

Building Committee: Tuesday, March 4, 2025

Attendees: Wakili Moore, Jacob Solt, Earl McCray, George Ealy, Stacey Yazo

Excused:

Facilitator: Wakili Moore

Note Taker: Earl McCray

Items and Meeting Notes

1. Student Movement & Accountability

- Staff emphasized the need for consistent hall pass documentation, even for short, unscheduled student visits.
- Concern raised over students "wandering" and extended absences, especially when visits are not documented.
- Staff reminded to note exact times on passes to support tracking.

2. ISS (In-School Suspension) Climate

- The current ISS setup is working better, with staff doing well in de-escalating student behavior.
- However, concerns surfaced that ISS may feel "too comfortable," making it a preferred escape from class for some students.
- Staff discussed ensuring ISS remains restorative, not a reward.

3. Social-Emotional Support Programs

- Girls' and boys' groups continue, but consistency of outside facilitators has decreased.
- Staff stressed the need to prioritize students most at risk (i.e., those with severe behavior or emotional needs).
- Recognized pattern: many students struggle in middle school but show growth by 10th grade.

4. Help Zone Use & Impact on Academics

- Teachers raised concern about overuse of Help Zone by students with the lowest academic performance.
- Staff discussed the need for balance—recognizing emotional needs while not sacrificing instructional time.

Items and Meeting Notes

- Certain students are frequently absent from instruction due to extended time in Help Zone, counseling, or social work.

5. Culture & Student Behavior

- Some students showing small improvements (e.g., increased class attendance, respectful greetings).
- Concerns shared over peer dynamics, including inappropriate relationships and classroom distractions.
- Staff noted continued need to monitor and shape student culture proactively.

6. News & External Messaging

- Recent WXXI article suggests Langston will remain whole and relocate to the Northwest campus.
- Staff expressed skepticism about logistics and whether both schools can equitably share the space.
- General sentiment: while keeping Langston intact is a win, co-location may undermine school culture unless managed carefully.

7. Staffing & Transition Planning

- Principal shared that staffing decisions are still evolving. Final rankings expected May 12; displacement letters by Friday.
- Staff encouraged to ask questions about transition timelines and advocate for transparency.
- Uncertainty remains about librarian and other specialist positions.

8. Building Logistics & Culture

- Discussion around equitable space usage at Northwest. Langston team advocating for full use of the third floor to preserve culture and avoid splitting grade levels.
- Concern that separating 7th and 8th grade students would hurt cohesion and climate.
- Staff affirmed commitment to fighting for space and culture preservation, even amid relocation.

9. Principal Transition

- Principal shared that no formal information has been provided regarding their replacement.

Items and Meeting Notes

- Clarification given on school-based hiring process; possibility of internal reshuffling acknowledged.

10. Reflections on District Strategy & Leadership

- Frustration expressed with lack of transparency and inconsistent communication from Central Office.
- Staff concerned about political motivations behind decision-making and lack of input from building leaders.
- Acknowledged that much of the recent advocacy (e.g., board meeting presence) has helped shift momentum but challenges remain.

Approved by Building Committee Members: