

Phyllis E. Williams Spanish Immersion Swing Information Session | March 17, 2023 Questions & Answers

Will the work be completed within one academic year?

Yes, the project will be completed within one academic year.

Why renovation over rebuilding?

The District's Education Facilities Master Plan outlines how and the order of capital spending. The order in which Phyllis E. Williams is addressed is in that plan. It is a 20-year plan for modernization, and the Department is doing HVAC modifications on schools, such as Phyllis E Williams, that are lower down on the schedule for full modernization.

What does "substantial" completion mean? Will there still be renovations going on in the 24/25 year?

It means the project is substantially complete. There may be what the industry refers to as "punch list" items that are completed during off hours. But no major work or construction.

If there is a delay, when and how will parents be notified?

Notification will be sent through typical school communications.

Will an updated project timeline be provided, considering the project award to a general contractor has not occurred to date? The current schedule shows Feb 2022.

The current timeline is accurate. The procurement process is underway, and the contract will be awarded by May 2023.

Will the school hours be affected by this change?

The school hours for both Phyllis E. Williams and Robert Goddard Montessori will be unchanged.

Will there be a welcome event for parents to bring their students and meet and greet teachers and see the classrooms at Robert Goddard?

The principals and school teams are currently developing a "meet and greet" for teachers/parents/students at Robert Goddard Montessori prior to the start of the school year.

What will happen with before and after care for PEWSI? Will we be sharing with Robert Goddard?

Efforts are being made now to look at before and after care for Phyllis E. Williams. The goal is to communicate a plan before school ends for summer break.

Will the students from each school interact in person?

PEW will operate as a school within a school. There have been specific areas identified for PEW, and opportunities for the two schools to interact will be low. School leadership teams will work together to ensure the transition is smooth.

Will PEWSI be getting panic alarms and classroom door locks? (If they don't already have them?)

The project scope does not include panic locks. However, The District is in the process of ensuring every facility is outfitted with one-press panic lock technology. So, this process is underway but isn't included in this specific project scope.

Will the students of Robert Goddard be in the same building as well?

Yes, students from both schools will be collocated at Robert Goddard.

Why are they now cohabiting? The original message was that students from the school we would swing to would relocate as well. How is merging two schools going to work?

The school programs will not be merging. They are sharing a space. This site was chosen because it has the space for PEW, and better traffic patterns will be to parents' and staff's benefit.

Some of the classrooms at PEW currently don't have windows. Will those classrooms have windows after this remodel?

The Department of Capital Programs will review this request.

Has there been work to engage MSDE regarding AlphaBest before/aftercare approval at the new site? It took a significant amount of time for the approval at PEW.

The Before and After Care office is currently engaged in developing a plan for both sites. Please look out for additional communications regarding this topic.

Will PEW and Robert Goddard students share the cafeteria at the same time?

That is not currently the plan.

What is the first day of school, 23-24 school year?

August 28th.

What are the school hours for each school?

Robert Goddard - 9:15 a.m. - 3:55 p.m.

Phyllis E. Williams - 9:30 a.m. - 3:40 p.m.

Would students that attend Rising Generation across the street from PEW have transportation? Those students are walkers.

Yes, they will be provided transportation.

Can we get the scheduling – and other communication – in electronic format (email, etc.) as the time approaches? Asking since last year things were sent “snail mail,” and we were out of the country and couldn't check the physical mailbox, so we didn't get the info.

Yes.

Does Robert Goddard have a similar playground (with swings) as PEW?

Robbert Goddard has a new play facility but no swings.

Will the restrooms at PEWSI also be renovated?

Unfortunately, that is not a part of the project scope.

If our students are car riders, will we be dropping them off at the Montessori school or PEW, and then they will be transported?

Parents will drop students off at the Robert Goddard Montessori School. The Phyllis E. Williams site will be closed.

How will this impact class sizes?

There will be no impact on class sizes due to this swing. Both schools will have adequate space at Robert Goddard.

When was the decision made to do these renovations?

Approximately three years ago. The District's Educational Facilities Master Plan can be found here: <https://offices.pgcps.org/capital-programs/capital-programs/cards/Educational-Facilities-Master-Plan/>.

