

# Community Engagement

## School Administration and Support

October 16, 2012

### 1. What immediate needs or amenities do you feel are needed in School Administration and Support?

- A building where you could consolidate people all in one building. People are spread over multiple buildings.
- Last year there was an attempt to buy a building like this. Needs of students and teachers come first. Technology may be a solution. Doesn't seem like this is a priority over schools. Adults can deal with more inconvenience. Could you renovate Baldwin and add space for admin. People. Central Office was condemned by the county.
- Not just the workspace, but the buildings themselves. How do we get away with buildings that aren't ADA compliant?
- The two story buildings at Tudor Lane are not accessible upstairs.
- Single story has no handicapped restroom facility. We may be grandfathered in, but it's something to look into. Limits parents and people who want to be there.
- You have to go into the building to realize how dilapidated the office is.
- Hire by waist size to make sure 3 can fit in an office.
- We need to do what it takes to make the space efficient and effective and can attract good talent.
- School Boards, Admin, other employees all believe students come first, demonstrated by current strategies. Infrastructure has come to a critical point, and cannot provide everything to the students.
- Don't have to have a new building, we could move into space vacated by others.
- Schools are open to other ideas.
- They need a modern, spacious, central office. It is embarrassing to go to CO here.
- Agree. Former PWC and FX teacher. Millions went to admin buildings. Concerned about a misappropriation of funds. Classrooms need to be balanced with administrative needs.
- Admin Is for student needs. Federal coordinator to get funds, nutrition, course design all needed. They operate inefficiently
- There are buildings in the county that could be more efficient than building a "Taj Mahal". Who will pay? How does the city get investors to come here?
- City is attractive to low income residents. These are big plans. Where will the money come from? Buildings are in bad shape. Buildings are not being finished or coming slow.
- Central Office is in so many different places. Can't work together, can't share resources.
- School system is a magnet for people to move in. That extends to Central Office. Office doesn't give a good impression.
- With the age of the current buildings, need to be torn down and rebuilt relocated.
- Investigate sites currently available. Lots of needs, have to think of costs. Existing facilities may lower costs.

- Not sure all of the ideas that are on the table. Rumors of new Baldwin, city library, ball fields @ old Baldwin. All being considered.
- 15 to 20 acres for a school. Need more space with ball fields.
- Maintenance facility and bus lots. Not enough space at the lot, parking now at Osborne. Open to mischief? Need up-to-date technology for maintenance also. NO warehouse space.
- Is Falcon Communication still available? Is it big enough?
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**2. Are there any existing School Administration and Support programs or services you feel you could live without?**

- No
- Not familiar enough with every function
- We are under supported and the support staff is already over works.
- Services and programs are not publicized. Let people know what is available. We want EVERY kid to graduate, not just the parents who are higher income. People need to feel they are getting value.
- Making families aware and providing resources to those who doesn't seek out / advocate for themselves. This is something we can do better than the big counties.
- Concern about the availability of track and field. Events have to be held at Patriot.
- No
- How are we staffed compared to the other counties? Ratio of managers to staff? Number in central office to number of students.
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**3. What would it take to make the City of Manassas the place you choose to live 20 years from now?**

- Stronger infrastructure in the schools
- Equitable schools – Baldwin very different than Mayfield
- Central office – generate revenue by having daycare in office? Open to all employees?
- School system performing well. Graduating more, performing better on SOL and other standard tests. Taxes need to get the community somewhere. Bang for the buck.
- Diversity in the school, unity through diversity, reflected in the schools and in the community. Kids get involved, parents get to know each other, only the schools can provide that.
- Safety in the schools. Both in the physical plant and freedom from bullying.
- School system needs to make Manassas more appealing than the county. Pennington model should be universal in the city. “Private school services for public school prices.”
- Options for parents if the schools aren't uniform? How can we make the Pennington model work here? Parent involvement can't be mandated. Need to bring it up the ranks, think outside the box.
- Best school system in Northern Virginia

