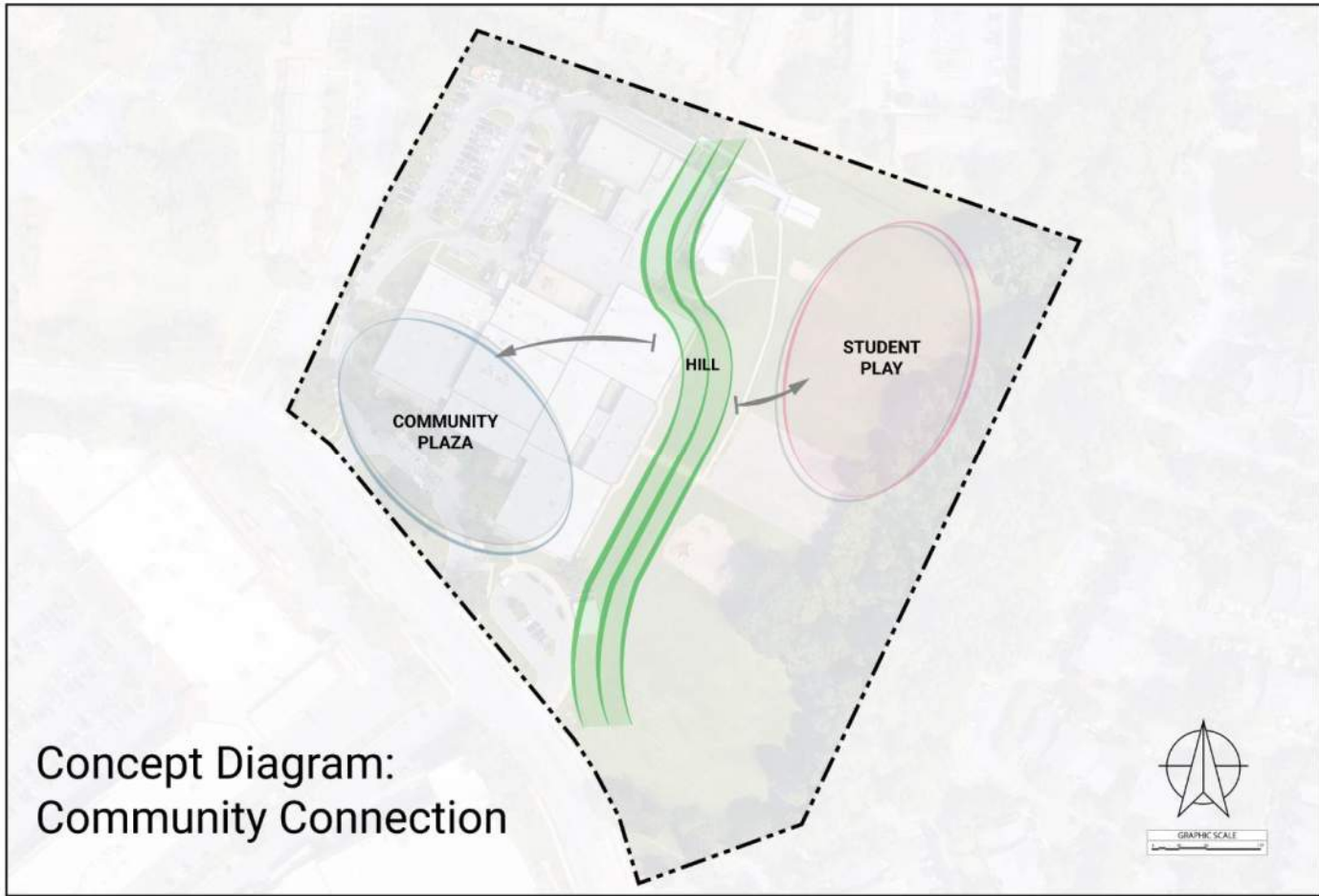
Specific

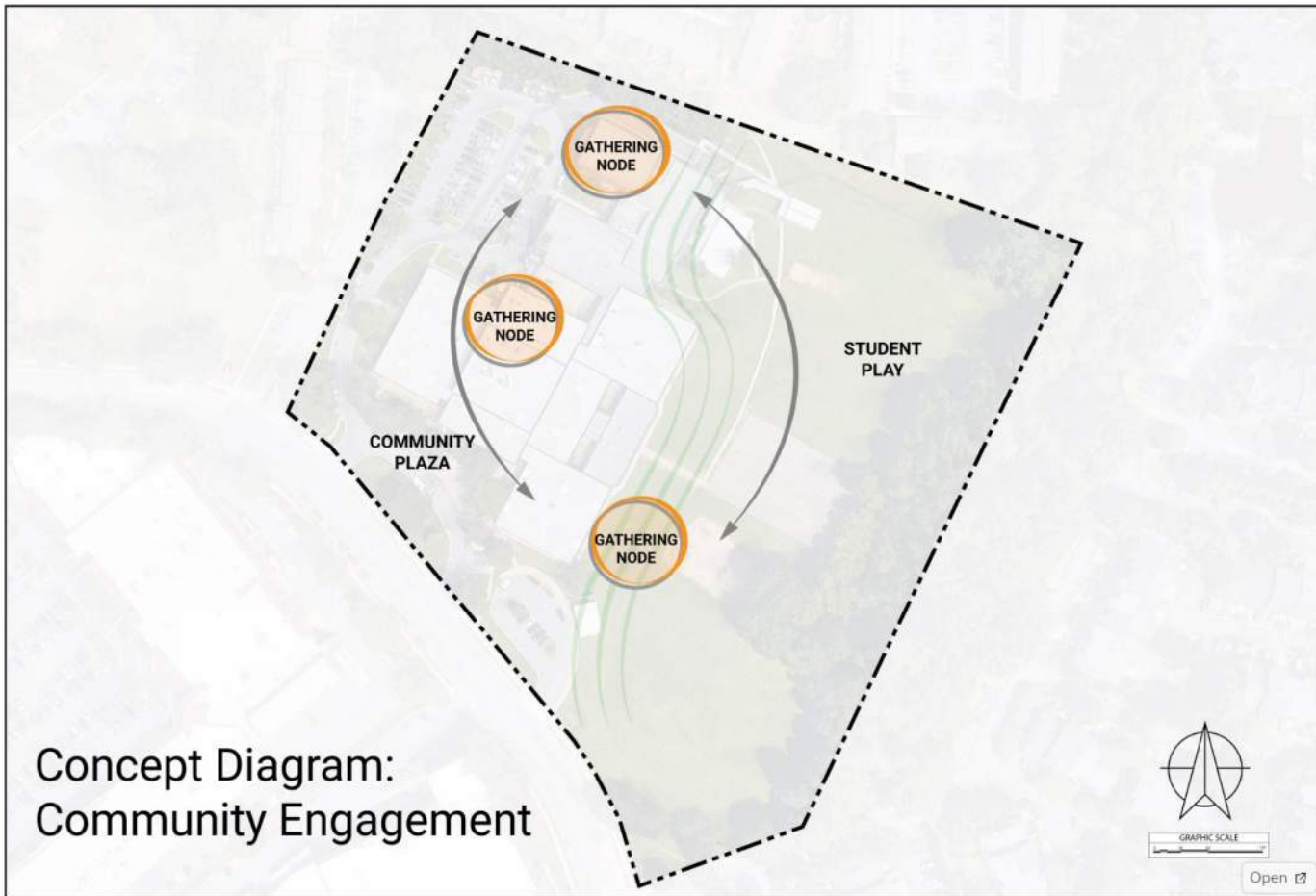


## Big Picture Thoughts

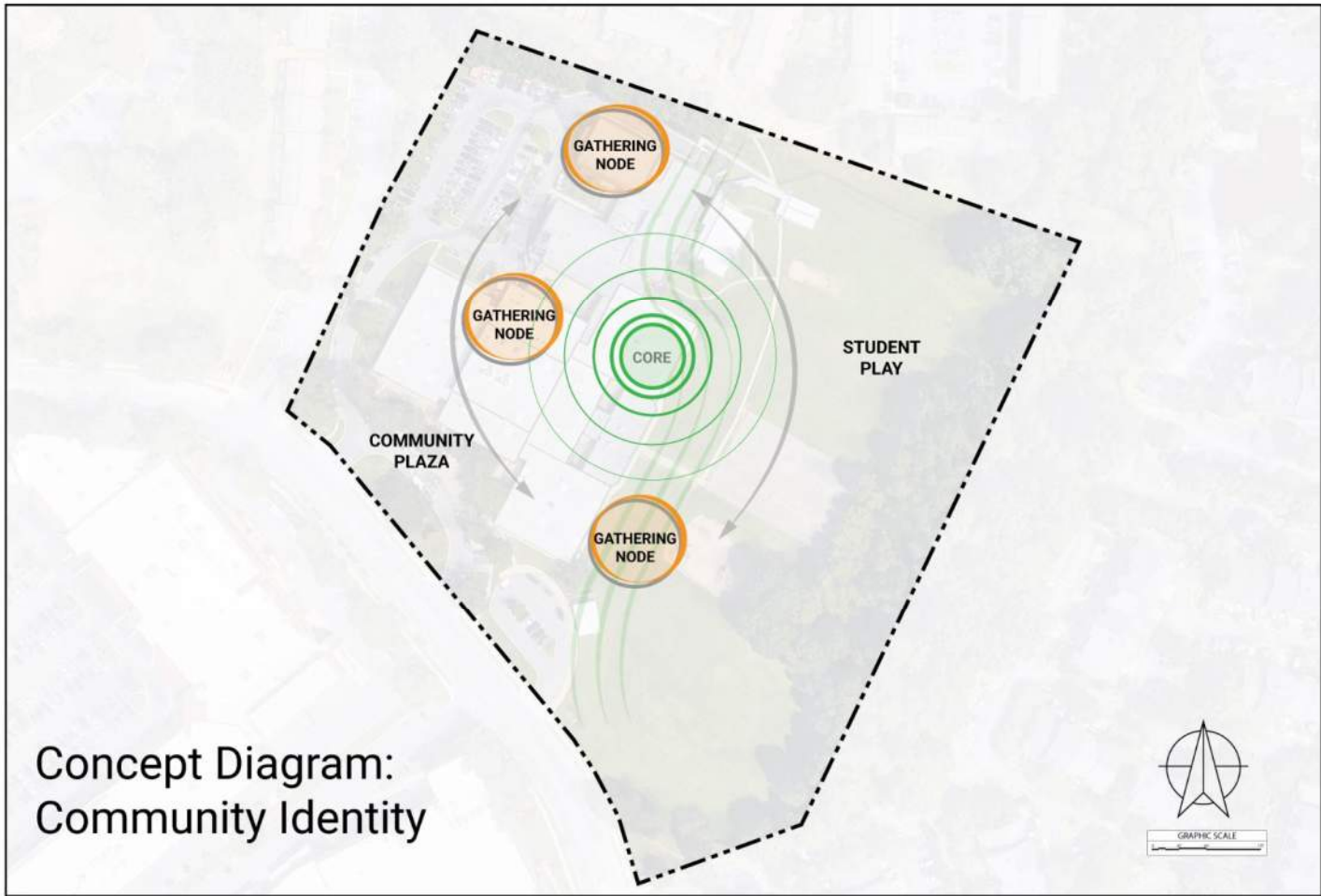
|                             |  |  |  |
|-----------------------------|--|--|--|
| Strategic Plan for Eve Uses | Community Gathering Space  | civic presence / identity                              | SLES is a community school   |
| External Gathering          | space that functions during day & night (public zone vs classrooms)                            | Community Access and spaces                            | Adequate (covered) staging and family pickup area.   |