As far as bus drivers are concerned, are over 200 needed? Can you repeat the salary again?

That is correct. We need more than 200 drivers. The pay for drivers is \$20.32 per hour.

How full will the building be with both schools together?

The building will not be at max capacity, even with both schools occupying it.

What's a big renovation?

A large renovation is essentially a full modernization. All major systems are replaced, a new roof is installed, walls are knocked down, new classroom spaces, new bathroom spaces, etc.

Will the before and after care provider still be AlphaBest?

Plans are currently being made to secure the aftercare programs for both school sites. Updates will be provided to each school community as received.

How will pick-up be affected? At PEWSI, we stay in cars. Will it be the same at Robert Goddard?

Arrival and dismissal procedures are still being reviewed and coordinated. Additional communication will be sent regarding this topic.

Will parents and students be able to tour the new facility prior to the start of school to get familiar with the layout?

Yes.

When will the Swing start, during or after this school year?

The "swing" is scheduled for the start of Fall 2023.

Is there any chance this location could become permanent for PEWSI?

No, this renovation will be completed in one year.

Is there a reason we're sharing a school and not occupying a different space?

The district has a number of "swings" occurring over the course of the year and a limited amount of swing space. Therefore, the department must look at the entire picture of school relocations and provide the optimal selection for each school. So, looking at all the parameters, Robert Goddard had the space and facility needs and wasn't so far away that it would make it untenable for PEW.

If students live closer to Robert Goddard than PE Williams, could they potentially be walkers to school?

At this time, Transportation is set to provide transportation to all students. Currently, within the system, PEW has no walkers.

Can you please discuss the drop-off and pick-up?

Arrival and dismissal procedures are still being reviewed and coordinated. Additional communications will be sent regarding this topic.

Will AlphaBest still be offered as an aftercare option, or might that not be offered?

All options are being considered currently, and additional information will be provided to parents at a later time.

Will parents be permitted to volunteer in the new school?

Volunteer procedures will likely be determined once the school gets closer to occupying the site.

Will class sizes be affected?

No, the swing plan will not impact class sizes at either school.

For students who are car riders, is it the expectation that they will remain car riders?

Transportation will provide a schedule and stop for all students. However, parents are able to decide if they would like to transport their students.

Will three schools be collocating?

Two schools will share Robert Goddard next school year: Robert Goddard Montessori and Phyllis E. Williams.

Will after-school services be provided?

After-school programming will likely be determined once the school gets closer to occupying the site. Families can expect communications to come from the school regarding this topic.

Are there opportunities for combined bus routes?

No, not at this time.

Will there be any cross-interactions between both schools?

Yes and no, the students will share a building, but PEW will have its own designated space in the building. School leadership will work together to coordinate, so the opportunity for interaction is very limited.

Will there be additional before and aftercare slots since we will be moving away from the existing options of the school compound?

Before and aftercare options are currently being considered and will be shared at a later date.

If the work is done early, can the staff & students come back early?

No.

Will there be a bus from PEW straight to the swing school?

No, the school will be closed, so it will not be a stop at this time.

What are the grades of students currently in Goddard?

Robert Goddard Montessori is a K-8 academy.

Will the 2023-24 school budgets be shared? What transparency will be made of the annual budgets?

Budget allocations should be released. Individual meetings are being held with schools so they can review budget allocations and can give respective input to their schools and administrative teams.

Is there a plan in place for a summer bridge experience for kindergartners entering PEWSI?

Not at this time. However, the school will notify families if this changes.

Will AlphaBest aftercare or another option be offered at Goddard?

Before and aftercare options are currently being considered and will be shared at a later date.

For new kindergartners, how will they be notified of the changes for the 2023-2024 school year?

New students of PEW will be notified, including kindergartners using the typical modes of District communication to families.

Will there be a lottery system for before and after care? Or kids currently in before care and aftercare will be given priority?

The school and District are working to continue using the current system for before and aftercare. The goal is to keep things as consistent as possible. More information about before and after care will be shared at a later date.

Also, what happens if the child attends a before and aftercare program that provides transport, but now the new location is not in their drop-off and pick-up areas?

If the daycare center is outside the District's transportation boundary, then parents are responsible for transporting their child. If it is within the boundary, Transportation will still provide transportation.

