



McCormack & Boston Community Leadership Academy | Merger for a New 7-12 School and Associated K-6 Grade Reconfigurations

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Presentation to Boston School Committee
May 22, 2019

Background - original proposal and shifts

Partner Identification Process

Recommendation

Partner Reflections and Aspirations

Related K-6 Reconfigurations

Timeline

Background

Initial Proposal October 2018

The initial proposal, presented in October 2018, noted that BPS would begin phasing out middle schools over time as we reconfigure grade composition to create more feeder patterns and reduce school transitions for students, starting with the McCormack Middle School.

- The McCormack is the first middle school under this plan, closing after 2019-20 **close/merge to be determined in discussion with families, school faculty, union partners, and the community for recommendation by Spring 2019.*
- When the McCormack closes, rising McCormack 7th and 8th graders will transition to Excel, expanding Excel to a 7-12, with additional supports & renovations in summers 2019 - 2010
- K-5 feeders will have the opportunity to expand to K-6, including the Dever, Clap, Everett, Russell, Perkins, and Tynan. Some expansions may require a merger to create a 2-site program.
- The McCormack building will be fully renovated as a 7-12 high school, possibly opening in 2022-23, accepting proposals for how the 7-12 school would operate this space.

Revised Proposal: November 2018

Based on community feedback, the initial proposal was revised in order to best preserve the McCormack School Community. The revised proposal was presented in November 2018.

- The McCormack Middle School building will no longer be a stand-alone 6-8 school following the 2019-20 SY and is expected to transition into a school serving students grades 7-12 in the fall of 2022, contingent upon a merger with an existing BPS high school partner.
- Provided that a high school partner has been identified by spring of 2019, BPS anticipates the McCormack building being the location of the newly merged high school. This represents a shift in planning since the October 17th recommendation to School Committee and is responsive to the feedback BPS has received from the McCormack community since that time.
- BBPS will preference a proposal from this school community.

Background: BBPS Proposal Update Detail

7/8th grades re-location during SY 2020-21, 2021-22 (renovation years)

1. The McCormack building will be renovated into a new 7-12 high school beginning in the 2020 SY.
2. McCormack 7th and 8th grade students will be relocated to another building during school years 2020-21 and 2021-22. Continuity of McCormack staff and programs throughout this transition will be prioritized.
3. All McCormack students will stay together through the renovation period, including students enrolled in English learner and special education programs.
4. The renovated 7-12 high school will serve a diverse range of learners.

*Originally presented to the Boston School Committee on November 28, 2018

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Partner Process: November 2018 - May 2019

Key Steps	
November 2018	Engagement Process Design
December 2018	Establish McCormack and Central Office Working Groups
January 2019	Statements of Interest
February 2019	Central Office Analysis of Partner Data
March 2019	Cross-Site Visits
April 2019	Community Meetings
April 2019	Facilitated Conversations
April 2019	Equity Analysis
May 2019	Recommendation to the Superintendent

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- Approve the selection of Boston Community Leadership Academy as the planning partner to work with the McCormack and central office to design a new 7-12 open enrollment school to open on Columbia Point in the renovated McCormack Middle School building.
- During the planning process, students in McCormack will have a priority feeder to BCLA
- Approve associated K-6 Reconfigurations

Rationale for the Recommendation

The partnership between McCormack and BCLA allows for:

- Expansion of a highly chosen high school
- Alignment of specialized programming across the two schools without a significant increase in the overall percentage of high needs students served by the merged school
- Minimal loss of specialized programming

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McCormack Share

Reflection on experience to date:

- Deep appreciation for the willingness of BPS to consider a different approach to school reconfiguration, and for their commitment to making this process work
- Better understanding of how decisions are made regarding the needs of the district broadly relative to the needs of specific school communities
- Proud to play a role in creating a community-centered process for school reconfiguration that can be refined for use in the future

Aspirations for next phases in the process:

- Human-centered design process for both the building, and the learning that happens *within* the building
- Thoughtful and intentional 3-year planning process around merger with BCLA
- Possibility of creation of a 7-16 (and eventually K-16) pathway on Columbia Point in partnership with UMass Boston: the first of its kind in the city
- Reduced transitions, and stronger wraparound supports for vulnerable student populations

BCLA Share

Reflection on experience to date:

- Commend Central Staff for the inclusive process that engaged both school communities
- Providing a space for strong teacher, parent, and student voice
- Appreciate the opportunity to learn about the program offerings and the warm sense of community at the McCormack

Aspirations for next phases in the process:

- Expanding educational opportunities via a 7 - 12 configuration
- Vertical planning between the middle and high schools
- Strengthening our curriculum and social / emotional supports
- Dedicated time to consult with Central Staff and with other school districts to inform our planning process
- Professional development and team building with both school communities
- Broadening our partnership relationships
- Solidifying partnership with UMass Boston
- Expanding leadership opportunities for our students

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McCormack-related K-6 Conversions

- Clap, Dever, Everett, Perkins, Tynan will reconfigure from K-5 to K-6 for SY 2020-2021
- The Perry K-8 will reconfigure from K-8 to K-6 starting in SY 2020-2021
- Continued engagement with the Russell to determine the best path to K-6 that meets the needs of the school community and the district.

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Questions?