

District 10 Middle Schools Consolidation General Questions

The following are responses to questions that were shared with the board during their November 21, 2019, meeting. Please note the questions and concerns will be a part of the small group meetings which will be held over the next few months.

Questions	Answers from District 10
Replacement building for WAMS. What are the timeline and location? Need for rezoning with a new building?	There is no current plan for a new building. Replacement for WAMS could be considered in the Phase V Sales Tax Program, pending approval of the 2020 Sales Tax Referendum. The projects and timelines for the referendum are under development and will be presented to the Board of Trustees next year.
Why did District 9 get an elementary school before District 10's needs?	District 9 did not get an elementary school before District 10's needs. The board approved a new District 9 elementary on Monday, but the project must be prioritized with other Phase V Sales Tax Program projects, pending approval of the 2020 Sales Tax Referendum. Other projects and timelines for the Phase V Sales Tax Program are under development.
Process for rezoning - why did this have to be undertaken prior to the 20/21 academic year?	Rezoning now would coincide with the opening of the new C.E. Williams in Fall 2020. With the opportunities that would exist for scholars, starting now would ensure that every middle school scholar in the D10 area would have this access without a delay.
Why a different standard for West Ashley Schools? Did board vote to standardize Haut Gap grades?	The CCSD Board voted on Nov. 18 to make Haut Gap Middle a 6-8 school. All middle school students in D3 can fit into one middle building -- Haut Gap. That is not the case in D10 where all 6-8 will not fit into one building.
Why did the process that the D10 board undertook to make recommendation NOT include community support and engagement?	This board was on the path of rezoning since the end of Elementary School rezoning, we had no other thoughts going into this process. During one of our first meetings, as we defined our goals for rezoning, we realized that we could not reach our goals with this process. The idea of a 6th Grade Academy developed among the board members. This idea gave us a chance to reach our goals and archive Educational success at both sites. We knew it was important to have a proposal to the County Board in a timely manner to impact changes for the next academic year.
What is the ability of the new CE Williams Campus to accommodate student body size and future growth? Is there room to "bring back" students into D10?	Right now it looks like the new CE will have roughly 700 scholars attending. The building will have a capacity for 900 after it is built and can be expanded up to 1200 in future building projects if the need arises.

What are the plans for the WAMS Advanced Placement Magnet program?	We would like to look at tiered classes i.e. general, honors and advanced studies, with a plan to move all kids upward.
Will this model continue with a new building for a middle school in West Ashley? Is the 6th/7th-8th split a short or long-term solution?	The model will remain until the future calls for something else.
Has WAMS been inspected for mold, lead, asbestos? Is the building up to code?	The West Ashley Middle building is up to code. All CCSD buildings are inspected regularly for mold, asbestos, lead, etc.
Why were some D10 board members against the merger 6 months ago, but are now completely on board?	The merger proposal 6 months ago was entirely different than the current proposal. And, the group did not include a D10 representative. The Mission Critical workgroups proposed combining both middle school programs into one school. That plan did not account for the size of the school or classrooms. Our plan accounts for programming and socioeconomic and racial diversity. There are similar sixth grade models in Aiken and Columbia, SC.
Why is this merger appropriate for D10, but not for any other constituent districts?	<p>At this point, West Ashley has the platform for this to occur because</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) There are a little over 1300 middle school scholars that currently attend West Ashley Middle schools. There would not be enough space in one middle school to house all of these scholars. The split allows for there to be two schools that allow access and equitable offerings for all D10 scholars, with room for growth in both. (2) All other areas have higher or lower numbers. Areas where the numbers are lower only have one middle school (James Island and Johns Island). In areas where the numbers are higher, a more in-depth look at zoning would need to take place before this model could be considered.