

Project Planning Committee (PPC) Kickoff Meeting Minutes New Northern Adelphi Area High School Project

Date: March 26, 2025

Time: 3:15 PM – 4:15 PM

Location: Virtual

Facilitator: Robert Nelson, Communications Manager, Department of Capital Programs

Attendees:

Aisha Barrios Negrón

Sandra Atkinson

Cordelia Polley

Anthony Shumate

Frazier Richmond

Daniel Lewis

Garry Dennis

Desmond Smith

Hiwot Haileselassie

Leonard Minus

Jason Fritz

Nicole Isley-McClure

Leroy Alicea

Rebecca Garcia

Monica Welch

Scott Adams

Pamela Smith

William Smith

Robert Nelson

Diane Perriyome

Welcome and Introductions

Robert Nelson welcomed all attendees and shared that each committee member was nominated by Instructional Director Dr. Isley or their school principal. Members represent schools that will feed into the new high school.

Introductions were given by:

- Dr. Isley – Committee Chair
- Hewitt – Lead Project Manager
- Shayla Jackson – Director of Capital Programs
- Will Smith – Project Management Supervisor
- Scott Adams – Principal, Gilbert Architects
- Jason Fritz – Civil Engineer, AdTech

Purpose of the PPC

Presented by Robert Nelson

Robert explained that the Project Planning Committee is formed for all major capital projects to gather community-based input during design and construction. Members are expected to attend meetings regularly, provide feedback, and serve as liaisons to their respective school communities. While the committee does not have formal approval authority, its input will inform key planning decisions. Meeting frequency will vary based on the stage of the project.

Project Overview

Presented by Robert Nelson

The New Northern Adelphi Area High School will serve grades 9–12 and include approximately 2,000 students, including 600 Career and Technical Education (CTE) students. Key features include a 2,600-seat gymnasium, 900-seat auditorium, black box theater, music and dance studios, a secure main entrance, and a vegetative roof.

There will be 22 integrated CTE programs, including automotive, construction, culinary arts, cosmetology, healthcare, and technology. The school will be located on the site of the former Cherokee Lane Elementary, with improved access to Buck Lodge Middle School. A shared sports field is being developed in partnership with the University of Maryland.

Design Highlights

Presented by Scott Adams (Gilbert Architects)

Scott explained that the school design includes a five-story academic wing built into the site's slope. CTE programs are distributed throughout all levels, with heavier trades like automotive and construction on the lower levels and programs like health and dental services on the upper floors. Public spaces, including the auditorium and gym, are grouped together, and the main entrance connects those to administration and guidance services. Sustainability elements such as solar panels and geothermal systems are being considered.

Current Status and Next Steps

Presented by Robert Nelson

The design team is continuing to meet with PGCPD departments (academics, transportation, safety, etc.) to refine building plans. Discussions are ongoing with the University of Maryland regarding the shared athletic field. A Request for Proposals (RFP) for the construction manager will be issued later this year.

Robert proposed that the committee reconvene in two weeks, suggesting Wednesday, April 9 at 3:15 PM as the next meeting.

Questions and Discussion

- **Leonard Minus** asked if the CTE program would include IT-focused offerings like the IT High School model at DuVal and Gwynn Park.
Pamela Smith (Director of CTE) responded, confirming that Cisco would be offered as a CTE program. She clarified that this may not function as a full IT hub like DuVal, but IT is part of the curriculum.
- **Diane Perriyome (PTO Co-President, Carroll Highlands ES)** asked if the school would be structured like Thomas Edison High School in Montgomery County and whether dual enrollment opportunities would be available.
Pamela Smith confirmed that dual enrollment with Prince George's Community College would be available and clarified that unlike Edison, the CTE programs would be integrated across all levels of the building.
- **Sandra Atkins** asked if the school would offer additional specialty programs like IB, P-TECH, or 3D Scholars.
Scott Adams answered that those programs are not currently included in the educational specifications, though this could potentially change.
- **Leroy Alicea** asked if students from outside the feeder pattern could apply to attend the CTE programs and how the admissions process would work.
Pamela Smith explained that students would apply during 9th grade through a countywide lottery system, similar to Crossland High School. The school will serve both boundary and CTE students.
- **Frasier Richmond** raised concerns about traffic along Riggs Road, which already experiences heavy congestion.
Hiwot Haileselassie (Project Manager) responded that a traffic study was completed previously and that an updated study is underway, especially with the new access road and University of Maryland collaboration.
- **Cordelia Polley** asked whether there would be any specialized education wings, such as SEED or CRI programs.
Robert Nelson clarified that the special education wing example he gave earlier was illustrative only.
Scott Adams added that a regional special education program is part of the school's planning.

Closing Remarks

Robert Nelson encouraged members to stay engaged and share questions or concerns

in future meetings. He also shared the project's webpage link where updates and documents are available. Dr. Isley thanked everyone for their insightful questions and emphasized the committee's role in shaping a school that reflects the needs of students, families, and the community.

The next meeting will be held on **Wednesday, April 9 at 3:15 PM.**

The meeting adjourned at 3:50 PM.