|                             | School based health center with community access (separate from school as well as from school) | Classrooms for community use (location, accessibility) | Individualized use to encourage caregivers (parent/teachery staff have rights, tools & spaces) |











## Community Plaza / Embrace *Plaza Comunitaria / Abrazo*



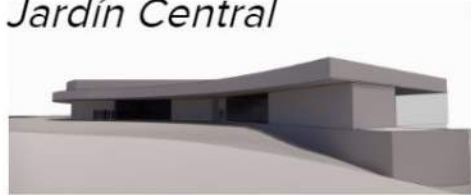
Community Plaza:  
Ground View of Entry



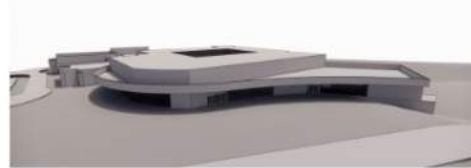
Community Plaza:  
Aerial from South (Contour Rd)

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## Central Garden *Jardín Central*



Central Garden:  
Ground View of Entry



Central Garden:  
Aerial from South (Contour Rd)

## Community Plaza / Embrace *Plaza Comunitaria / Abrazo*



Community Plaza:  
Aerial from Southeast (Field)



Community Plaza:  
Aerial from Northeast (Field)

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## Central Garden *Jardín Central*



Central Garden:  
Aerial from Southeast (Field)



Central Garden:  
Aerial from Northeast (Field)

# Community Plaza / Embrace

## *Plaza Comunitaria / Abrazo*

This scheme seems to be all about parking and car and bus circulation and not about pedestrians, bikes or the community

Music nearer  
Multipurpose  
area is terrific

Thanks for thinking about the size of the staff and creating adequate parking

Definitely think we need that extra space in the front of the building in order manage students during arrival and dismissal.

