

Waddell SLT FAQ

Executive Summary

Current as of April 2019

Context:

E.E. Waddell Language Academy will move to the New K-8 School South for the 2021-2022 school year. Over the years, stakeholders have raised questions and concerns regarding the new school. The Waddell SLT has edited and sorted this input by topic; CMS staff provided responses to questions where applicable.

Purpose:

Our goal in creating this document is to ensure that CMS staff and Waddell stakeholders have a document they can access to ensure accurate information is being shared with the larger school community. In addition, it is our intent that this document will help us improve communication among the community, school, and district. This is a working document; it will be updated monthly based on new information or input. Once finalized and approved, the document will be accessible to staff and the larger community on the school's website under the SLT page.

If you have questions, please contact Dr. Stephen Esposito at stephen.esposito@cms.k12.nc.us.

Topic 1: Background/Context

1. Why is Waddell Language Academy being moved to a new building?
 - a. **Waddell Language Academy is currently located in a school that was designed and built as a high school. The new Waddell Language Academy facility will be designed and built to serve students in grades K-8.**

2. Will anything significantly change when we move to the new building? What are the biggest changes we may face?
 - a. **There are no planned changes to the school's magnet program or course offerings.**

3. In comparison to the school's current facility and experience, what are the differences (e.g., number of classrooms, classroom size, overall size of the school and surrounding property, amenities, what will no longer be available, is there something new, will there be lockers yes/no, how do teacher accommodations compare, etc.)?
 - a. **The Waddell HS main building comprises 225,939 SF and includes 71 classrooms. The campus includes Waddell High School, various site amenities, and Nations Ford Elementary School. Much of this land is not feasible for building due to the existing topography, wetlands, tree save areas, etc.**
 - b. **The new K-8 South project is a 66 classroom building of 147,763 SF. The five classroom add alternate design would increase the total square footage to 156,006.**
 - c. **Our K-8 design includes a soccer field, two playground areas, and three basketball goal areas along the outer edge of the bus lot.**
 - d. **No student lockers are included in the K-8 project design.**
 - e. **Lockers are included in in the locker rooms for PE/Athletics as well as a small number of lockers in the kitchen area for the Child Nutrition Department staff.**

4. Can we have a "Facility Utilization" summary of information for the current building and the new building in one document?
 - a. **Staff recently presented to the Board three methods for assessing utilization:**
 - i. **The first compares the design baseline to current enrollment. The Waddell facility's design baseline is 1,420 students, compared to current enrollment**

of 1,378, for a ratio of 0.97.

- ii. The second compares the number of classroom teachers to classrooms. Waddell currently has 77.5 classroom teachers and 71 classrooms for a ratio of 1.09.
- iii. The third compares square footage per student in the cafeteria to the NC DPI guideline of 12 square feet / student in the cafeteria. Waddell’s cafeteria provides 13.04 square feet/student (assumes three lunch periods per day).

	Ratio of Current Enrollment to Design Baseline (baseline is 20 * classroom count)	Ratio of Classroom Teachers to Classrooms (based on 18-19 enrollment)	Square Footage Per Student in the Cafeteria (NC DPI guidance is 12 ft ²)
Current facility (71 classrooms)	$1,378 / 1,420 = 0.97$	$77.5 / 71 = 1.09$	13.04
New facility, baseline (66 classrooms)	$1,378 / 1,320 = 1.04$	$77.5 / 68 = 1.14$	14.09
New facility, bid alternate (71 classrooms)	$1,378 / 1,420 = 0.97$	$77.5 / 71 = 1.09$	13.11

5. What are the advantages and disadvantage of the new school for students, teachers, and the program?

- a. **The advantage is that CMS is making an investment in Waddell Language Academy by providing the school with a brand new facility. While moving school locations does create some challenges, it will be important for SLT, stakeholders, the school administration, and the district to work through any challenges together to create the best learning environment for Waddell Language Academy students.**

6. How will we support the growth and/or sustainability of the program overall?

- a. Many factors have contributed to the success of Waddell Language Academy. We will continue to support students, parents, and families by partnering with the school's administration.**

7. What considerations will be in place for parent choice once there is a North Campus?
 - a. Current Waddell students living in the violet zone may remain at Waddell through the terminal grade. No new violet zone students will be admitted to Waddell once the North school opens. Younger siblings of violet zone students may be admitted to Waddell, but they may not be eligible for transportation once the older sibling completes the 8th grade.**

8. What languages will be offered in the North Campus?
 - a. Parent and community input will be gathered to determine what languages will be offered at the North Campus. Also, we will partner with various CMS departments to make final determinations. A timeline has not been established for those decisions.**

