

Community Information Meeting Questions
Hovatter Elementary School
January 6, 2022
CMPT 2021-0008, Dulles South Elementary School (ES-32)

Attendance: Sara Howard-O'Brien and Donna Torraca, LCPS; Two Community Members.

Questions raised and a brief summary of the responses provided below:

1. Will Collaboration Drive be widened?

There are no plans to widen Collaboration Drive, however, the road will be evaluated for the addition of turn lanes to facilitate on-site access.

2. Will the two elementary schools share fields?

No. Each elementary school will have a softball field and a multi-purpose field. The fields will overlap. Softball fields are seasonal in nature and tend to be utilized less frequently. LCPS has utilized overlapping fields at other elementary schools, including Waxpool Elementary and Elaine E. Thompson Elementary (under construction, opens Fall 2022), where the site is smaller or there are environmental constraints that do not allow separate fields.

3. Is there separate blacktop space for each school?

Yes. Each school will have their own blacktop play area.

4. Are the schools starting at the same time?

Yes, it is planned for the schools to have the same start and end time.

5. Are there other developments expected in the area that will increase the attendance at these schools?

LCPS monitors all proposed land development in the County including rezonings, subdivisions and site plans. New building permits, assignment of addresses and occupancy permits are also tracked. New development is taken into consideration as a part of the student enrollment projection process. Dulles South is one of the fastest growing areas of the County. The attendance area for the proposed school will be considered a year in advance of the opening, or in Fall 2024, and any new developments that have been approved or started in the attendance area will be considered at that time. The current [2021-2022 attendance area for Hovatter Elementary is linked here.](#)

6. When will there be another middle school to serve this area? Willard Middle School is already over capacity.

The construction of another middle school in this area will be considered as a part of the annual fall enrollment projection and Capital Improvement Program process. The *School Board Adopted FY2023-FY2028 Capital Improvement Program (CIP)* includes the addition of four (4) modular classrooms at Willard Middle School for the start of the 2022-2023 school year. The next middle school to be constructed is MS-14, to be located on the west side of Evergreen Mill Road, south of Red Hill Road/Ryan Road in

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Dulles North. MS-14 has a planned opening of Fall 2024. Currently, there are two undesignated middle schools in the CIP anticipated in Fall 2031 and Fall 2033; one of these two schools could be assigned to serve Dulles South.

7. Who will attend these schools? How will the attendance area change from the current?

The School Board will determine the attendance zone and which elementary school attendance zones may be changed in the fall of 2024, when the boundaries are considered.

8. How will the school system handle overcrowding that could occur at these schools? There does not seem to be room for trailers.

There are various strategies that may be considered by the School Board ranging from regional assignment to elementary schools that are not at capacity ([Policy 8155, School Assignment](#)), maximizing class sizes ([Policy 5080, Class Sizes](#)) to adjusting the attendance zones. The addition of ES-32 would add an estimated 960 elementary school seats to serve the area.

9. Does everyone use the same queuing line for drop off and pick-up regardless of which elementary school they have students attending?

Yes, a centralized drop off location is proposed for the two elementary schools. The length of the drop off area and how the arrival and dismissal will operate will be refined as the site engineering is undertaken.

10. The daycare buses currently go through the parent line. Where will they go in the future?

It is anticipated that the daycare buses would continue to utilize the parent line.

11. Is the bus area larger than what exists now at Hovatter Elementary?

Yes, the bus area will be larger. The current Hovatter ES bus loop provides space for 15 buses and the proposed bus loop affords space for 30 buses.

12. Is it possible to add additional trails to the schools to connect the Willowsford Development?

LCPS is currently working with the Willowsford HOA for the addition of a pedestrian trail that would be constructed between the Willowsford recreation center and the school site. Such a trail could serve not only Hovatter Elementary School and Lightridge High School but also the proposed elementary school. The details of the trail are currently being considered and will be determined in conjunction with more detailed engineering for the new school (ES-32). A trail may be considered in the future, to the west of the high school, between the Willowsford residential neighborhood and LCPS' site. Such a trail would need to cross the County's 30-acre public use site, which has not been developed, and require permission and cooperation of Willowsford.

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13. What is the emergency evacuation plan?

Emergency evacuation plans are determined for each school by the LCPS Safety and Security Division.

14. Will the schools share specialists, physical education teachers, etc?

Each school would have their own staff to serve the school. There may be teachers or specialists that would be shared between the schools or perhaps among the cluster. These could include Art, PE, Music, English Learner teachers/assistants, Library assistants, etc.

15. What ages will be at each school?

Hovatter Elementary is planned to serve grades 3-5, which are typically 9 to 11 in age. The new ES-32 is to serve K-2 grades, typically 5 to 8 years in age.

16. Is it possible to get a cell tower in the area to help with the poor service the community and school is currently experiencing?

Cell service is provided by private industry. Applications for new service are reviewed and approved by Loudoun County government. The School Board has established policy that would allow for the review and consideration of cell service facilities to be located on school property. ([Policy 6350, Wireless Network Facility Colocation](#)).