Was the first plan to move PEW to an empty building?

Yes, the tentative plan was to move to a different school. However, the swing site was changed to Robert Goddard due to traffic and parking concerns and facility concerns at the initial site.

How will pick up and drop off work for those who are car riders?

Arrival and dismissal procedures are still being reviewed and coordinated. Additional communications will be sent regarding this topic.

Will both schools wear the same color uniforms?

No, Robert Goddard is a non-uniform school.

Robert Goddard is far from the current location. Were there no closer schools in the same area?

No, there were no closer available options that could adequately accommodate Phyllis E. Williams.

The current length of vehicles of parents picking up and dropping off children can reach up to 1/3 mile of a mile long at PEW. This presents a logistical challenge for the long line of parents and buses navigating the street. How will this be addressed, especially since the start and end times of both schools nearly mirror one another?

The District understands the arrival and dismissal traffic challenges, and this is a primary reason the site (Robert Goddard) was selected. The initial site that was selected did not have enough space for car drop-off. Currently, Robert Goddard has experience doing car drop-offs for two schools at once and has a robust system in place. Also, Transportation is committed to providing all students with transportation services - some parents may elect to use these services. Additional communications regarding arrival and dismissal procedures will be forthcoming.

We have a robust carpool line. Have you all mapped that out yet?

Currently, Robert Goddard has experience doing car drop off for two schools at once and has a robust system in place. Also, Transportation is committed to providing all students with transportation services - some parents may elect to use these services. Additional communications regarding arrival and dismissal procedures will be forthcoming.

Will the same policy exist at Phyllis E. Williams concerning non-approved people allowed into the school for health and safety purposes?

Yes, additional communications about how visitors can enter the facility will go out as the school gets closer to occupying the facility.

Will the parents be able to view the school and classroom space prior to the move?

Yes.

Why did we move to a school 20 mins away vs. a closer school in the area?

No, there were no closer available options that could adequately accommodate Phyllis E. Williams.

Are the students and parents of PEWS able to visit Robert Goddard before the beginning of the new school year?

Both principals and school teams are currently planning the site visit at Robert Goddard Montessori School for the PEW community prior to the start of the school year.

Could this become a permanent location for the Spanish Immersion program?

No.

As part of modernization, does this include lockers or locking storage for all classrooms to reduce backpack luggage?

Unfortunately, this is not included as part of the project. Thank you for your question.

Was there consideration of where families live relative to this swing location in the decision-making? Is this location central to where the majority of the student population lives?

Location was a consideration when selecting the site.

Will PEW and Robert Goddard have different start and end times for the school day?

Yes, both schools have different start and end times and will not change.

Since there are two different schools that are now together, how will this affect lunchtimes? Will our students have lunch much earlier than they are used to?

Both school teams are currently working on the master/bell schedules. Once the schedules are finalized, they will be shared with both school communities.

The hours seem to overlap. Will this create a backup for buses and drop off and pick up? Will there be separate entrances and exits?

Transportation will need to assess traffic flow at the start of the school year and make modifications based on observations. Additional communications regarding arrival and dismissal procedures will be forthcoming.

For the arrival and dismissal routines, how will the influx of students that are car riders be handled? Especially if we don't have aftercare again.

Additional communications regarding arrival and dismissal procedures will be forthcoming.

The arrival and dismissal times are close together. For car riders, will there be two separate locations to separate the schools?

Additional communications regarding arrival and dismissal procedures will be forthcoming.

Will the play area at PEW be renovated as part of this project?

Unfortunately, this is not included as part of the project. Thank you for your question.

Can you explain in a little more detail about the lunch plan?

The schools' leadership teams and the District are currently reviewing school logistics. Additional communications will be sent to families before the start of the school year.

Would the PEW students eat in their classroom?

Both schools will have the opportunity to eat in the cafeteria during their scheduled time. Once the master/bell schedule is finalized, it will be shared with both school communities.

Will the PEWSI website be updated? This swing is critical to keep everyone updated.

Yes.

With an influx of more vehicles on the Goddard campus, is the County planning to assist with the traffic flow by providing additional crossing guards?

