

Questions from the DKFI PTA April 16, 2024 Please note responses in blue.

Current DKFI Building

1. What are the planned structural improvements to Dora Kennedy French Immersion facility at 8950 Edmonston Road through 2028, and what is the budget for those improvements?
 - a. **There are no planned structural improvement projects planned for this facility through 2028.**

2. What has been discussed with the city of Greenbelt as it relates to the current structure? Will it be returned to the city or demolished as proposed by PGcps? If a decision has not yet been made, what is the timeline for that decision process?
 - a. **According to Prince George's County Public Schools Administrative Procedure 2571 and COMAR 14.39.02.21-.25, after the building is closed the Superintendent will establish a Building Utilization Committee (which requires a community stakeholder) to determine the future use of the facility. PGcps is committed to assessing the future use of its closed facilities as promptly as possible to ensure our facilities do not become a blight on their surrounding communities.**

3. Your team shared that the immersion program was moved into this decommissioned building in 2014. At that time, what was the lifespan for the program in this space and what was the long-term plan for the program? Historical CIPs showed DKFI being in line for a new building. Recent iterations show deprioritization of DKFI despite being housed in a building that has been proposed to be demolished. What prompted a change in this strategy given this program was housed in a decommissioned space?
 - a. **When the original assessment for the Educational Facilities Master Plan (EFMP) was completed in 2008, the building was placed in Cycle 4 to be addressed by year 2035 or later. There was no future project recommendation provided because the occupant at the time of the plan, Greenbelt Middle School, had a replacement school project underway. After the 2015 EFMP update, there was still no update provided for this facility.**

At this time, the level of improvements required for the building would be significant due to the number of items that must be brought up to current code compliance to obtain permits to address other improvements. The facility is currently exempt from code compliance due to the age of the building but would be required to be updated with any new projects.

French Immersion Program Fidelity and Longevity (Consolidation with Robert Goddard Montessori)

1. In a region with a growing population and increased applications to specialty schools such as Dora Kennedy, why is consolidation with another program considered viable? Would the program better serve the community by maintaining its own school in order to continue to admit current numbers with the potential for growth? What is the projected impact on program growth potential by consolidating?
 - a. **Entry to Dora Kennedy French Immersion is application-based. There are 100 seats available at the entry grade (kindergarten) each year. After kindergarten, entry to Dora Kennedy requires French language proficiency testing.**
 - b. **For school year 2023-2024, the kindergarten lottery waitlist was exhausted before the close of the placement period (9/30/23). Additionally, approximately 5% of students attending Dora Kennedy exit the program each year. This indicates that interest in the program does not currently exceed seat availability.**

2. How will staff recruitment/retention be impacted by consolidation? French-speaking staff is integral to the program. Will there be shared staff between the programs? What impact will this have on core classes that are required to be taught in French?
 - a. **Maintaining staffing, program integrity, and preserving the quality of our French-language immersion program is our top priority for Dora Kennedy. We are committed to continuing our recruitment efforts to ensure that the best candidates, proficient in appropriate areas who share our dedication to providing high-quality education for each program are selected.**

3. Why has it been determined that the DKFI program would best be served by being consolidated with RG? Why is it no longer being considered for its own school building?
 - a. **Based upon the age of the building, and with no plans to rebuild DKFI, PGCPs needed to identify a suitable facility for DKFI. This required examining all available options in the northern portion of the County. The two options that met the requisite criteria were former Kenmoor Middle School and Robert Goddard. After hearing from DKFI stakeholders, we realized that Kenmoor was not a suitable option for the DKFI community and made the decision to focus our efforts on Robert Goddard.**

Goddard Site-Specific

1. How will traffic be mitigated as a result of increased population/road utilization? Will an additional driveway be added to improve traffic concerns?
 - a. **We are currently investigating the feasibility of adding an additional driveway.**

2. What is the lifespan of the building, including taking into account growth and the structural analyses? i.e. How long can DKFI plan to stay here?
 - a. **In 2021 significant improvements were made at Robert Goddard. These improvements included replacement of exterior windows and doors, replacement of the heating and cooling systems, updated ceilings, improved lighting, updated fire alarm, and electrical room, and the addition of a new sprinkler system. The lifespan of these systems is 20-25 years or more.**
 - b. **The main facility has a state-rated capacity of 998 pupils and the addition of the 10-classroom modular expands capacity by another 230 pupils. Currently we are planning to expand the classroom modular to two stories and 18 classrooms which will expand the modular capacity to approximately 400 pupils.**

3. How are the shared spaces scheduled and are they large enough to share? Such as gym, cafeteria, art, library.
 - a. **The master schedule for each school will provide time for the students and staff to use the gym and library. For example, the art classrooms would be designated for each school and teacher; the cafeteria would be a common space for both schools.**

4. How do the modular capacities impact the space capacity for the school?
 - a. **The modular capacity will provide additional space for the students of the existing building to be utilized as the Principal designates to meet his/her curriculum needs.**

5. What is the projected budget allocated for projects impacting DKFI?
 - a. **Currently, we have allocated approximately \$5 million for the purchase and installation of the 2-story modular.**

6. When can a tour of the facility be arranged for members of the community?
 - a. **A tour of the facility will be scheduled between both principals and the Area 2 Office, after we transition the current school to their new location. Communication of this scheduled time will be shared accordingly.**

Requested within 24 hours (4/17/24)

[Dora Kennedy French Immersion Town Hall 2/12/24 Presentation](#)

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