

D10 Middle School Community Comment Sheet Summary

Background: In November 2021, voters approved the Phase V (2023-2028) Capital Building program that included the project to design, construct, and equip a new or expand the middle school facilities in West Ashley. Feedback from the community meeting will be used to support the scope of the middle school project.

On February 24, 2022, at Stono Park Elementary and March 3, 2022 at C.E. Williams Middle South, meetings were held to engage with the community and receive input for the future of middle schools in West Ashley. Attendees were offered opportunities to ask questions and voice concerns at the end of each brief, and comment cards were provided along with an email where CCSD staff would receive comments and concerns about the project. No comment cards were received from the community. A summary of the community comments is provided below.

Summary of Community Comments

In favor of the 6th-grade academy:

- 1) Desire to build the new 6th-grade campus at West Ashley Middle School.
- 2) Wanting the size of the new building to be the same size as CE Williams South.
- 3) This model gives the opportunity to meet children from the whole community. Able to thrive with only 6th graders.
- 4) If we choose to build a new school at CE North, where will those students attending at the time be housed?

The new building will be constructed on the back part of the campus, and students will remain in the existing facility until complete.

In favor of a new middle school (6th - 8th grade):

- 5) Concerns with the number of transitions increasing with the 6th-grade academy model.
- 6) If a new middle school is built, that school will get the exact same support that CE Williams is offered.

D10 middle school programming:

- 7) The community questioned the 6th-grade model, its sustainability, potential use of other models, and how 6th graders will develop leadership skills if they are the only ones in the schools.

CCSD researched the 6th-grade model, and there was promising data to pursue a 6th-grade academy.

- 8) Question about honors and gifted & talented programs, including fine arts offerings at both CE Williams campuses.

Honors, gifted and talented, and fine arts offerings are present on both campuses.

- 9) Center for Advanced Studies (CAS) is currently not part of the Middle School curriculum.

General Comments:

- 10) Traffic concerns with the current 6th-grade academy
- 11) Future growth projections accuracy concerns
- 12) Orange Grove Charter's future and expenses moving forward
- 13) Seeking SIC and student feedback on the two decisions
- 14) Yes, students with an IEP and 504 are included
- 15) Advocate for the community to provide feedback to the D10 Constituent Board and Board of Trustees to give feedback.

General Questions:

- 16) Former CE Williams location
Saving land for potential elementary school needs.
- 17) Project Timeline
August 2026 projected opening. The typical timeline is 3 years to complete, 1 year to design, and 2 years to build. The timeframe for each phase may change due to current supply chain issues, market inflations, and staffing shortages. Opportunities to start earlier are encouraged.
- 18) What is the Operations Department leaning towards?
Operations is not leaning at this point as we do not want to influence input. The District will take comments received, look at the current configuration and history, and make a recommendation to the Board of Trustees.
- 19) What factors will the Board be looking for in order to make a decision?
This will be up to the Board. There are currently nine members, each with their own thoughts and ideas on what they think should be done. BOT members present encouraged that they would look at all factors.
- 20) If we choose to build at St Andrews MS campus, where will Carolina Voyager and Pattinson's campuses be moved to? Or will they cease?
By agreement with Charleston County School District, charter schools are required to provide their own facilities. The Board of Trustees can consider district facilities if available.
- 21) Does the Ravenel Stadium get used for anything currently? If so, what.
Ravenel Stadium has been used regularly by Academic Magnet, Charleston Charter for Math & Science, and Burke High School.
- 22) When D10 increases middle school students and the need comes to add on, how long will it take to add to the current CE South campus? Can this be done while students still attend?

Assuming it is to add capacity for 300 students, the project can be designed and constructed in between 2-3 years.

- 23) I am aware you stated you've been hearing about Long Savannah for years. But it appears they may have finally cleared their last legal hurdle. When that area is built out fully, it will be larger than Park West, who have 2 elementary schools and a middle school of their own. This may be 10-15 years down the road but a site would still need to be determined. You said the old CE is being held for an elementary school but what about a middle school site?

The new CE Williams has the ability to be expanded by 300 students and the new facility will be constructed to expand by 300 students. This capacity will be sufficient for the upcoming building program (2023-2028).

- 24) Is there any data on the traffic around both the old St. Andrew's High School campus and the CE North campus?

The SAMS campus currently has 431 students. The CE North campus has 363 students and three years ago had 607 students. As such, I don't think that either will be a significant determining factor on the choice of sites. Once a site is selected and as part of the design process, we complete a detailed traffic study to identify roadwork changes (like adding turning lanes) to minimize impacts on both school and community traffic.

- 25) Why is Orange Grove Middle a consideration? They are currently negotiating demolition of the church on the property that they purchased off 61. I assumed the purchase of this property would be used to build their middle school campus but they've owned it for years already. Curious as to why Orange Grove is a factor at all in this equation? And when is the current lease up on Orange Grove?

All three district-sponsored charter schools are a factor in West Ashley, including Orange Grove, as the Board of Trustees has authorized facility agreements with each. It will be up to the current Board to determine the importance of this factor when deciding on the site location for construction of middle school facilities in West Ashley.

Specifically to Orange Grove, the Board of Trustees approved the following motion on October 24, 2016: "Upon the earlier of 2025 or once West Ashley Middle current campus being determined to be surplus, enter into discussions to negotiate a Memorandum of Understanding and Facilities Use Agreement with Orange Grove for middle schools students up to their middle school capacity at no cost to the the district."

Regarding Orange Grove facilities with the district, they were a conversion charter, so they have the elementary school permanently. The agreement for use of the former Oakland ES for their middle school is until June 30, 2026. Orange Grove pays all costs related to the former Oakland ES building. Orange Grove does own property in West Ashley, but continues to express a desire for a district facility.

Per SC Code of Law, Title 59, Chapter 40, Section 170, nothing requires the school district to sell or lease the building or a portion of the building to a charter school or any other school or prospective buyer or tenant.

26) What happened to the plans for the middle school proposal and development that was to occur for Ashley River Creative Arts (grades 6-8)? In 2016 there were funds that were supposed to be set aside for the middle school, I understand there was even a design that was drawn up, and there are even funds in a current referendum bond for this project available.

Can you help me determine why there is still a hold on this project, how to reinvigorate it, and if it is a matter of "land" why can't we redesign and build upward? The school already has a second floor in one area so I don't think it unreasonable to think that having a second floor in another area would be out of the question. I am only asking that 6-8 grades be added to the school to help maintain continuity of the education of many of the students in the school, especially those who have IEP's and 504 plans. 40% of the students in West Ashley's D10 outsource their middle school education due to a lack of options and quality education. Let's give some of that back by offering them what was essentially already promised to them.

1) There is no funding allocated specifically for an Ashley River Creative Arts Middle School. In 2014, a sales tax referendum (for 2017-2022) was passed that included an item for "Advance design for expansion and equipping of Ashley River Creative Arts Middle School." Funding was not allocated to this design project by the Board of Trustees in 2014 nor has been allocated between 2014 and now. As such, a design was not started.

2) In the district's master plan of 2020, a middle school project specifically for Ashley River Creative Arts Middle School was not carried forward as a project, since the district was in the process of establishing a middle school solution for all of West Ashley and the former West Ashley Middle School was identified in need of a replacement.

3) In the current sales tax program (for 2023-2028), there is a project for "Design, construct and equip or expand middle school in West Ashley" in which the Board of Trustees has allocated funding. In keeping with the master plan, using the

funds to expand one of many elementary schools in West Ashley would not help with our need to improve opportunities for all middle schoolers in West Ashley.