

FCHS Community Meeting Nov 13, 2024 Q/A		
No	Question/ Concerns	Answers & Status
1	Regarding the athletic fields, both the primary field and the practice field, it is crucial that at least the end-zones are surrounded by low fencing or netting. Lacrosse practices and plays on both of those fields and shots on goal come at high-velocity and all angles. Those shots present a danger to those just off the field to get hit with a ball. This fencing or netting is common around high school fields used for lacrosse. Please add this requirement to the bid for the fields.	The practice field provides existing chain-link fencing behind the west endzone adjacent to the stadium field, and proposed chain-link fencing will be located along the school side of the practice field, which connects to proposed tennis court fencing behind the east endzone. The stadium field provides existing chain-link fencings around the perimeter of the track and field. Per FCPS Educational Specifications fencing and netting are not included for lacrosse.
2	Please provide improved lighting for security and safety during the renovation throughout the parking lots, campus and as far as we can go along our property to Providence parking lot. – Issue brought up in Oct 2023 meeting and has been addressed but continues to be an issue.	FCPS D&C and Facility are conducting regular inspections to ensure that parking lots and the campus comply with lighting standards. Any areas identified as needing additional improvement will be analyzed and addressed. Regarding walkway from School to Providence Parking Lot, Streetlights are located on the residential side of Marc Dr. opposite side of the walkway that students take if they park at Providence, all the pole lights are now working, and some branches of trees blocking the light. FCPS unfortunately does not have direct control over the lighting on public streets off of the school property.
3	Please confirm the timing and phasing for Outside Sports fields/facilities (Phase 4?) of the project. It was disappointing to understand that while the commitment to put these components back into the project happened last October, it seems like little progress had been made on advancing the effort. (Currently starting to bid?)	Currently, the schedule and cost are being developed. Athletic upgrades proposal has been submitted by the contractor and is currently under FCPS review. FCPS will provide the timeline when the actual schedule is established.
4	Please provide details on sports field lighting funding and phasing to project	Currently, the funding and phasing for sports field lighting are being finalized. FCPS will provide the timeline when the actual schedule is established. Field lighting is to be included as part of the athletic field project.
5	Community still feels there is a need for a bathroom in the science wing, once adjacent bathrooms are open, this may change.	The adjacent bathrooms have been completed and are now being used by students and staff.
6	Confirm if sports phase will include softball and baseball field batting cages	The athletic upgrades phase will include a new batting cage for the softball field. The baseball field's existing batting cage will remain.
7	Supplementation to community-use budget for school and opportunity to offset this challenge for the school administration.- Issue brought up Oct 2023, Dr. Reid said she would look into it. With gymnasium closed in Phase 3, there will be increased impacts to community funding beyond community use with loss of ticket sales and concessions.	While FCPS understands the construction and renovation of athletic facilities is not convenient for students, staff, and community use, FCPS works closely with the contractors to implement the best construction procedures and schedules to minimize such unavoidable inconveniences.
8	The timeline for construction of the main gym and overall impact to students during this time.	Understanding the concern, FCPS will implement the best strategy to minimize any impact while constructing a modern gym for the school. The scheduling of this work considers input from the school.
9	Can there be a reconsideration of the start date for the mail gym to have it done by fall 2025	The contractor has a set schedule, and FCPS closely monitors it for the benefit of the school.
10	We're far behind where we should be three years into this project.	The project is scheduled for completion in the summer of 2026.
11	What can be done to remedy the delays and limit disruptions to students and staff and the larger community?	FCPS is closely working with the contractor to make up time in phases 2 and 3. FCPS will consider the school's input to implement the best strategy to minimize any disruptions to students, staff, and the community.
12	Los estudiantes pasan afuera mucho tiempo (Translation "Students spend a lot of time outside.")	FCPS always maintains outdoor activities for students during construction.
13	Please publish an update with specifics on the timeline (however loose it needs to be). Website info is too general.	FCPS will publish regular updates with current phasing timeline on FCPS website. The project team also works closely with the school's leadership as timelines are developed.
14	Having students in the building during renovations.	To address the concern, FCPS is working closely with contractors to ensure student safety and reduce any disruptions caused by construction on school operations daily. FCPS also has full-time construction staff on-site to closely monitor work activities and to ensure that student and staff health, safety, and welfare is always maintained.

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15	Publish a timeline (e.g. main gym construction renovation to begin between x month and x month. Send regular updates with specifics every 2 months in parent newsletter (share any thing specific, show a picture, update the timeline). The info on line is vague.	FCPS Design and Construction regularly updates school staff and can be distributed to parents through the school newsletter.