9. Is there a plan to go ahead and start the school in the North at Grade K and 6, so that by 21-22, it is a K-2 and 6-8 school?
 - a. (This response is in reference to questions 7-9.) The intent is to engage families in the violet transportation zone to determine what languages are most attractive to them. CMS will consider their input and assess the long term viability of programs (e.g., can we hire and retain teachers) to determine what languages are ultimately offered. The North School will most likely start K-1 or K-2 and 6, and grow a grade level at a time.**

10. We need a campus bigger than Collinswood, so why is Waddell being moved to a smaller site than Collinswood?

The Collinswood K-8 site is 28 acres and includes the Smith administrative facility. The portion of this site to be used for the Collinswood K-8 is roughly 14 ½ acres. The New K-8 South parcel (Old Nations Ford Site) is 14.6 acres.

11. Why isn't Waddell being moved back to the Smith site where there is more land and the

potential for the 71 classrooms that we need to function at our current capacity?

- a. **See above and note that when completed there will be more dedicated parking available at the Nations Ford Road site than there is next to Smith. In addition, the current Waddell site will potentially be a functioning high school.**

Topic 2: Architecture/Design

1. Will the size of the school fit our current population?
 - a. **The base bid design is for a 66 classroom building. An alternate design will be bid to add five classrooms for a total of 71 classrooms.**

2. When will plans be approved/finalized?
 - a. **The K-8 project is in the final design phase and will be ready to submit for various agency reviews by the end of the year. Building permit approval is anticipated in the spring of 2019. Construction is anticipated to start in the fall of 2019.**

3. Will the cafeteria hold all carpool kids in the afternoon?
 - a. **The New K-8 South cafeteria will seat more students than the current Waddell facility. Students riding carpool will be able to fit in the cafeteria. Also, the school administration may decide to change afternoon car rider procedures based on the configuration of the new building. Finalized plans for this will be communicated closer to occupancy.**

4. What will be timeframe for lunches? Will the start and end times stay the same?
 - a. **School administration will determine the lunch schedule closer to occupancy; however, in our initial review Waddell's lunch times will be very similar to what they are now given the size of the cafeteria.**

5. What is the performance space going to look like for concerts and theater productions? How many musicians can we fit on stage, how many audience members?
 - a. **There will be a raised stage for school based performances. Seating for the audience will be in the multi-purpose room and extend into the cafeteria. Maximum occupancy is 1,431 according to Fire Code. 52 students can be placed on the stage. In addition, school administration can schedule performances a**

6. Has Dr. Wilcox secured the additional funding he committed to?
 - a. **CMS is committed to funding the additional five classrooms; thus we will find the dollars necessary to fund the additional classrooms.**

7. Will the band/orchestra have a dedicated room?
 - a. **The facility will have a band room and a separate orchestra room.**

8. Several schools have let the children design the playground areas. What better way for the children to gain ownership in their playground? I think there is an opportunity here for some creative design by the ones who will be using it the most.
 - a. **CMS' standard playground equipment will be installed at the new K-8 facility. The school can provide input on equipment color selection.**

9. What new technology will all classrooms be equipped with?
 - a. **The classrooms will include the standard teaching wall for a new K-8 facility. An interactive digital flat screen TV/monitor, white boards, tack boards, etc.**

10. What are the target middle school enrollment numbers by grade for the new school? Will it be able to accommodate the same number of students and meet the need for their schedules to add another language and/or band?
 - a. **150 students per grade level in middle school.**
 - b. **School administration will be able to accommodate the same number of students through the master schedule and room assignments.**

11. Do the plans accommodate our current number of staff/office spaces and resource spaces where teachers/parents make copies, etc.?
 - a. **CMS' Standard K-8 program of spaces will be implemented.**
 - b. **The school will establish an environment in which staff and parents have appropriate access to offices and resources.**
 - c. **A review of the building plans has been completed by school administration and they have determined that they will have enough spaces for staff.**

12. Information from the September 2017 meeting stated "Elementary TD can use Media Center, provide support in classrooms, or use open classrooms when Gr 3, 4, or 5 differentiate groups for language arts." This sounds like TD is basically being given "leftover" space, but have the

people planning considered the high percentage of TD students that Waddell currently has?

Based on current plans, do our TD teachers have dedicated space to plan and teach?

- a. **School administration has created a DRAFT plan in which all support staff have the appropriate classroom/office space necessary to support students at Waddell.**

13. Is there still an ability to influence any of the design, or is it set in stone? The previous meetings were a lot of “TBD” or “we don’t know.” When will we know more?