Looked at putting all of the parking and drop off at the western side of the site aligned with the existing parking over there? In that way, the school can move up closer to Contour Road so that the school can be honored and a major contributor to the public realm of the street.

The idea of using the building to mitigate the extreme hill is a great idea and can likely create a wonderful interior stair/amphitheater/hanging out area for kids. Why not make that a real important vertical connecting element?

The building seems to be set back too far to have a real connection to the street.

Would there be exterior doors on the lower level of the media center? To parking lot?

Nice work--addressing the comments given to the team in previous meetings.

How far back from the road is this model compared to our existing school?


We certainly hope that there will be a wide sidewalk separated from Contour Road by a planting strip with large species street trees. There should be multiple and safe pedestrian and bike connections to the school from the surrounding neighborhoods.

It seems that about 1/3 of the entire site is parking, roads, drives and then dead space in between all of them. Make this site plan about the school and not about the parking and access to the parking.

what you show us for the third level, would that be the only thing that is on that level?

Please leave adequate staging in the front of the building for student arrival and dismissal

This scheme just seems a lot harder to monitor and more difficult for wayfinding for students than the Central Garden Scheme

  
I like that the SBHC and Media are towards the front of the building to encourage community engagement. How many additional bathrooms will there be?

Why couldn't the long narrow courtyard in the Plaza scheme be wider thereby pushing the front of the building further to the south? That court looks about 40 feet wide. Wider might be nice and more light can get in.


## Community Questions and Comments

# Central Garden *Jardín Central*

|   |  |   |  |  |  |
|---|--|---|--|--|--|
| <p>Who would be managing the "garden" areas? Building service? Teacher/student teams?</p>                           | <p>I like how this plan creates a sense of security by lining the front of the school with shared spaces (admin, health clinic, media, etc.)</p> | <p>Basically put the parking on the side of the building and bring the building up to the street as close as possible.</p>                                    | <p>I like the specials having access to the garden.</p>  | <p>Why not put the second staff parking area (shown to the south) to the west where it says "Early Learning Plan" and Restrooms &amp; Mech." on the drawing. It could be west of a long, straight student drop off with the parking to the west. That would allow you to use that space efficiently and to get rid of the parking lot at the south of the site. This maximizes all the play areas to the east. There is a lot of white unused space on this drawing west of the entry.</p> | <p>Will the pre-k play area be fenced in? If so will it be high enough that equipment won't be able to get over a student since it is near a road/parking</p>  |
| <p>Arts/Music access for all students to teaching in the courtyard</p>  | <p>I am concerned about the pre-k play areas on the outside space and not enclosed</p>   | <p>Clearly, this is a nicer section.</p>  | <p>Is there any possibility of a mini amphitheater? in the courtyard area?</p>                                 | <p>Could the pre-k play area be combined with the courtyard and combine the two? Making a smaller courtyard while also giving pre-k access to nature and have it enclosed?</p>   | <p>What is all the white space at the west corner adjacent to the Early Learning Play area? This scheme just seems very, very inefficient in the use of the site.</p>  |
| <p>Will the courtyard provides lighting, it seems to be wasted space</p>  | <p>Yes, we certainly don't need wasted space.</p>  | <p>The media center on the main hall concerns me because of noise all day from entering/exiting the building, etc.</p>  | <p>I think the courtyard area provides light to have classrooms on both sides of the upper level hallways.</p> |  |  |
| <p>Who is maintaining the courtyard? We have courtyard areas now that are not maintained.</p>                       | <p>I guess the only purpose I see for having a courtyard is to use that space for behavioral intervention (A calming down area)</p>              | <p>the courtyard could be used as a classroom space</p>   | <p>Better circulation for wayfinding</p>   | <p>I know that the school does not use all of the field at recess. If this is so, a garden can be placed on that part of the field. That way the building can be used for more storage, classrooms, conference/team planning area</p>  | <p>I personally like the idea of a courtyard but I understand people's concerns about it. Perhaps instead we could encourage more of a community garden outside of the building which then could potentially involve the community more while not taking away space inside the building. I do think it would be beneficial to have some green space inside of the pre-k playground if possible though.</p> |
| <p>A garden can be placed anywhere on the property if we moved way from the courtyard</p>                           | <p>An outdoor classroom space is great when the weather is nice</p>  | <p>How does the orientation of building maximize solar gain and natural light into the building? What can be done to take advantage of solar orientation?</p> | <p>Thinking of sharing a courtyard space with 900 students would definitely be a challenge.</p>                |  |  |
| <p>I think for grade level teams to be near each other—the courtyard scheme has a better layout of class space.</p> |  |   |  |  |  |