16	Why can't we receive updates in writing with pictures, an updated timeline. There are notes about phases online but I don't know what those mean. Inform us please, every 2 months is fine!	Community engagement processes and procedures are governed by the FCSB approved engagement plan, which includes updates to the website, which will include revised overall timelines for project completion. More specific information is discussed with and generated with the input from FCHS leadership on a regular basis.
17	How quickly can this get done? How safe are the kids while construction is going on (as far as air cleanliness)?	The safety of students and staff is the top priority in the building. FCPS has its own safety inspector in addition to the general contractor's safety personnel, who perform regular visits to the construction site. They monitor the environment on a regular basis and develop reports to ensure that the air quality and overall space are safe for students and staff at all times.
18	Concern for the clean air and workspaces for students and adequate water supply and rest rooms for students, staff, and visitors. How soon will the construction be finished?	The safety of students and staff is the top priority in the building. FCPS has its own safety inspector in addition to the general contractor's safety personnel, who perform regular visits to the construction site. They monitor the environment on a regular basis and develop reports to ensure that the air quality and overall space are safe for students, staff, and visitors at all times. This year, several new bathrooms have been completed in the building and are now available for use. The construction is scheduled to finish in summer 2026.
19	There are no bathrooms in the new wing. Limited bathroom access is an issues. Especially for girls.	The adjacent bathrooms by the new wing have been completed and are now being used by students and staff.
20	Benefits outweigh the inconvenience. Anything to help our children is great. The environment is a critical aspect for learning.	While FCPS understands the construction is not convenient for students and staff, FCPS is closely working with the contractors to implement the best construction procedures to ensure there is minimal inconvenience for students and staff at school.
21	ensuring that all renovation items are completed and not dropped off the list due to delays and/or escalating costs. This school and its loving staff and students deserve to get the renovation completed	FCPS ensures all renovation items are completed based on project scope and FCPS specifications.
22	1) The safety of students, staff and visitors to campus. I appreciate that after hours traffic has been reduced by discontinuing community use. However, our school activities require parking down Marc Drive to Providence Rec Center. The sidewalk needs maintenance and lack of lighting makes that area very unsafe. I understand that this is t part of the renovation project but our use of that area is due to the renovation so the renovation team should make sure the issue is addressed, urgently. We've seen no progress on this issue that was identified last year. 2) Parking lot surface and signage. The surface of the parking lots and driveway should be paved or otherwise improved. We've had friends and family trip crossing the parking lot, and in the evening when there aren't monitors, it is t clear in the tight space how cars show proceed and where they should park. This is also a very dismal area for our students and staff to have to interact with everyday.	1 - FCPS D&C and Facility are conducting regular inspections to ensure that parking lots and the campus comply with lighting standards. Any areas identified as needing additional improvement will be analyzed and addressed. Regarding the Marc Drive to Providence Rec Center, Streetlights are located on the residential side of Marc Dr. all the pole lights are working, and some branches of trees blocking the light. FCPS unfortunately does not have direct control over the sidewalks and lighting on public streets off of the school property. 2 - FCPS D&C will conduct daily inspections with the contractor, and if any area of the parking lot is found to be unsafe for drivers or pedestrians, it will be repaired or repaved. Parking areas currently stoned, will be paved when final grading of that area is done. In the meantime, the area will be monitored and maintained to prevent unsafe conditions.
23	First is safety for students walking to/from Providence Rec Center student parking lot; and the safety and proper handling of the fragile iconic Tile Mosaic hanging since 1968 in the gym lobby!! The construction firm MUST hire a museum-skilled subcontractor to handle it and not/NOT have unskilled laborers!!! It cannot be dropped or mishandled!!!	The safety of students and staff is the highest priority for FCPS. FCPS is ensuring that the parking lot designated for students and staff is safe for use. Concerning the Tile Mosaic, the contractor has been aware of this project from the very beginning. This type of work aligns well with the contractor's expertise since they specialize in historic preservation. The contractor is enthusiastic about the opportunity to preserve this piece.
24	I would like to make sure there will be enough trees preserved and new plantings to provide shade in the expanded parking lots and around the athletic fields. There was not a lot of detail given at the meeting about the parking lots. The additional paved areas are going to contribute to a heat island effect unless, but that can be balanced with strategic plantings between rows in the parking lots. This would also help mitigate runoff. In addition, I hope that the landscaped area in front of the front door will include native plantings and not just turf grass.	The expanded parking lots will include interior parking lot trees to meet Fairfax County code for interior parking lot landscaping requirements. The vegetated space in the area of the front door will be sod and mulch.

