

High Point High School Project Information Session | November 6, 2023 Questions & Answers

How will you ensure that classroom size does not go past a 25:1 ratio? The school is already past 3000 students.

Right now, the school is slated to be built with a capacity of 2600 students. A large portion of High Point students will move over to the New Northern Area High School when it is completed, leaving about 1500 students remaining at High Point. However, when that time comes, the exact ratios will be established by Title One laws and regulations.

How will people decide which students go to the renovated High Point HS after the students have been attending class at the new Northern Adelphi HS during the construction?

High Point High School will be a brand new building. When New Northern Area High School is completed, the boundaries will be adjusted based on where the students are coming from. So, students in the catchment area for the new high school will remain at the New Northern Area High School, and those other students who are not in that catchment area will return to High Point in a brand new building. Some CTE programs will be located at the new high school and those electing to participate in those programs will then have to attend that high school.

So, if 25 schools are being built in 10 years, and High Point is expected to be completed 7 years from now, where in the overall scheme is High Point being placed? When is New Northern Adelphi HS expected to open?

High Point is on our priority list and fifth overall behind Suitland High School, William S. Schmidt Outdoor Education Center, Cool Spring Elementary School, and the New Northern Area High School, which would open sometime between 2027 and 2028.

When will construction on the new Northern High School begin, and what is the anticipated completion?

We're expecting to start construction on the new high school somewhere around the summer of 2025, and we expect it to be completed around the summer of 2028.

What year will the students move?

That will not be until 2028. They will be moved temporarily, or swung, in 2028 and then come back in 2030.

What is the expected student capacity of New Northern Adelphi HS? High Point HS is already over 3,000 students.

Both schools will be built for a capacity of 2600 students. We expect that there should be roughly 300 available seats in each school that will not be occupied. So, we expect the population to be around 2300 at each school.



So, the new Northern Adelphi HS will be completed, and the only students to go there will be High Point students until the new High Point is built, and then other students will move into the new Northern High school?

That is correct. So, again, students would be swung in 2028 and brought back in 2030.

Who takes the responsibility to apply for funding each year that is needed to keep this project on schedule? We are tired of this project getting pushed back every time we discuss it.

That is through the Department of Capital Programs and our Capital Improvement Plan. Recently we have been experiencing some challenges that have resulted in delays for all of our northern projects and related high schools by about a year. We are trying to move these projects along as quickly as we can, but, as you know, we have had some physical challenges that have caused us some delays.

When is the project going to start?

We are starting now. We did some preliminary work about a year ago, but we discovered that what we anticipated in the form of the educational specifications back when this project was originally proposed had changed significantly, so we had to update those things so that we could move forward.

What schools will the students move to?

They will be moving to the new Northern Area High School, which will be a brand new school as well. Again, as said before, some of the students will remain there depending on the boundaries. Then the rest of the students will return to High Point at the completion of construction.

When will construction begin?

We will begin building in 2028 for High Point High School.

Where will the New Northern Adelphi High School be located?

It will be located just off Metzert Road, where the old Cherokee Lane Elementary School is currently.

Will there be transportation?

Yes, we will provide transportation to the new schools just as we are right now.

What is the cost of this project? What are the funding sources, and how will additional funds be provided for unexpected or new costs that are sure to be incurred?

We do not have a budget for this project completed yet because we have not bid it out yet. However, we are estimating that the project is going to cost in excess of \$140 million. The sources for the funding will be state and county funds.

How will construction affect traffic for commuters and residents on Powder Mill Road?

Because this is going to be a replacement project, we will be doing all of the construction on-site, starting with the demolition of the existing school. The construction will be staged on the high school site, which is where the construction traffic will come into play. We anticipate using the existing entrances to the site or something very similar. There will be increased construction



traffic, particularly at the beginning of the project, where there is sitework being done, but we do not anticipate that we are going to be revising the traffic patterns in a major way.

Will the students ride the same buses as they do now?

For the most part, yes. However, for some students, when they move to the temporary location, they may not be riding the bus anymore because they may be in the walk zone when they get to the new high school. The transportation department will provide more information closer to the time of the move.

Will transportation be available? If students are moved to another school during construction?

Yes.

Good afternoon, thank you for this important news. When they say they are going to move or transfer the students, is there a specific date?

No. The tentative date is in 2028. What usually happens is we transition the school out during the summer before construction is to start, and then transition to school and the students back in once construction is finished. Right now, the tentative date would be the summer of 2028.