The District will work with county partners to see what is available. However, there are a finite number of crossing guards available for school sites. The traffic flow will be monitored as we start the year and adjusted as needed. Please note that currently, Robert Goddard collocates with Hyattsville MS, which is a larger school than PEW, and school leadership teams have worked together to mitigate traffic issues. Hyattsville will move out of Robert Goddard, and PEW will move into Robert Goddard.

Will we be able to tour Goddard?

Yes, information will be sent at a later date.

What is the anticipated difference in pick-up times for bus riders

There will not be any large time adjustments, but the schedule will be published and distributed two weeks prior to school.

So, if the bathrooms will not be renovated, when are they planned to be updated?

At this time, there is no specific date for the bathrooms to be renovated. However, we encourage the community to view the Educational Facilities Master Plan for planning timelines and budget allocations. <https://offices.pgcps.org/capital-programs/capital-programs/cards/Educational-Facilities-Master-Plan/>

Will buses provide transportation to Robert Goddard for students who take the bus?

Yes

Since you all say that this is a minor renovation, why can't this be completed over the summertime? Was that considered?

HVAC full replacement projects are too large to complete over a summer. The Department of Capital Programs has to consider window replacements and equipment purchase timelines. It's too evasive and extensive for a summer timeline.

Have incoming parents of kindergartners been notified?

As of the day of the meeting, Kindergartners had not been notified.

Is there a before/after "artist rendition" of the changes?

This project is more infrastructure related, so changes to piping and roof replacement. The Department of Capital Programs can work to provide an elevation rendering with new windows and doors.

Will we be getting a copy of this presentation?

Yes, the presentation will be given to the principals for distribution.

What do you need most from the parent community to support this move and make it as smooth as possible?

Right now, the school and District just ask for patience as they work to get finalized plans to the school community. There are many understandable questions being asked, and both entities would like to ensure they get the most accurate, specific, and finalized information to parents to limit confusion.

If students live closer to Robert Goddard than PE Williams, will they be allowed to ride or walk to school?

Safety is a priority. Transportation will speak to the school to see if there is an established safe walking route to the school.

PEW had summer programming last school year. Is PEW having summer programming, or will this move impact any summer programming for students?

Due to the construction, there will not be summer programming at PEW this year.

Will PEW get a new principal?

No, the school staff will be unaffected by the school swing.

Some of these schools are very old. Why not update the bathrooms as well vs. waiting another 10-15 years (if not longer) for a major renovation?

Looking at the District's total portfolio of 206 schools, of which 138 are over 50 years old and all of which require a degree of care. The District's budget is limited, so there is only a certain amount of money allocated to spend on schools each year. The Department of Capital Programs targeted this specific school to improve air quality and better resiliency for the building. Unfortunately, the Department of Capital Programs has no budget to prioritize bathroom renovations for this school. When planning for facilities, the District and Department of Capital Programs must look at all 206 building needs and all student needs and decide how best to improve the quality of the environment within the budget and timing that it has.

Will students from Children's Global Readiness Academy still be transported by bus to Robert Goddard?

Transportation will be discussed with school leadership teams.

Will bus transportation be provided for students who attend SKC, or will SKC have to provide transportation?

Transportation will be discussed with school leadership teams.

Will there be an option for after or before-school sponsored clubs?

Specifics of after-school programming are still being discussed. Please look out for additional communication regarding this subject from the school as it gets closer to occupancy.

Does transportation include students who are out of the boundary but approved through the county to remain at PEW?

The Department of Transportation would need to assess case by case.

How many kids are currently at the new school? I don't understand how they can fit two schools in one bldg.

Robert Goddard currently has two schools in it. The building is shared between Robert Goddard Montessori and Hyattsville MS.

Will the two schools have different entrances? How will parents know which entrance to use depending on the school?

The school and District will allow parents to tour the site. Please note that the District has seen this type of collocation work successfully as Hyattsville MS is currently collocated with Robert Goddard. Leadership teams will leverage that experience and plan accordingly as Hyattsville MS moves out of Robert Goddard and PEW moves into Robert Goddard. Parents can expect additional communications about school logistics to be sent as the school gets closer to occupancy.

For new kindergartners, how will they be notified of the changes for the 2023-2024 school year?

Notifications will be sent electronically once they are registered.

