

DORA KENNEDY FRENCH IMMERSION

Relocation Town Hall
June 11, 2025



AGENDA

Agenda

01. Team Introductions
02. Background
03. Relocation Overview
04. Engagement Map
05. School Introductions
06. Updates
07. Q&A

INTRODUCTIONS



Introductions

Dr. Charoscar Coleman
PGCPS
Chief Operating Officer

Dr. Sheila Jackson
PGCPS
Director of Family and School Partnerships

Jason Washington
PGCPS
Associate Superintendent of Supporting Services

Dr. Amelia Coleman
PGCPS
Associate Superintendent

Keba Baldwin
PGCPS
Director of Transportation

Dr. K. Fossett
PGCPS
Instructional Director for Middle Schools - 8

Desann Manzano-Lee
PGCPS
Director of Specialty Programs & The Arts

Deatrice Womack
Robert Goddard Montessori
Principal

James A. Spence II
Dora Kennedy French Immersion
Principal

Shayla Jackson
Department of Capital Programs
Director

Will Smith
Department of Capital Programs
Project Management Supervisor

Joseph Howell
Department of Capital Programs
Project Manager



BACKGROUND

BACKGROUND

- A past feasibility study determined that the current Dora Kennedy French Immersion facility is no longer suitable for long-term use due to its aging infrastructure.
- The decision to co-locate ensures that the Dora Kennedy community will benefit from a safe, high-quality learning environment.
- Capital funding for the next six years has been allocated to other high-priority projects across the district, based on factors such as school size, facility condition, and overall need.
- The existing Dora Kennedy building will serve as swing space for Springhill Lake Elementary School for the next two years.
- After that period, non-historic portions of the facility will be decommissioned or transferred to the City of Greenbelt.

RELOCATION OVERVIEW



ONE BUILDING, TWO INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS



Dora Kennedy French Immersion will **permanently** relocate to the campus of **Robert Goddard Montessori School** at **9850 Good Luck Road, Seabrook, MD 20706**. This is a co-location, **not a merger**, both schools will maintain their own leadership, staff, programs, and school identities while sharing the same building.

BEFORE CARE & AFTER CARE PROGRAMMING:

According to MSDE, the Accreditation and Licensing Office is able to have two VMCCP at the site.

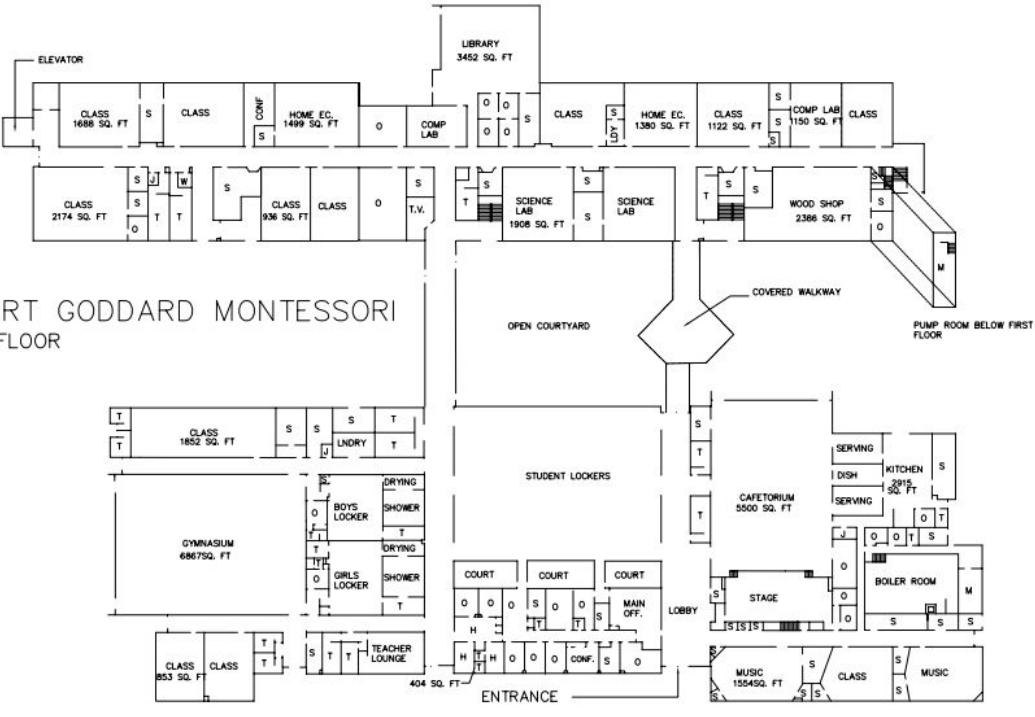
ROBERT GODDARD SCHOOL

Current Campus Overview

- **Total Building Size:** 133,631 sq. ft.
- **Student Capacity:** 998
- **Total Classrooms:** 48

Safety and Security:

- 2 Security Assistants on-site
- Surveillance camera system in place
 - 2 exterior and 30 interior cameras



ROBERT GODDARD SCHOOL

Shared Spaces & Outdoor Features:

- Playground
- Two softball fields (one doubles as a soccer field)
- Gymnasium

Parking Availability:

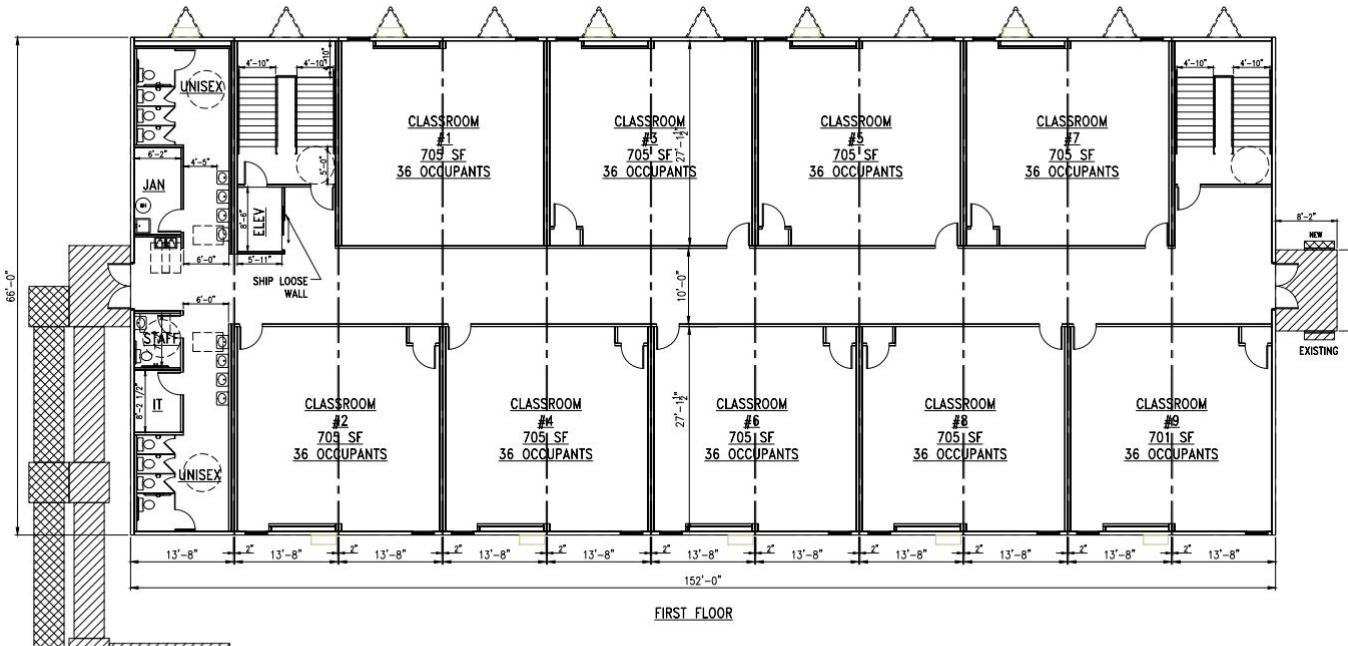
- 180 total spaces, including 6 accessible and 8 reserved spots



ROBERT GODDARD SCHOOL

Modular Classroom Expansion:

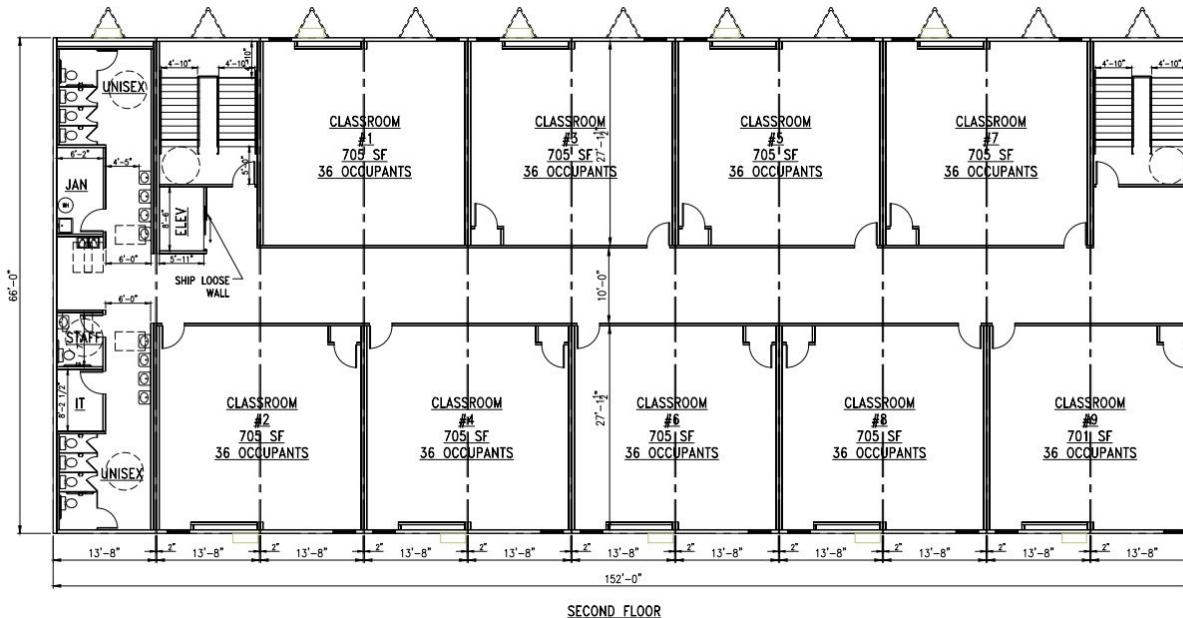
- **Existing:** One story 10-classroom modular
- **Replacement:** New two-story, modular expansion with elevator access