- a. **The project design is completed. A detailed refinement of the design is being implemented to ensure the designer’s compliance with CMS’ K-8 Program. In addition, we have reviewed the building plans with the school administration, school staff, and School Leadership Team.**

Topic 3: Curriculum and Capacity

1. Which special area classes will be offered and how often will students go to each class?

- a. **School administration will determine special area classes the summer before 2021; how often students attend will be based on staffing and the master schedule. Please note, that special area classes should remain the same for Fall 2021 and they won’t change because we are moving to a new building.**

2. What middle school electives will be offered?

- a. **School administration will determine special area classes the summer before 2021; how often students attend will be based on staffing and the master schedule. Please note, that elective classes should remain the same for Fall 2021 and they won’t change because we are moving to a new building.**

3. How many classrooms will be shared? Which ones?

- a. **A DRAFT building utilization plan has been created by school administration. Based on their review, there is an appropriate amount of classrooms to serve the students and staff similar to the current facility. Some spaces in the new building will be itinerant but all students and teachers will have an appropriate space that is supportive of teaching and learning.**

4. How many teachers will be floating/on carts? Which ones?
 - a. **As of Spring 2019, school administration has identified that some rooms will be shared by staff (itinerant) and it has been determined that the technology (special area class) will take place in the students' homeroom. This is only a DRAFT plan and is subject to change.**

5. Does this remain a county-wide K8 magnet for Language Immersion in ES and World Languages in MS with the same languages as currently offered?
 - a. **No. Waddell will serve the blue and green transportation zones only once the north school opens and serves the violet transportation zone.**

6. Will all four languages be offered for elementary school?
 - a. **Yes, all four languages will be offered for elementary schools.**

7. Will all five languages be offered for Middle School (both immersion and non-immersion)?
 - a. **Yes, all five languages will be offered for middle school.**

8. Are you still committed to having 450 middle school students, 150 per grade?
 - a. **Yes, that is still the commitment.**

9. What is the current project enrollment for each grade level?
 - a. **The current plan is to remain as close as we can to our current enrollment of approximately 1,370 students.**

10. Will the same programs and opportunities that are currently being offered continue?
 - a. **The same classes and programs can still be offered in the new facility. A new facility will not require us to change the classes or programs. The exception to this is sports (additional information below).**

11. What grades will the new school house?
 - a. **The new school will continue to serve K-8 students.**

12. How will the new Northern School impact our enrollment numbers upon opening in 2021-

2022?

- a. **The new school will not have an impact on enrollment numbers.**

13. Will we still have a room for an Elementary Science Lab?

- a. **School administration will determine how each classroom is used closer to occupancy in the Fall of 2021; however there is a space that the school administration can designate for an elementary science lab.**

14. Will the automatic continuation to the World Language High Schools based on home address continue to North Meck and South Meck High Schools for the current 8th graders (and going forward) the year the new building opens? If not, what is planned, including transportation?

- a. **High school continuation will not change as a result of the new Waddell facility or opening of the North School.**

15. Will all four of the K8 languages - French, German, Japanese, and Mandarin - continue to be offered at both high schools? If not, what are the plans for students wishing to continue in their K8 language, including transportation options?

- a. **There are no planned changes to the languages offered at the two high schools.**

16. How will the new school impact the middle school travel abroad program

- a. **The new school shouldn't impact travel abroad programs for Waddell.**

17. How will the district support the recruitment of qualified native-speaking teachers to build out the needs at the new North Language School while maintaining / filling positions at the current south facility (Waddell)?

- a. **School administration will partner with CMS Human Resources to recruit and retain staff at both sites.**

18. Can the following events continue: World Market, Language Cultural Nights, The Middle School Musical, Arts and Culture Nights, and After School elementary clubs and groups (chess, taiko drums, Chinese dance, etc)?

