

Oct. 17, 2017 Community Meeting Input on Education Center Instructional Focus

Instructional Program				
	Creative and Performing Arts High School	Early College	Expansion of W-L to Include IB	STEAM
Strengths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a demand. • We don't have something like this now—would be great now especially w/DC's renovated Duke Ellington. • Possible synergy with arts aspects in VA Square=arts center and space to be provided at the Latitude Apartments building per site plan condition—also possible joint uses with GMU facilities. • This would be a great program to put at Ed Center—can we do this and put STEAM program at the Career Center? • Good program to be in a historic interesting building. • Can leverage off Kenmore Communications Arts focus—very successful program. Strong dance and performing arts programs. • Unique in APS—really fills a gap/acts as a complement to our current offerings. • Might make arts in the comprehensive HSs more available to kids—especially “Dabblers.” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good feeder to our excellent VA state schools for college. • Reinforces ongoing education and improves quality of our students • Earning two years of college credits has huge financial benefits. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Established, recognized program—actual certificate granted. • Adds 100+ seats compared to other three options—helps students in all three schools lower overcrowding. • It sounds like this program could be rolled out the quickest of the four. • This (vs. stand-alone options) might create less additional traffic and distraction impacts on Quincy Street as students would feed from main W-L. • Might be easiest to get this going (vs. other options) here faster. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is the most applicable to today's job market. • Lots of potential to partner with Arlington business community and tie to county economic development efforts—great recruitment tool for attracting new tech employers too. • I love the tie to art—I think this will attract the most kids of the four programs. • Good program to be housed in a historic/interesting building. • Wonderful rounding of educational experience for our future leaders. • Very attractive program/broad appeal=easy to fill seats.
Concerns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Won't maximize students at this location. • Not a recognized program/experiment/plowing new ground. • Creation of a parent drop-off location on an already busy Quincy street. • Will this degrade performing arts at the other high schools? • Stand-alone option (vs. IB-expanding W-L) may place too much additional traffic and distractions on already busy Quincy Street. • Producers—100 fewer seats. Not as beneficial for overcrowding. • Hard to keep space flexible for future needs. • Would this be as accessible for students with special needs? • Duke Ellington % of students with special needs only 1/3 as much as systemwide. <p>Common space?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognition of credits by private colleges. • Stand-alone program (vs. IB expanding W-L) may place too much additional traffic and distractions on very busy Quincy Street. • Won't maximize students at this location. • Would it be as accessible to students with special needs as other three high schools? Would APS commit to tutors and supports to make it accessible? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IB program is not accessible to many achievement gap students: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Students with disabilities ○ English language learners ○ Possibly low SES students • Too much competition for resources/activities/clubs/teams of larger W-L school • May not have enough demand for IB • A fourth comprehensive HS in S. Arlington may significantly reduce demand for IB from Wakefield students. • Oversized HS compared to Yorktown, etc. makes this area/school less attractive (real estate values, etc.) • Very little demand for a “mega high school” in Arlington. • Too much competition for sports/activities. • IB does not have the same cache with private colleges as AP—probably a limit to interest at some point among the college board crowd. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demand? • Should this approach be applied to Career Center/Arlington Tech and the 600+ seat addition being done there? • This should be paired with the Career Center/Arlington Tech. • Do we have enough space for Science labs in the Ed Center building? • Could this start at a different time from W-L to ease traffic concerns? • What is this? Weak brand • No actual degree vs. IB Program • Possible parent drop-off traffic added to Quincy Street as this is a stand-alone. • Stand-alone option (vs. IB expansion) may place too much additional traffic and create more distractions on a busy Quincy Street. • Won't maximize students at this location.

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Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Admissions process? Tryouts/portfolio or plain lottery? Please clarify whether English Learners and students with significant support needs would be welcomed here, and whether they would be well supported with the classroom. Is there performance space here? Can the instruction and curriculum here be differentiated and adhere to universal design for learning (UDL) principles? Will this be an admission by audition school? Could we partner (or move) the Arlington Arts Center programs here too and then use the AAC building for APS preschool seats to free up space at our elementary schools? Could other students attend conservatory classes here like now at the Career Center? Would be live trying to turn the Kennedy Center into a high-tech facility...can't retrofit this space for arts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Don't all schools have AP to some extent? Do most private colleges give credit for courses taken in high school? How will parents weigh this option vs. AP classes? Which is most valuable to four-year colleges, etc.? Will the Ed Center renovation include lab space for early college science classes? Will the partner college be NOVA? If NOVA will be designed so kids can do the honors program and transfer to UVA or the other programs that NOVA partners with as college juniors saving parents two-years tuition? Admissions? Lottery or some kind of application? How will you support students in making a choice to do this program and to succeed at it? Are there numbers on how many kids are currently graduating from HS and going on to NOVA or other community colleges that would be more likely to choose this option for free? And are there projections for future numbers? For the FAQ, please make clear that there would not be any prerequisites for this program (incl. English language, academic skills), or any expectations (i.e. you could enroll in this program if you were not interested or targeting completion of an A.A. or even a regular diploma) and that this would be accessible to students with disabilities and English language learners and would provide full supports and differentiated instruction if needed. Would there be a summer bridge program for rising freshmen to transition to college study skills? Could this start at a different time from W-L to ease traffic? How do these college credits compare with AP classes? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demand? How many kids on waitlist now? How will the 600 seats be allocated? No way IB waitlist is 600 kids. Could APS do an AP/IB/Early College "101" night for elementary parents? I'm not sure that I understand all the differences and what colleges recognize today. My biggest worry is that I have heard that many private colleges do not give IB the same weight as AP when allowing course credit transfer. Could we get a college counselor to weigh in on this? and/or all options? Common space? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Common space? Is the demand for this separate from Career Center/Arlington Tech? Why can't we combine this with Arlington Tech and create a cutting-edge STEAM/High-Tech School? Our kids need an alternate to TJSH—something that offers conceptual and experiential learning would be amazing. For the FAQs, please clarify that this program would be accessible for all achievement gap students and that they would each be well supported in this program: e.g. English language learners, students with significant disabilities, or other support needs. Would like to see blueprints of how chem labs, engineering. Robots, 3-D printers, fit in this space—and the theatre for arts in STEAM. Will this school just reinforce trends away from Civics and toward occupational preparation for corporate America? Please clarify whether the curriculum and instruction here would be differentiated and/or work well in a universal design for learning framework. Would this be as accessible to students with special needs as the other three high schools?