



James Madison Middle School Project Update Meeting | October 30, 2023 Questions & Answers

Have there been any upgrades/updates to the elevator?

Unfortunately, the scope of this project does not include any upgrades to the elevator.

Been to a few different school functions, and the cellphone reception has been nonexistent. Even in a relatively new renovation - the reception is terrible. Are there plans to resolve this in James Madison?

Unfortunately, the scope of this project does not include any upgrades to cellular service.

Will there be water fountains that allow for easy water bottle filling?

We will coordinate with our building services team to see if water fountain upgrades are in the renovation plans. If not, we can see if this is something that potentially could be implemented in the project.

Will the elevator be working when the students return? There are currently students who attend but are not able to access the stairs and will need access to the second level when they return to the school building.

We will look into this.

When will students go to the school?

We are on track for students and staff to return to the James Madison building for the 2024-2025 school year.

With the new exterior doors, will there be automatic door openers available for individuals in a wheelchair to enter the building?

Yes, we are currently in the process of installing these and making some additional ADA accessibility upgrades.

I understand there is supposed to be a 10-classroom extension added. Has that been started?

Yes, this addition is occurring simultaneously with the other building upgrades and will be completed before school starts for the 2024-2025 school year.

For items that were not in scope, who should we reach out to?

There is no one in particular you can reach out to discuss items not on the scope. This evening you vocalized a couple of the areas that we can explore. However, these projects are planned well ahead of time, typically multiple years ahead of time, and go through an approval process through the state and account to receive funding. So, at this point, since the scope has been identified and the funding has been provided, we have a little flexibility within the budget and schedule to add additional items not on the scope. If the additional scope item is minimal, that's



something that we can explore, but, if it is something that is large-scale and will cost, that is going to be out of our budget.

What are the plans for the new addition to the school?

The 10-classroom modular addition, as noted earlier, is ongoing. The modulares have been delivered to the site, and we are currently working through the final permitting requirements needed before the contractor begins construction activities.

I need to register my daughter for 6th grade. When will I be able to register her so she can take a tour to become familiar with where she needs to go?

Please contact the school administration regarding registration and the potential for a tour and orientation.

If the school gets finished early this school year, will the students switch to the new building this year?

No, construction activities are expected to continue throughout the spring. We are on schedule to actually transition James Madison back into the building during the summer at the end of this school year.

Will there be new furniture, or will we be bringing back the old furniture?

No, the scope of the project, unfortunately, does not include any new furniture. So, the existing furniture that was moved out for the project will be moved back into the building utilized next school year.

Are the windows bulletproof? are classroom entrances effectively safe? clean water in the pipes?

No, the windows are not bulletproof. Regarding the question on clean water, while we are not replacing any plumbing, we have brought in a new water service in order to support the fire suppression system, but that will not impact any of the domestic piping for the facility.

Will the doors have a good lock?

Absolutely! Brand new doors mean brand new hardware. So, they will absolutely have good locks.

What do we do if some of our materials were not brought to Forestville?

If your materials were not brought to the swing space, then they are in the storage containers at the school or still in the school building. During the transition back to James Madison, those materials, which are labeled by classroom or by teacher's last name, will be returned.

Can electric outlets be outfitted with usb and usb-c ports?

This is another item that was not included in the scope, but, similar to the other items addressed, we will look and see if this is something that could be potentially added or implemented easily.

Was the renovation only upgrades to the building or were there any technological/aesthetic upgrades?

Yes, the renovation mainly consists of upgrades to the building including upgrades to the the HVAC system, the fire alarm system, the fire suppression system, new ceiling tiles and grids, and new LED lighting throughout the entire school. There will be some aesthetic upgrades to the building including new windows and doors. Additionally, there is a lot of infrastructure work that is occurring mostly above the ceiling that you will not see such as electrical work, We are working on implementing some additional upgrades as well such as improvements to the pavement areas and some interior painting."

Why is PGCPS trying to build new schools for this generation?

These new schools and renovations are not solely for this generation, but many generations after. Unfortunately, as a system, our assets are extremely old and well above their life cycle. And so, understanding the need to modernize and do renovations while also providing new schools is something that we're working on in a multifaceted approach. We have over 200 facilities throughout the county, which we are actively maintaining to make sure that we are providing great facilities and environments for our students. We are also still trying to plan for replacement modernizations, which led to the development of the Blueprint Schools Program, providing a separate vehicle to fast-track some new school replacements, which has been extremely successful. We also have our traditional construction and funding approach through the state in which we're tackling new schools and replacements as well. All of our decisions are data-driven and we have done several studies in order to properly plan. One of the most recent studies was a structural study of 95 schools that told us where we have to build and what we have to build. So when you see new schools going up, it is based upon the data that's being directed or driven by all these studies that we have done since 2015.

Some of the missing materials were computers. They will be ruined if they are not found now. How do I get them?

Please contact Principal Botchway, who can get in contact with our project manager and coordinate with the IT department to check on this.

Do we know if there's lead in the water? Is it potable?

Yes. Our facilities maintenance department did a comprehensive testing of all the facilities, and the report for James Madison showed that there is no lead in the water and that the water is potable.

There was an old air handler in room 118A. Will it be removed?

All of the old HVAC equipment will be removed and replaced with new equipment.