Can you share why this is taking two years to renovate the building? Is it being torn down and a new building built?

The renovations will be completed in one year.

In relation to arrival and dismissal, the times are very similar between the schools (only a 15-minute difference). Will there be a possibility of intermixing at arrival and dismissal?

Yes, there is a possibility. However, the schools and district will work to ensure a smooth dismissal and arrival process.

Can someone please tell me when the swing will actually take place?

The "Swing" is scheduled to begin in Fall SY23 at Robert Goddard Montessori for Phyllis E. Williams.

Will PEWSI and RG combine resources for anything this year?

The schools will operate separately in terms of funding, but leadership does plan to be good neighbors.

If a contractor hasn't been selected, how certain are you all that the repairs can be completed within the predicted timeframe?

Based on the Department of Capital Program's experience and current experience with these types of renovations as well as general industry knowledge of lead times and feasibility. The Department is confident it can be completed in this time.

What is a bridge program?

Typically, it is a summer enrichment program.

When will we receive more specifics about these items, like aftercare, etc.?

As soon as the plans are finalized for the aftercare for our district and specifically for both schools, this information will be shared with both school communities.

Why was this info given after the date we could have registered our child for TAG?

Thank you for this question. Every effort was made to share this information with families as soon as possible.

If they are sharing the cafeteria, does that mean they will have shorter lunch times?

No, students will have their full time for lunch. It will remain unchanged.

Can they let parents know before the end of this school year about before and aftercare? So parents can plan for new daycare as the waiting list fills up quickly?

We are diligently working with the before/aftercare programs at both sites. Once the plans are finalized, we will immediately share this information with both school communities.

Will all current teachers/ faculty be moving to the swing school?

All current teachers/faculty that are assigned to PEWS will move to Robert Goddard Montessori School.

Will students be allowed to go view their new school location prior to the end of the school year?

Likely, students will not be able to view the building before the end of school because Hyattsville MS is currently occupying the space. Please note that Hyattsville MS will be moved out before PEW moves into Robert Goddard. School leadership teams have met and are working with the District to provide specific school logistic plans to parents.

Will all of the PEW administration and teachers move to the new site?

Yes, all staff and students will move to the swing location.

Are there any current teachers leaving, all staying, or more teachers hired because of the swing?

There will be no changes to staffing based on the swing plan.

Will PEW be allowed to have in-person events at the new space (i.e., outgoing 5th graders ceremony)?

Yes, PEW will be allowed to have in-person events in the new space.

Will we have another Zoom to go over specifics, or will it all be via paper/email?

Each school's administration will schedule meetings with their respective communities to share updates. To provide timely updates or timelines, communication will be posted on each school's website and/or distributed by email accordingly.



How many kids are located at Robert Goddard now?

Robert Goddard Montessori currently has 490 scholars enrolled.

Can there be a uniform exception policy for the PEW students, as they will be surrounded by students, not in uniform?

That is not something the school is considering at this time, but the school will notify parents if anything changes.

When will new students receive their welcome packets for the 2023-2024 school year, along with the changes?

School leadership is currently establishing the welcome packets. The process has started, but details need to be finalized. As soon as details are finalized, information will be distributed.

Regarding busing for out-of-boundary students who have been approved to remain at PEW, will those students be bused as well?

Transportation will work with school leadership to determine that decision.

Can there be a sign-up for parents wanting to help support the drop-off and pick-up process? and support crossing guards since staffing is low?

The school administrators will communicate the parent support that is needed to ensure that we have a smooth transition as we get closer to school opening.

Is there a reason that there cannot be a summer program coordinated at the Robert Goddard space to ensure that our students still have access to bridge learning gaps from the pandemic? It seems that this project is impacting our students' access to enrichment opportunities.

As of right now, PEW does not plan to offer summer programming. The District does work with Park and Planning to determine what facilities are available for summer programming.

How do we follow up on the out-of-boundary busing? Who is the contact person?

Please follow up with carl.schuettler@pgcps.org.

What grades are normally supported at the Goddard school?

Pre-K-8.

Will the contract include disincentive or financial penalties if the timeliness is not met?

Thank you for your question. Yes, all of our contracts contain financial penalties if timelines are not met due to the fault of the contractor.