The construction of High Point is urgent because the school is already overpopulated, and you can see the wear in the structure of the school.

That is absolutely 100% true. Part of the problem is that we do not have any place to house 3100 students. So, we cannot empty the school right now. We need another place to send them to and that is why we are building the new northern area high school. First, we are going to move the population there, and then once that school is constructed, we will move the population back. But, right now, there is no place in the north where we could move 3100 students to at this time.

What zip codes will be included as a part of the northern area versus High Point? Could you expound on this?

We do not have that information at this time. The Office of Pupil Accounting and School Boundaries will provide that information at a later date.

Why does High Point have to remain a Title One school? Can't students be divided among the schools?

That is a decision made by the Academics Department. We do not have that information.

Any updates on the neighboring school James E. Duckworth Regional, which will be a new elementary? Duckworth currently has high school students who will need to be relocated, possibly to High Point or the new Northern HS.

The new James E. Duckworth school will be a part of Phase 2 of the Blueprint Schools Program. That school will be completed by 2027. Currently, the plan is for all the current Duckworth students to be swung to the same location.



What safety measures will be implemented as part of the build-out, and how can we provide input as far as town hall meetings, surveys, etc? How can students be provided an opportunity to share their concerns and input?

There will be a safety plan that will be established by the contractor, and we will be following that safety plan at that time, but there will be no students on site while construction is going on. As for community input, we will be forming what is called a project planning committee that will involve students, community members, teachers, and members of the administration, all of whom will have an opportunity to weigh in on a lot of the details around the design and construction.

The new multi-family project will probably impact the schools in and around High Point.

We do not know what impact the new multifamily project will have. We are building a school bigger than the current school so that we can absorb any population changes or increases in that area.

For clarification, parents need to understand that this will not directly benefit the current students at HPHS, but future students that are now in MS/ES

That is very true. Most of the students currently at High Point will not be there when the new school is completed.

It is critical to have the visible support and involvement in this project of the administration at the current High Point.

Yes, they will definitely be involved in the in the in the process.

What can be done now to alleviate the pressures felt by the student body now? Students do not want to go into dilapidated buildings. This affects retention and graduation. They need relief now. It feels like we are always the last priority in the county.

Minor repairs are being made, but most of the funds allocated to High Point must go to the new replacement building due to funding protocols.

When the new Northern Adelphi School is completed, how will we know if our students will move to the new school or stay at High Point?

They will be notified by the District of the boundaries, it will be by geography, if you live in the area

Why are they not going to start until 2028? Why not sooner?

The county does not have sufficient funding to begin the project at an earlier date.

Is additional parking a part of the plan? Lots of students park in the surrounding neighborhoods.

Yes.

Is this project already approved, or is there still a possibility for it to be pushed back again?

The project is approved by the Board and has received planning approval, but is awaiting funding approval. The order of the project has not changed.



What happens if funding is cut off in the middle of the project? Is there a contingency plan?

Funding will not be cut off. Funding for projects is requested five years in advance.

In order to get us through the next few years, HPHS needs general maintenance and upgrades. What will be done to get us to 2028?

Minor repair are being made, but most of the funds allocated to High Point must go to the new replacement building due to funding protocols.

Good afternoon, this is not a question related to today's topic, but I am concerned about the lack of security that the school has at the entrances and exits, which is why students leave the school. I think there should be more security at the doors, thank you.

Please contact the Office of Safety and Security with this request.

Once High Point is under construction, will the students matriculating from Martin Luther King Middle go to the New Northern school will the High Point students, or will they move to Laurel High School?

Students who are attending High Point High School at the time of construction or are within the boundaries to attend High Point High School at the time of construction will be relocated to the New Northern High School building.

Are you building up (high-rise) or horizontally? How can we ensure this building meets LEED standards to be eco-friendly and sustainable for years to come?

All buildings are being designed to be net-zero and LEED silver. As for the design, that is in progress, so we do not know at this time.

I would like them to do the logistics well for the transfer of students for the safety of the students due to school rivalries.

There will be a transition plan in place and the community will be informed of the plan before it takes place. Thank you for your feedback.

High Point needs to be a TOP priority. Students are not getting proper education in an overcrowded school. I believe a good solution is to build another high school.

Thank you for this comment. New Northern High School is in the works and High Point will be soon after.