- Small town feel, historic nature, Mentality of being a city
- Disability friendly
- Infrastructure that is competitive with the counties around us (hands above) We are the community.
- We need city business to support our schools.
- We need the city council to consider the schools and the services. Can we fill that building before we approve it?
- These corporations, before they build, should commit to building schools, fixing roads, beautification.
- Make use of the buildings in Manassas. Renovate.
- Top notch educational system
- Graduation rates improve
- Technology infrastructure to support devices
- Hardware as well software
- Students prepared for their future – vocational, technical, college prep. Vocational and CISCO programs at Osborne
- GT program turns away people who have been in GT in other programs. Nothing more than one hour a week offered for grade school. Doesn't appear to benefit our city to turn kids down. Looks like the lack of services is a money saver.
- It feels like the city has been built without a master plan. Building houses – where will those kids go to school if we're overcrowded now. Like to have a better plan 20 years from now than we had 20 years ago.
- Don't know what's out there, everything that's on the table.
- Agree that supporting education is important.
- New & improved quality schools
- All children need to be educated properly
- The need to improve scores
- Need to dispose of standardize testing
- We need proper people working with children of specific needs
- Need rooms for parent volunteers
- Need money and materials to make that happen
- Freedom of teachers to meet the needs of the students (without mandates) autonomy
- 1:59 state funds – if lower local funds are needed (teacher has 112)
- More staffing
- Increase parental opportunities-increase the “welcomeness” for ESOL parents
- Counselors at elementary level 1:650 children (NEED MORE SUPPORT) state standards are 1:500, counseling standards for ASCA is 1:250.

**Community Engagement**  
**Elementary Schools**  
**October 16, 2012**

1. What immediate needs or amenities do you feel are needed at the Elementary Schools?
  - Flooding in classrooms, mold issues, allergy concerns (Baldwin)
  - Rain on roof can be such a distraction to students and teachers because of noise level making it difficult and impossible to teach (Baldwin)
  - Patching problems due to roof issues
  - Becoming a money pit – sucking tax dollars (Baldwin)
  - New building would be a better choice and better use of tax dollars
  - Renovations are distraction to students and teachers (Baldwin)
  - Round classrooms built with individual air conditioning – duct work comes down with the ability to touch –interferes with teaching (Baldwin)
  - Where do we put the new school (Baldwin)
  - Jennie Dean – replace or renovate?
  - Difficult to use new technology in a building that is outdated – struggle with wireless – cords a tripping hazard (Jennie Dean & Baldwin)
  - Do you do one school or two schools?
  - Bond issuing? Do we have same AAA as county? Can we finance improvements using bonds?
  - Other schools need renovating due to trailers (learning cottage)
  - Won't be able to attract new families with trailers
  - Learning cottages are not up to the same standards as the regular classrooms, teachers have to take time to read email to find out what is going on in the cottage. If there is a lockdown, emergency and so forth, great concern about efficiency of informing those in those locations (RC Haydon)
  - Tear down and rebuild Baldwin and Jennie Dean
  - Everyone needs more space at every elementary
  - Build an additional school?
  - If rebuilding, need to build with growth in mind ensuring enough space and school facilities are equitable across the schools
  - What is target student body size for an elementary? (total number of students in the building)
  - 6 classes for each grade (20-28 per class, dependent on grade) (RC Haydon)
  - Can specials be moved to the “learning cottages” instead of a regular classroom – one class an hour going to that cottage – less disruption
  - Parent resource center – parents need transitioning going from elementary to intermediate
  - Open facilities in evening for parents to use labs to check school websites, teacher webpages, email, and so forth
  - Adequate computer lab space
  - Manassas is keeping class sizes smaller (from a parent from Phoenix)
  - K-3 average class sizes are currently 24-25

- Provide a method or mechanism to orient the Hispanic families into their ability to participate in the school system and city government; There is a cultural difference between them and other ethnic groups
- Evening program for adults to integrate them and families are welcome to learn language, home skills
- Other countries school is at school, you come home you work
- New system that needs to be explained to parents
- Parent liaisons – not just Hispanic, but other translations that are needed
- Spanish on the back isn't necessarily the answer
- Send home messages via phone at all levels
- Sending home messages via paper may not be the answer due to no one being able to read or no one home
- “They” are happy to be here – schools are so much better
- Lack of “American” school exposure
- Size? Dependent on the student population, you can put more into a classroom, but when you add ADHD, ESOL, Special needs, the need for a smaller size becomes more important
- Early intervention programs, small group that ADHD, ESOL, Special needs students can be a part of
- Are we providing enough intervention?
- The average child is being left behind because of grouping
- K-4 reading and math need to be STRONGER and problems detected then. Students cannot continue to come to the intermediate level not knowing how to read, or well below grade level. It only sets them up for future failures

2. Are there any existing Elementary School programs or services you feel you could live without?

- NO – we are LACKING in school programs we want and don't get
  - Technology
  - Working internet
  - iPads
  - SmartBoards
  - Additional educational programs for younger children (i.e. foreign language)
- Providing for early intervention of ESOL & SpEd students (mandated by government) impossible to do without funding and technology
- We need more
- No
- Specialists are trained for specific areas – should not be using them to teach reading
- Less parties – redefine wellness guidelines and set parameters and ENFORCE
- Less fund-raisers - parents feel forced into participating – would rather give a donation
- The mold (Baldwin)
- End to experimentation – teaching
  - Kindergarten had 80 children playing games – 20 minutes of quality education

- Use proven quality programs
  - Go back to basics
  - Change libraries in schools
    - invest in electronic books
    - All should be computer learning centers
    - Ability to check out electronic books
3. What would it take to make the City of Manassas the place you choose to live 20 years from now?

