



**WORK SESSION OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL** held December 14, 2005, for the purpose of meeting with Prince George's County School System representatives to discuss the Greenbelt Middle School.

Mayor Davis started the meeting at 8:04 p.m. It was held in the Multipurpose Room of the Community Center.

PRESENT WERE: Councilmembers Konrad E. Herling, Leta M. Mach, Edward V.J. Putens, Rodney M. Roberts and Mayor Judith F. Davis.

STAFF PRESENT WERE: Michael P. McLaughlin, City Manager; Terri Hruby, Assistant Director of Planning; Joe McNeal, Assistant Director of Recreation; and David E. Moran, Assistant City Manager.

ALSO PRESENT WERE: José Morales, County Board of Education; Lori Morris; County Councilmember Peter's Office; Raymond Peterson, ACE; Bob Kuntz, Dan Kaiser, Adrian King and Don Lee, Prince George's County School System; Ann Harris Davidson, Berwyn Heights; and Michael Zimmerman, The Gazette.

Mayor Davis outlined the issues that needed to be discussed including: plans for the historic portion, plans for the new combined school, enrollment projections, fields and recreation amenities.

Mr. Morales began by stating that his understanding of the purpose of the meeting was to discuss only the school system's plans to use the historic portion of Greenbelt Middle School. He reported that the school system now planned to use this space for regional offices. Mr. Kuntz stated that this proposal had not been approved by the CEO or the School Board.

Mr. King presented plans for the renovated historic portion of Greenbelt Middle School. Under the Board's current concept, the 1937 and 1945 sections of the building would be used for the consolidation of Regional offices.

Mr. Roberts expressed his desire that the historic portion of be used for classroom space instead of regional offices. Mr. Kuntz responded that the plans were conceptual and the City could suggest alternatives for the school system to consider.

Ms. Mach stated that she understood the educational benefits of having one building house both the elementary and middle schools, with separate wings for the elementary and middle-school grades.

Mr. Putens asked about fields, gyms and other spaces that could be shared with the City under some kind of use agreement. Mr. Morales responded that this could be worked out.

Mayor Davis apologized for the misunderstanding on the purpose of this evening's meeting. She indicated that capacity issues would need to be addressed at a future meeting. Mr. Morales agreed.

There was considerable discussion about the historic value of the middle school building. Mr. Kuntz stated that the preservation that would occur at Greenbelt Middle School was not the same as that which occurred at the Community Center. Mr. Roberts stressed his belief that Greenbelt Middle was very significant historically and that the new school should be built in the same style and connected to the old school. He also expressed concern about loss of forest on the conceptual plan available at the meeting.

Mayor Davis stressed the educational value of a new, state-of-the-art school building.

Ms. Mach asked about timeframe for construction of a new middle school. Mr. Kuntz responded that currently it was scheduled to open August 2009.

Council requested that Mr. Morales revise the conceptual site plan to reflect the inclusion of the gym with the historic portion and the preservation of additional trees. Mr. Morales believed he could have revised plans ready to present to Council at the January 9, 2006, regular meeting.

The meeting ended at 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David E. Moran  
Assistant City Manager