- a. **There is no reason for any of the events mentioned to stop. How the events are scheduled will be decided by school administration.**

Topic 4: Logistics

1. How can we be kept up to date, and where can we find that information?
 - a. **The CMS K-8 South (17) project web link will provide updates.**
[http://www.cms.k12.nc.us/cmsdepartments/construction/ layouts/15/charmeckfiles/constructionSites.aspx?id=211](http://www.cms.k12.nc.us/cmsdepartments/construction/layouts/15/charmeckfiles/constructionSites.aspx?id=211)
 - b. **Information will be updated and accessible on the Waddell Language Academy school website. Click on the SLT to see additional information.**
2. What does the timeline look like from groundbreaking to move in and beyond? What are the milestones? Please include North and South schools.
 - a. **Construction is scheduled to start in the fall of 2019. Owner occupancy is planned for August 2021.**

Process/Guidelines

1. Is it possible to keep the Waddell name? If not, what will the new name be? How is that decided?
 - a. **The Board of Education has a policy regarding the naming of schools. The principal, SLT, and Board will collaborate in establishing the name of the school.**
2. Will we have new uniforms, new uniform guidelines?
 - a. **School administration will work with the school's SLT regarding to uniforms.**
3. How much input from parents will be solicited, and how? How will these parents be chosen? When will it begin?
 - a. **The community superintendent, in partnership with school administration and the school's SLT, will continue to work through logistics, concerns, questions, and processes for the new school.**
4. Will students who live in the violet zone be required to attend the school in the North?
 - a. **Current Waddell students living in the violet zone will remain at Waddell through the terminal grade. No new violet zone students will be admitted to Waddell once the North school opens. Younger siblings of violet zone students may be admitted to Waddell, but they may not be eligible for transportation once the**

older sibling completes the 8th grade.

5. As a parent, residing in the North, of children who are currently enrolled, I would like to know if I have the option of keeping both of my children at the new school for the entirety of their K-8 trajectory.
 - a. **Yes, current Waddell students living in the violet zone will be able to remain at Waddell through the terminal grade. Younger siblings of violet zone students may be admitted to Waddell, but they may not be eligible for transportation once their older sibling completes 8th grade.**

6. What does student assignment look like regarding the North and South programs? When will we know what languages will be offered and what impact they will have on the existing program? Projected enrollment?
 - a. **Current Waddell students living in the violet zone will be able to remain at Waddell through the terminal grade. No new violet zone students will be admitted to Waddell once the North School opens. Younger siblings of violet zone students may be admitted to Waddell, but they may not be eligible for transportation once the older sibling completes the 8th grade. CMS will gather input from those interested as to what languages are offered in the North. A timeline has not been established; however, communication will be provided. The impact on enrollment cannot be fully determined, as individual families may opt to stay or transfer, which impacts enrollment numbers.**

Topic 5: Athletics

1. What sports will be offered to our middle school students? It has been said that the new South Magnet will not have football, baseball, softball, and track, all CMS sports for a common middle school. While it is understandable that football would not be offered, why can the property not be designed with a baseball/softball field AND a soccer field that has a functioning track? Please explain the logic as to why a K8 middle school cannot have these sports offered? Sending students to their home schools to play sports is not a logical solution, both in transportation and in being able to participate in the camaraderie of a sport in your own school.

a. **The K-8 New South campus will include the following athletic facilities when it opens: a gymnasium and a soccer field. Occupancy is schedule for the 2021-22 school year. CMS middle school athletic participation includes 7th and 8th grade students who meet all state and local athletic eligibility requirements. CMS is comprised of “traditional” middle schools and K-8 home or magnet schools. Seventh & eighth grade enrollment numbers as well as campus athletic facilities impact the operation of athletic programs on K-8 campuses.**

b. **Middle school and K-8 HOME school sports offerings are:**

Fall season - football, softball, volleyball, cheerleading, golf

Winter season – basketball, cheerleading

Spring season – soccer, baseball, track & field

K-8 HOME school athletic structure: (as of the 2018-19 school year)

Football and Track & Field:

Currently, three K-8 HOME schools are paired to form one K-8 team that practices and plays home games at Spaugh; the remaining three K-8 HOME schools are paired to form a second K-8 team that practices and plays home games at JT Williams.

Transportation is provided to football and track practices. These teams compete in separate middle school athletic conferences for games.

Volleyball, Basketball, Soccer, and Cheerleading:

K-8 HOME schools field volleyball, basketball, soccer, and cheerleading teams on their campuses. All practice on their campuses. Schools with a gymnasium and soccer field play games on their campuses; schools without a gymnasium or soccer field play games at Spaugh, JT Williams, Berewick, or another K-8 site. These teams compete in the K-8 athletic conference.

Softball, Golf, and Baseball:

K-8 HOME schools are paired with traditional middle schools and K-8 students tryout and participate on their paired school teams. Transportation is provided to the paired school for practices and games.