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- No tax on retirement
- Children healthy and safe in school system
- Not just about what my kids want or need – it should be good for other kids
- More technology
- Designed more like Mayfield
  - Small learning centers outside the regular classroom
  - We need more Mayfields – tutorials etc

**Community Engagement**  
**Intermediate & Middle Schools**  
**October 16, 2012**

**1. What immediate needs or amenities do you feel are needed at the Intermediate/Middle Schools?**

- Metz upgrade computer labs – access for student use  
limited access when testing is in session  
need room for ongoing use
- Upgrade track – we can't hold a regional track meet at Metz – we have to hold it at Patriot – we lose gate and concession money  
we are benefitting the county  
need additional seating at the school  
work in cooperation with the high school  
spend some money at Metz  
are we in compliance with ADA guidelines? We need to look at that
- need AC work at Metz
- SMARTboards should be in all rooms at the middle school
- Year-round schools Nation-wide – there is flexibility to utilizing the buildings all year round – add a period at the end of the day to add a period at the end of the day – 9 week rotation year round
- Also need to be cautious about year-round because families are in different schools
- Population bubble that we are not designed to handle – how are we going to make space? Trailers? Additions? What is physically possible here? Have been satisfied with our children who have gone to Mayfield.
- We need space for sports at Mayfield. We have an opportunity to take athletes from elementary to HS and we do not have that opportunity
- Room for music programs
- Use services at Metz but is a transportation nightmare to get students to be able to use the facilities there
- Space – surplus at one and shortage at the other  
Can we do something involving Metz?  
Based on the charts, maybe the answer is building a new Metz somewhere else and using Mayfield as a new Baldwin
- Sports – disadvantage because 6<sup>th</sup> grade here is intramural while the County 6<sup>th</sup> grade in not. It is a little different having 5/6 at one school.
- Fan should be self-supported. Athletics in schools – talent brings money – can businesses support sports in the schools
- Education Foundation got 20K from business
- When we want something extra, we have to pay for it  
At Mayfield are coaches volunteers or paid? – it is total teacher volunteers at Mayfield  
At Metz the coaches are paid

- Middle School – Science and Math program – very small base of kids but there are not enough resources to be able to expand to more students. We need to see these expand.  
Science and Technology and teaching Engineering in the middle school.
- Track needs at Metz – it is a disaster. Can we at least get one of the two tracks to a standard so that we can have meets here? We have to go to Patriot and all of the revenue goes to the County. Can we work with OHS to have one in order?
- Space crunch at Mayfield – it has to be addressed – it is the elephant in the room
- Talk about Charter or Magnet School??? Not sure what to think would like to have someone speak to this. Would it be for a HS? Could it be Jr/Sr? What would it look like and how could it help us with space?  
Great idea to have a specialized school – Science or Language-based.
- Manassas Baptist – can we rent from them again? We used it during the snow storm.  
What about JLC? What can we do so we don't have to use trailers?

**2. Are there any existing Intermediate/Middle School programs or services you feel you could live without?**

- Mayfield – not a lot of spots open for extra-curricular activities
- Metz – facilities have shrunk for space for teacher use  
how did they determine the chart used at the presentation? And that Metz was under capacity?
- What programs are needed? What would help students from becoming delinquents?
- Metz – under capacity showing on the charts  
we should not move 6<sup>th</sup> grade to Metz  
experience with having students in both locations – the thought is that 6<sup>th</sup> grade at Mayfield gives the students a chance to grow
- How do we utilize the library? Are we loaning eBook readers?
- Integrated Courses – big proponent – bring more courses together so that they can apply information – English to Civics – Math to Science. It would be great to leverage – one class teaching 3 different subjects together at the same time so students can learn to apply the information
- Middle School Concept – 4 subjects working together/4 person team doing integration – we used to do it and need to bring it back
- We often rush to technology – we don't want to lose hands on one-and-one teaching
- Don't know what there is so we can't address this
- We need everything. No response. Budgets are already too small and we need volunteers to help.
- We could do without trailers.