## Community Questions and Comments

# General Comments

|  |   |   |   |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|--|
| <p>How many classrooms are in the 2 modular sections?</p>  | <p>The modular sections are not connected to the building, do they have restrooms?</p>  | <p>with this plan are we getting rid of the portables?</p>  | <p>Are the actual number of classrooms the same for both schemes?</p>             | <p>I was hoping for a scheme that mirrored the earlier bar scheme with the third closed bar scheme. The closed bar scheme minimized parking out front, which is preferred. The bar could be moved as close to Contour as possible with a drive in front for buses and all the parking to the side to the west. We like the iconic elements of the plan at corners defining them. You should try to take greater advantage of that idea.</p> | <p>I'm sorry but these small models do not show anything. Why are openings in the locations you are showing them? Why the round form of the building? Why are the setbacks where they are? Where are all the pedestrian connections? What are the views from the street if you are a biker or walker? Why do the cars have all the best views and best locations on site and then all spread out?</p> | <p>I hope things can be done to minimize the impact of parking on this site and to fully support and take advantage of pedestrian and bike access to the site. Hopefully, the cars can be moved to the side of this site and the play areas can be expanded. Make the front mostly for people. Thanks again.</p> |
| <p>how will deliveries work where the multipurpose room is? Also when they pick up trash, it seems like it may be crowded.</p>   | <p>Yes we absolutely need that space in front of the building.</p>  | <p>Thanks for remembering the space concerns outside</p>  | <p>Where would the entry for car drop off students be? Comfort for who? Cars?</p> |   |   |  |
| <p>we have 900 students</p>  | <p>How many students/ classes will the "modular classrooms" hold since this building will still not be big enough for all students?</p>                 | <p>What about attempting to create a Net Zero Energy building to help the county meet its goals of 100 percent reduction in greenhouse gases by 2035.</p> | <p>Shift modular at north further north.</p>                                      | <p>Perhaps the admin could be the corner element that is currently shown as Media in this drawing, with an entrance to car drop off on one side towards the west and one entry for buses on the other side to the south. Both entries would feed a single entry lobby outside of this admin area. Just an idea.</p>   | <p>Take a look at the study of the Neelsville Middle School site and how the architects studied sustainability, orientation and the relationship to nature and how they can play very important roles in student learning and building orientation.</p>   | <p>For parking at the front of the school, will there be handicap/expecting mother's parking spot?</p>   |
| <p>Connecting to the environmental idea - do either of these models include a green roof?</p>                                    | <p>A focus on those walking and biking to school - as well as the consolidation of parking, vehicular circulation is needed as the design proceeds.</p> | <p>We have very few bikes in the neighborhood. Way more foot traffic.</p>   | <p>Current enrollment is lower because of COVID-19</p>                            | <p><br/>I just don't get the idea of building a new building for only 700 students when we need to accommodate about 900 students. Can another floor be added?</p>   | <p>We are very, very supportive of a great civic entry plaza where kids and the neighborhood can celebrate. The white plaza space in these drawings seems to be about 60 feet+ deep. Is that the depth you are looking for?</p>   |  |
| <p>I like the curve of the garden model on the front of the building...could that be something on the community plaza model?</p> | <p>We need to be spread out. We have a lot of students and staff moving around the building.</p>  | <p>upper grades 6-7 on a grade, lower level 7-8 on a grade</p>  | <p>Will each classroom have an emergency exit door?</p>                           | <p>The open courtyard feels too narrow to do anything with except use as a light well, as any activity in it would disrupt classrooms to either side, versus the interior courtyard of the Central Garden Scheme is at least large enough to hold an outdoor classroom</p>  | <p>A lot of shifting internal corridors don't help with that as in the Community Plaza Scheme. The Central Garden Scheme has some single loaded corridors along the courtyard to help orient students and visitors and a more simple corridor scheme.</p>   |  |
| <p>How many Pre-K/K classes are being allotted for the main level?</p>   | <p>Let courtyards be the interesting element between the 2005 building and new building that perhaps could have a much better orientation.</p>          | <p>Please take into consideration that Head Start and Pre-K eat and sleep in their classrooms.</p>  | <p>We need adequate parking for staff and parents</p>                             |   |   |  |



NEXT MEETING / SIGUIENTE JUNTA

# THANK YOU! GRACIAS!

**MCPS Project Info Website / Sitio Web del Proyecto**

<https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/facilities/construction/project/southlakees.aspx>

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Architecture Engineering Planning Interiors