Topic 6: Security

1. Will the lot be fenced to keep passersby or neighborhood folks from passing through campus?
 - a. **The school will have some level of fencing, however there are no plans for the entire school to be fenced in.**

2. Will we still have a full-time school resource officer?
 - a. **The school's security staff will remain unchanged unless changes are made across the district.**

3. What is the security plan? What safety and security measures will be added to the school? What modern security applications are being planned?
 - a. **Each school is required to complete and submit a School Safety Plan during the summer for district approval each year.**
 - b. **Waddell's administration team and SLT will be provided safety updates during the 2018-2019 school year.**

4. At our old school district I noticed that all the classrooms had two exits; one interior and one that opened to a shared playground. The current building does not offer this. Is there a plan for this in the new design?
 - a. **Some of our classrooms will have exit doors that lead to a fenced area outside the school. Not all classrooms will have exit doors.**

5. There is very little buffer of space between the neighborhood and the school property. The neighborhood has a history of crime, as does the apartment complex across the street. How will the school security plan and safety measures take into account these logistics? What is the evacuation plan as there is very little space on the school property and the surrounding area also has a history of crime?
 - a. **The school administration, in partnership with the school SLT, can create systems and processes to ensure safety of students on their campus. As construction on the building is finalized, systems and processes already in place at the current Waddell site can be modified for the new site. The school will also work closely with CMPD and CMSPD to determine the safety needs of the school.**

Topic 7: Parking

1. What was the response on the potential extra parking area (separate land CURRENTLY FOR SALE) that was posed a while back?
 - a. **This potential option is not being considered or pursued. Multiple issues related to this subject (funding, road crossing, site topography, etc.) make the option unworkable.**

2. What is the plan for overflow parking during the school hours? What other land (street parking, land across Nations Ford, Waddell HS with shuttle, etc.) can/will utilized for overflow?
 - a. **School administration will create a plan for overflow parking during school hours; however, there may not be a need for overflow parking. Options could include utilizing the bus lot, staggering events, or partnering with a nearby facility and shuttling parents, if necessary.**

3. How many bus slots are allotted for our buses?
 - a. **20 striped bus parking spaces are included in the project design. An additional five to six buses could pull up along the drop off in a parallel position if required. There is also option to modify the lot's bus striping and use double stack bus parking.**

4. How many parking spots will there be at the new facility? How many of those will be handicapped, reserved (for the principal, staff, or others), for teachers, and available for volunteers?
 - a. **The design includes provisions for 184 vehicle parking spaces. This number includes six accessible spaces as required by code.**

5. What tools will be utilized to ensure safe and efficient traffic and pedestrian flow (traffic light(s), crosswalks, protected pedestrian crossing, police officer to direct traffic, etc.)? What additional options can the school employ with PTSO or other funds (e.g., off-duty officer to direct traffic) and what would be the estimated cost of those options?
 - a. **The school administration will determine safe and efficient traffic and pedestrian flow. Input from the school's SLT, CMSPD, and CMPD will serve as support for**

the school administration in creating a plan in which all stakeholders are safe when on campus. School administration can work with the CMS Safety Department to determine if hiring additional traffic staff is necessary.

6. Will there be police presence to help with flow of traffic and/or school buses?
 - a. **The school administration will determine safe and efficient traffic and pedestrian flow. Input from the school's SLT, CMSPD, and CMPD will serve as support for the school administration in creating a plan in which all stakeholders are safe when on campus. School administration can work with the CMS Safety Department to determine if hiring additional traffic staff is necessary.**

7. How/where will parents park to SAFELY walk students into school for morning drop-off, including parents staying at school to volunteer or to attend a cultural event in the classroom or school?
 - a. **School administrators will determine AM and PM carpool procedures and morning drop-off. The school administrators will also develop parking plans for school event nights.**

8. When and how will traffic pattern studies be conducted at the current Waddell facility (at various times, days before holidays, midweek, etc.) **and** plans developed for morning and afternoon carpool (spring count estimated 225 cars in morning carpool and more in the afternoon) **AND** parking for teachers/staff/daytime volunteers, school-wide evening events (middle school play, world market night, etc.), & classroom / grade / language events during the day (fun run, field days, shultuten ceremony, class parties)?
 - a. **The property on which the new school is being built was previously zoned and approved for school use; therefore, no additional approvals were needed. The school's administration will determine the most appropriate systems and processes for event parking and AM/PM carpool.**

9. How many cars will be able to park in the bus lot for evening events?
 - a. **There are 103 vehicle parking spaces included in the bus lot for event/after-hours functions. The lot could accommodate another 30-40 vehicles parked around the drive and within the basketball goal areas (not striped to avoid confusion of too**

many lines in this area).

- b. A total of 287 vehicle spaces is planned at the K-8 facility ($184 + 103 = 287$ planned with 30-40 additional = 307-317 vehicles).