ROBERT GODDARD SCHOOL

Benefits of the Modular Classroom Expansion

- **Additional Classrooms:** 18 new classrooms will be added, bringing the total to 66.
- **Increased School Capacity:** The expansion will allow the building to welcome 450 additional students, increasing total capacity to 1,448.



ROBERT GODDARD SCHOOL

Building Improvements

In summer 2020, Robert Goddard Montessori School underwent major renovations aimed at improving air quality, overall building environment, and security.

The upgrades included:

- Full replacement of the HVAC system
- New exterior windows, doors, and storefronts
- Upgraded storefront hardware, including panic devices, locks, closers, pulls, door sweeps, and thresholds
- Replacement of all ceiling systems
- Installation of energy-efficient LED lighting throughout the building
- Installation of a new sprinkler fire protection system

TENTATIVE RELOCATION TIMELINE

April–May 2026:

- Planning period begins.
- Schools will coordinate packing, logistics, and internal preparations.

March 2026:

- Move management vendor will be engaged.

July 15, 2026:

- Target date for Dora Kennedy French Immersion (DKFI) to be fully moved into the Robert Goddard campus.

The timeline allows staff to prepare before the school year begins, with the move proceeding as scheduled even if modular work is still wrapping up, and materials temporarily staged in spaces like the gym to support the transition.



ENGAGEMENT ROADMAP

UPCOMING COMMUNICATIONS

TOWN HALLS

- **October 2025:** Detailed overview of co-location logistics, including building usage, classroom assignments, shared space scheduling, and finalized transportation plans.
- **April 2026:** Final preparation for move-in, covering packing procedures, move management timelines, staff readiness, and student transition support.

NEWSLETTERS

- The Department of Capital Programs will release the next issue of its bi-monthly newsletter on July 15. This edition will feature an update on the relocation and its significance for the school community.

SCHOOL INTRODUCTIONS



ROBERT GODDARD MONTESSORI



Principal: Deatrice Womack

Grade Configuration: PreK to 8

Number of students: 473

School Identity and Culture: Self-directed learning and freedom with responsibility.

What is Montessori Education?

"To aid life, leaving it free, however, to unfold itself, that is the basic task of the educator." - Dr. Montessori

The guiding concepts of Montessori schools include the following:

- Children learn best in a nurturing, thoughtfully prepared environment that encourages spontaneous and cooperative exploration.
- Students are naturally curious and driven to learn, constructing their understanding through hands-on activities and meaningful interactions.
- Each child should be respected as a whole, unique, and inherently valuable individual.



ROBERT GODDARD MONTESSORI



Physical, emotional, social, spiritual, aesthetic, and cognitive needs are inseparable. The Montessori curriculum provides an orderly framework that frees children to progress according to their individual capabilities.

- Montessori schools aim to assist children in developing habits of concentration, initiative, persistence, and joy in learning.
- Montessori schools nurture security, self-confidence, and independence in children, empowering them to grow into individuals who show respect and care for themselves, others, the environment, and all living things.



DORA KENNEDY FRENCH IMMERSION

Principal: James A. Spence II

Grade Configuration: K to 8

Number of students: 684

Dora Kennedy French Immersion is a diverse, high-achieving public school that helps students become global citizens through strong academics, French language learning, and a culture of respect and community.

In DKFI's K-8 program, students learn core subjects in French, becoming bilingual while following a challenging curriculum based on Maryland State Standards. The program builds critical thinking and cultural awareness, preparing students for success in top high schools, colleges, and future careers around the world.



DORA KENNEDY FRENCH IMMERSION



DKFI VISION

“DKFI is a multilingual learning community that guides students to become culturally competent, open-minded, critical thinkers for a just world today, tomorrow, and beyond.”





UPDATES

UPDATES

CAPITAL PROGRAMS

Updated Modular Building Timeline

- Modular disassembly at the Robert Goddard campus will begin the week of June 24, 2025, with completion scheduled for August 5, 2025. (This includes transport and staging at Potomac Landing.)
- Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment (FF&E) relocation is planned for the week of June 24.
- IT network equipment removal (e.g., Aruba switches, racks) is tentatively scheduled for the same week.
- BGE power shut-off is scheduled for June 30, 2025.
- Permitting for contract documents is currently underway.

QUESTIONS



THANK YOU

Contact Us

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