- ELL put together in concentrated fashion for a first few weeks and then integrate them in so that we can use more resources. Or once a week in an ESOL class? Immersion? Special instruction in English. While ESOL are pulled, the rest of the students are learning a foreign language so they are not missing instruction.
- Increasing amount of instruction available online – can we do away with textbooks and use materials online. Use the free resources that are out there.
- Want school – school is a social event so we don't want to lose that.
- We are losing some students though – we should utilize JLC to do online courses at night or after school – we are still doing what was done years ago.
- Year –round schools
  - But does it disrupt the economy?
  - To be efficient we would need to rotate a 4<sup>th</sup> group in – we would need to put everyone on a different schedule.
  - Another alternative to look into other combinations of on/off schedule. Alternate days – longer days a few days a week.

### **3. What would it take to make the City of Manassas the place you choose to live 20 years from now?**

- See more of an integration of all services - integrated community – we are not there but it would make the community more solid and attractive – everyone working for the benefit of one another
- Values increased vocational training
- F/R Lunch – resource to identify these students, they come to school with expensive electronics – are we helping the people who really need help? What do the students do when they are alone? Students are alone a lot of the time what can the community and schools do for the kids so we have something for them after school
- Needs to be things in the community that are productive and healthy soccer fields, we need more in the City that we can use for our children
- Intramurals program – in competition with athletic teams – needs coordinate when teams are playing away
- Preserve the small town feel – we don't want to split grades apart
- Concern about having students at OHS when it peaks
- would like to keep grade levels together if possible
- Safe streets and productive schools will attract people to come here and retain them
- Sense of community – don't know our neighbors – demographics are different and we don't talk to each other
- Compare to Bristow – where are the younger people?  
Perception  
Fix the Benchmarks or how we hit them it will continue to be a problem  
Perception that our schools are not as good as area  
Performing schools = property values
- People wanting to leave because of the schools  
feel that they are below standard – they seem antiquated

- Schools #1 and sense of community are lacking
- Came here for sense of community – came from California  
Draw – opportunity to participate and influence  
Would like to see parents show up and participate – ex. PTA  
School needs to draw the parents in  
Challenge – diversity is not here in this meeting
- We teach time teaching the Civil War and then we look at the population density and we ask why we are not coming together  
We need to go to our neighbors and say let's have a cookout and get together
- Love it here now – did not at first
- Love events at Harris Pavilion
- Improvements on Battle St./Train Station
- Back to Schools being #1
- Accessible communication – parent of a 4 year old – hard to find information on the website – was not aware of the PreK program and tried to call to get information and never heard back – so...communication needs to be improved
- Website seems antiquated – but also across the board for the City – everything is behind the times.
- High expectations
- Higher academic results
- Produced bilingual learners
- Plan to continue technology improvement – what will it look like 20 years from now? Will it still be the same or would we have moved forward?

**Community Engagement**  
**High School and Johnson Learning Center**  
**October 16, 2012**

**2. What immediate needs or amenities do you feel are needed at the High School and Johnson Learning Center?**

- The bathrooms need a make-over at the high school, first floor.
- Not equipped with smart board technology.
- H.S. in need of hand held technologies for students.
- In need of WIFI and space.
- Johnson needs second floor finished
- Breezeway needed between the two schools.
- LCD board outside of facility for information—current at each school.
- Upgrade auditorium and track field.
- Need to expand the physical capability of the H.S. Build up or out.
- Need more space at JCL. Second floor is being used for storage. Make it useable for classrooms.

- Stop sending our kids out for education, have the programs here at our school.  
EX: ROTC
- Partnerships with businesses in gaining amenities such as computers, other electronics.
- Communicate more that we have coop programs.
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**3. Are there any existing High School and Johnson Learning Center programs or services you feel you could live without?**

- No responses
- Programs do not address the needs of the level of students at the school.
- Adjust schedule for seniors.
- To have more questions answered about the programs at JLC and Osbourn.
- Making programs better known.

**4. What would it take to make the City of Manassas the place you choose to live 20 years from now?**

- Need laptops for the students.
- Upgrade IT system
- Fully accredited H.S.
- 100% Graduation students
- Individualized instruction—flip teaching—utilizing computer for the lecture, classroom is for more one on one.
- Share the classroom with lecturing and mentoring
- Homework in the classroom.
- Future of students in regards to employment. More updated vocational aspect.
- We need a magnet school expansion.
- As city grows, keep its small town look.
- Having the community involved in the high school as it improves.
- We should be at capacity for ALL events.
- Globally aware and competitive and connected team.
- Extending learning to our local college campus'
- Not just an average school but more than above.
- Communicating better for the entire city.
- The high school work with some of the local businesses to give internships for both those going to college and not.
- Increased involvement with local businesses and colleges.
- More summer programs that involve our students.
- Making sure our schools are fully accredited.
- Bringing the community in and having them get involved in getting us fully accredited
- Safe streets and great schools.
- Continuing to create community involvement.