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25	What plans do you have to maintain and expand tree cover as you expand the paved areas around the school?	Existing trees will be preserved to the maximum extent possible. New trees will be added to parking lots and along perimeter of the school site to meet Fairfax County landscaping requirements.
26	Athletics will take an attendance and revenue hit if construction on the gym can't start after Winter sports are completed. Lighting for the fields and athletic upgrades need to be funded and construction completed during the renovation.	FCPS will take all circumstances into account for starting gym construction and school leadership input is considered in the scheduling of the work. The costs for lighting and athletic upgrades have been submitted by the contractor and are being evaluated by FCPS.
27	1. Prior to the construction, there were outside basketball hoops (trailers are on them now). Will the school have outside basketball hoops when renovation is completed? Maybe there's a place these could go up behind the stadium vs. losing needed parking?	Due to limited space onsite there are no proposed outdoor basketball courts.
28	When will it be complete and parking.	Project completion is planned for in summer of 2026
29	The lose of instruction in astronomy and the numerous delay plus the lack of bathroom.	This year, several new bathrooms have been completed and are now available for use. The planetarium has been completed and is now in use by the school.
30	Why is the project over a year behind and how are these delays impacting instruction.	The project is scheduled for completion in the summer of 2026. While there are always factors that could potentially delay a phase of the project, the contractor plans to make up for lost time in the subsequent phases to ensure that the project is completed by the deadline. FCPS ensures that there will be no impact on instruction.
31	Student safety. Today, 21/11/24 my son was almost hit by a construction truck when he got to school. He says the school is not safe.	The safety of students and staff is the highest priority for FCPS. FCPS has a safety inspector onsite in addition to the contractor's staff to ensure the site is safe for students, staff, and visitors. Should a student or staff member experience an unsafe act, they should immediately report the issue to the school's leadership so that FCPS can take prompt action.
32	Why do we let construction workers harass students	Under no circumstances will this be acceptable. FCPS has an established protocol for dealing with contractors. If an individual is identified as responsible for such behavior, they will be removed from the site immediately. FCPS D&C has provided instructions to school staff on how to report incidents to FCPS D&C or school administration if such matters occur. Should a student experience such behavior from any construction member, they should immediately report the incident to school's leadership so that prompt action may be taken.
33	1.The length of time the construction is taking, and 2 concerns that the athletic upgrades really happen.	1 - An addition or renovation project in an occupied building typically has a longer duration compared to a similar project in a non-occupied building. High school renovations are typically four years or longer. 2 - The cost and schedule for the athletic upgrades has been submitted by the contractor and is currently under FCPS review.
34	1. Why are there no batting cages in the plans for baseball and softball. The baseball families had to upgrade very dangerous and inadequate cages last year. Every high school has them, they are a bare essential for competitive balance. 2. The lighting on the way down to Providence Rec Center - there are Falls Church student spaces. There is not lighting at all it is dangerous.	Per FCPS Educational Specifications batting cages are not included in softball and baseball fields, however, the softball field will include a new batting cage with the athletic upgrades phase since the existing batting cage will be demolished. The baseball field's existing batting cage will remain.
35	Inadequate funding.	FCPS has sufficient funding to complete the project renovation.
36	The funding between school renovations has been uneven. Some schools had deadline bonuses for the construction company if a deadline was met. FCHS doesn't have that. Deadlines aren't being met, and the completed work is sub-standard once it is done.	The contractor is obligated by the contract agreement to meet the deadline and the quality standards included in the drawings and specifications.
37	Budget and design.	FCPS has sufficient funding to complete the project renovation. The design of the school is in conformance with FCPS educational specifications and design guidelines.
38	1. Madison's library renovation included student bathrooms and expensive furniture. The FC library didn't get either of those things. 2. How was the new science wing designed without bathrooms? How can a new building be approved without bathrooms?	Adjacent to the new wing, there are new bathrooms available and in use by students.

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39	<p>Construction personel has been not been parking in their designated lot since the beggining of renovation. They have instead been taking up street parking in front of the school, on Marc drive. Honestly, this is disappointing, but not the true problem. Since the beggining of the 2024 school year, construction has been parking on the section of Marc street leading to Providence Rec Center. This is a major issue due to that (along with the designated Providence parking) being the primary area of parking for students. The construction begins before students even start getting to school; by 7:15, half of the street is filled with construction vehicles, by 7:30, the whole street is full. This is unacceptable, as designated parking passes have only been made to a select number of Seniors, while the rest are left to fend for themselves. If the county does truly care for and put the students first, they will enforce construction parking and allow students a small parking luxury.</p>	<p>FCPS informs contractors daily to park only in designated areas permitted and prohibits parking in spaces reserved for students and staff.</p>