

April 5, 2018

Dear Eliot-Hine Community,

Yesterday, DCPS Facilities met with the School Improvement Team (SIT) to discuss new updates to the modernization plan. The updates presented new information regarding the overall design of the modernized building and the swing plans for School Years 2018-2019 and 2019-2020.

A feasibility study was conducted last year to determine the best path forward for modernizing Eliot-Hine. The study concluded that the building footprint could remain as is, and construction would only consist of full interior renovation of the building. This plan referenced an internal “swing” at Eliot-Hine, meaning that part of the building will be under construction while the school occupies another part of the building that is not being disturbed by construction. The feasibility study is used as a launching point to inform the project architect’s modernization design.

This year, the modernization design team picked up where the feasibility study left off and determined that the current layout presents several inefficiencies—only renovating the building will not address circulation, connectivity, and functionality challenges. The current modernization design, presented yesterday to the SIT, addresses circulation and all programmatic needs by ensuring that students have multiple paths to the core building space and enhanced program spaces. This will be accomplished by demolishing the back two buildings, and constructing an addition that connects all of the Eliot-Hine spaces along the north side, while preserving the historical features of the campus. We believe that this is the best solution for the Eliot-Hine modernization.

As a result of this improved plan, Eliot-Hine will now swing internally for SY 2018-2019, and swing in the adjacent trailers during SY 2019-2020, when Maury vacates them. Again, the new design will demolish the two back Eliot-Hine buildings, one of which houses the current Maury swing space multipurpose room. As a result of this change, DCPS will install a kitchen trailer and multipurpose tent onsite at Maury swing space.. After Maury leaves their trailers, the kitchen trailer and multipurpose tent will be used by Eliot-Hine. The use of Maury’s trailers will also allow for new construction and historic preservation to occur in the building without direct disruption and impact to student learning during SY 2019-2020. Swinging in trailers for the second year also grants the architects more design flexibility to produce the most efficient building possible.

During SY 2018-2019, a “buffer zone” between active construction and learning has been accounted for to separate students and staff from the construction as much as possible. However, internal swing presents its own challenges. Construction, can be disruptive and has potential to create disturbances throughout the day. Moving the program further away from active construction in the second year of will positively impact Eliot-Hine’s students in the interim. It is our goal to have major abatement and demolition (a very loud process) to begin Summer 2018 and be completed by the return of students in the August 2018. Once again, we believe that this is an improvement to the Eliot-Hine modernization.

The Project timeline has not changed and we are still on target for a modernization completion in August 2020. The SIT presentation slides are posted to the [Eliot-Hine modernization website](#) with meeting notes to be posted shortly. We are currently coordinating a Eliot-Hine Community meeting in



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the upcoming weeks to further elaborate the changes of swing plans for Eliot-Hine. If you have further questions, please contact Oni Hinton, [oni.hinton@dc.gov](mailto:oni.hinton@dc.gov).