



Building on Momentum: Summary of Parent Feedback on the Proposal for Stuart-Hobson MS

For the past four months, DCPS has been developing a plan to strengthen Ward 6 Middle Schools. We solicited parent input in a variety of ways and received a lot of important feedback. Parents communicated with us in the following ways:

- Community Meeting on April 26th (approx. 30 attended)
- Community Meeting on May 19th (approx. 40 attended)
- Multiple small group meetings with parents, including PTA and parent organization meetings
- Email correspondence and phone calls
- Survey (172 responses online and in hard copy; asked all principals to send surveys home with students)

While we have provided many different opportunities for communication, level of input has varied across school communities. This document serves as a summary of all the feedback about Stuart-Hobson received throughout this process.

The following table represents what we heard from parents as the most important factors for strengthening Stuart-Hobson:

Strong and Comprehensive Academics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Challenging academic program for students at all levels▪ Strong special education program▪ Advanced course offerings, specifically the International Baccalaureate Program (IB)
Support for Montessori	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Desire for Montessori School to stay in the Capitol Hill Cluster▪ Smooth transition for the Montessori School if it changes buildings
Skilled Teachers and Leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Strong leadership that prioritizes academic achievement and positive school culture▪ Teachers who demonstrate expertise and inspire students

Elements of the plan that parents liked most:

- Plans for enhancing academics, especially the differentiated math classes and the language offerings
- The change in grade configuration, with 5th grade moving from Stuart-Hobson MS to Watkins ES
- The possibility for the Montessori School to stay in the Capitol Hill Cluster
- The possibility of Montessori School growing to 8th grade

Parents' most common concerns:

- The lack of an International Baccalaureate program for Stuart-Hobson
- More information on extra-curricular programs (such as band/orchestra and athletics)
- More information on special education program at Stuart-Hobson
- The option to send students to Montessori through 8th grade or to Stuart-Hobson – would like to maintain a choice

Quotes from parents:

The following quotations are a sampling from the variety of comments and concerns we received:

- *“Continue to strengthen teaching staff and support for staff.”*
- *“More information about how IB could be added, more information about specific modernization plans, the Montessori changes.”*
- *“I think there should be more defined upgrades/changes developed for Stuart Hobson. All other schools have a better programming proposed for their schools where as Stuart seems to have no plan at all. Stuart should have special language and art and music programs.”*
- *“I am very concerned that the Montessori program stay as part of the Cluster.”*
- *“I think that changing the grade levels is a great forward step that so many parents would be in support of.”*
- *“I appreciate the strengthening of the math and foreign language options.”*
- *“I would strongly support an IB-MY program at Stuart.”*
- *“Thank you for all your hard work on the Ward 6 middle school project. I'm looking forward to working together to make S-H even better.”*
- *“We are very enthusiastic about the possibility of extending Montessori through 8th grade! We would place our daughter in Montessori through 8th grade.”*
- *“Yes, the key to improving the schools is to build capacity and integrate. Each school should roughly reflect the demographic make-up of the neighborhood in which it sits. It's not good for kids or neighborhoods to have all black or all white schools when the neighborhood is mixed.”*