

**ANC 3/4G Questions to DCPS re
Proposal to Relocate Lafayette Pre-K4
December 20, 2020**

Enrollment

1. COVID-19 and the lack of in-person classes have reduced DCPS enrollment this school year. How does the model that DCPS uses to project enrollment figures account for this unprecedented public health crisis, especially whether families who left Lafayette will return?
 - a. According to DCPS's *Annual School-Based Enrollment Projection Methodology for 2021-22*, "DCPS specifically assumed that a school with a 10-or-greater enrollment decrease in Kindergarten in 2020 compared to 2019 would likely see half of those students return to 1st grade the following year as buildings reopened."
 - i. What data did DCPS use as the basis for this assumption?
 - ii. Does DCPS have any information about whether families who left DCPS intend to return to DCPS generally and/or to Lafayette specifically?
 1. If DCPS does not have this information for Lafayette, we request a DCPS administered survey of Lafayette families to collect and analyze the necessary data before any final decision regarding Pre-K4 classes are made.
2. What data did DCPS rely on to determine that Lafayette's projected enrollment numbers require a move to LAMB or downsizing the Pre-K4 class size?
3. What data does DCPS have regarding the number of parents who would choose not to send their Pre-K4 children to Lafayette if it were relocated to the former LAMB School?
 - a. While Lafayette conducted a survey about the proposed move, Principal Broquard stated at the December 14th ANC Meeting that "our data [from the survey respondents] is not clean" and did not allow DCPS to draw conclusions about particular grades. Given this limitation, what alternative efforts has DCPS made to contact in-boundary parents of prospective Lafayette Pre-K4 children to get their views?
 - b. DCPS has referenced the long waitlist of in-boundary families to attend Lafayette Pre-K4. Is there any data to suggest there is a demand among in-boundary Lafayette families to send their children to Pre-K4 at the former LAMB School?

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- i. If not, can DCPS conduct a new survey to acquire this information before a final decision is made? This survey also could include requests for information about other possible Pre-K4 options. (*See Alternatives to LAMB below.*)
4. Please confirm the statement made at the December 14, 2020 ANC meeting that Lafayette will not fill any of its Pre-K4 slots with out-of-boundary children who will have a right to go to Lafayette kindergarten.

Alternatives to LAMB

5. Have all the following alternatives been evaluated? If so, please explain the facts considered and the basis for each decision:
 - a. Has DCPS obtained pricing from the Episcopal Center for Children to lease or purchase all or parts of the Center?
 - i. It has been reported that the Episcopal Center is in discussions with the Maret School to use some portion of the site.
 - ii. Has DCPS explored whether Maret would be willing to work with Lafayette and share space and expenses?
 - b. Has DCPS considered the use of the new Lafayette Recreation Center for any segment of the Pre-K4 student class?
 - c. Has DCPS considered using the Community Center/Library in its current condition for Pre-K4 students?
 - d. Has DCPS considered splitting the Pre-K4 into two cohorts, each of which would be located within boundary?
 - i. Has DCPS explored moving to two half-day sessions to accommodate all Pre-K4 students within the school building?
 - ii. Could any additional classrooms be built in the Lafayette basement space?
 - iii. Could trailers be used to accommodate two Pre-K4 classes?
 - iv. Has the use of trailers in other in-boundary locations been explored?

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- e. Has DCPS considered relocating the city-wide special education program at Lafayette, which already is overcrowded, to a school with more space, facilities, and extra resources?
- f. At its November 18, 2020 meeting, Principal Broquard asked the LSAT to consider three options for addressing the space issues at Lafayette.
 - i. What were the three original options?
 - ii. At what point and for what reason were these choices narrowed to only two?
 - iii. Who was involved in making that decision? Were any families consulted?

Funding

- 6. What steps would be necessary to reallocate funds in the DCPS operating budget to cover the lease of required space to maintain Pre-K4 at current levels?
 - a. Is there any precedent for such a reallocation?
 - b. Has DCPS rejected the possibility of reallocating funds to lease space — e.g., at the Episcopal Center for Children — that would accommodate Lafayette’s Pre-K4?
 - i. If so, why?
 - c. The Council repurposed \$8 million from the FMLA IT budget for the purchase of LAMB. What stands in the way of a similar reallocation to fund a lease of the Episcopal Center?

Effects on Brightwood

- 7. In SY 2020-21, there were 59 children on the waitlist for Brightwood Elementary’s Pre-K4 program (<https://tabsoft.co/3gAapzn>.) What are the projections for capacity in the coming year?
- 8. What outreach, if any, has DCPS made to the Brightwood community about using the former LAMB School building for Lafayette’s Pre-K4 with lottery preference for Lafayette in-boundary students?
 - a. Did DCPS consult with anyone else in the Brightwood community besides the principal at Brightwood Elementary School?

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- i. Please provide the details of the principal’s response.
 - b. Did DCPS discuss the proposal for Lafayette to use the LAMB School building exclusively for its Pre-K4 with any of the following persons and organizations:
 - i. ANC 4A (particularly, Commissioner Candace Nelson whose Single Member District includes the former LAMB School and Brightwood Elementary)?
 - ii. Ward 4 Councilmember-elect Janeese Lewis-George?
 - iii. Ward 4 State School Board member Frazier O’Leary?
 - iv. The Brightwood Community Association?
 1. If yes, please provide the details of each response.
 2. If not, please explain why not and please state that DCPS will obtain input from each before a final decision is reached on this matter.
 - c. Have any surveys or other information been sent to Brightwood families to inform them of the potential use of the LAMB School building by Lafayette or to seek their input? Please explain.
9. Has DCPS considered the option of keeping as many Pre-K4 classes that Lafayette could hold and any overflow to be accommodated by having the former LAMB School serve as a standalone Pre-K — e.g., the “Rock Creek Early Childhood Center” — that would permit children within both the Lafayette and Brightwood boundaries to attend? Please explain your response.

Decision making process

10. Resolution 23-503, July 28, 2020, requesting the reprogramming of \$8,376,301 to purchase the LAMB School, was premised on the need “to help solve for the Ward 4 overcrowding problem at nearby schools and expand early childhood offerings”.
 - a. What factors led DCPS to select Lafayette over Brightwood or other area Ward 4 schools?

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11. If a decision is made to reduce the number of pre-K4 classes, can DCPS prioritize financial need for in-boundary lottery?