



**The Environmental Charter School at Frick Park**  
Park Place Community Meeting #2  
July 14th, 2010

**Notes from Questions/ Answer portion:**

**(bold typeface indicates questions and comments from the community)**

The below represents a capture of the discussions to the best of the ability of Rothschild Doyno Collaborative. Please forward any comments or revisions to [geoffc@rdcollab.com](mailto:geoffc@rdcollab.com)

1. **The proposed project is a great improvement to neighborhood. It improves the neighborhood by offering an alternate school to park place residents. East/West streets are now assigned to Faison (Homewood; police zone 5); North/south streets are assigned to Minadeo School.**
2. **Are there enough spaces for parking?** -Yes, we can accommodate all faculty parking on site. Space for Bus /van parking and car pickup will occur on the two side curbs. Bus and van loading occurs 15 minutes before parent pickup to offset the demands. The school will have traffic monitors in place. ECS staff actively manages the daily pickup / drop off event.
3. **Do buses stage?** - The bus loop will start at Regent Square and then loop around Park Place.
4. **What was the traffic data collection time line?** The data and traffic recording was collected in May. The recent analysis of Waverly and Brashear was done in July.
5. **There are concerns with operation changes in neighborhood and existing conditions. It was requested that the concerns are more specific in order to best address items. One specific concern is the impact on existing resident traffic patterns and driveway access along Braddock Ave.**
6. **Have you spoken with SSA?** – We have had some conversations with Shady Side Academy but will be contacting them after this meeting to further coordinate our efforts.
7. **Is the proposed use as a school a good fit?** The existing building was once a school and the layout is a good fit for reuse as a school.
8. **Would city rely on traffic study?** There are concerns as to whether the data and timing of the study is impartial. Safeguards are in place with city personnel who provide a non-development review of proposed studies and provide recommendations. Patrick Roberts (412.255.224) – city planning and Amanda Purcell – city representative are both available for consultation.
9. **When Park Place was a school it was good for the neighborhood. Residents would like the school to talk with neighborhood parents about school attendance.**
10. **How will buses loop form Regent Square?** The bus loop will turn right onto Brashear.

11. **The Streetlight will help neighbors get across to the park. The existing traffic turn condition is a hazard.**
12. **Neighborhood would like an increased dialogue with Shady Side Academy as well.**
13. **SSA will continue to block drive- can't access / exit drives -15 families use shared drives.**
14. **What is the reality of Waverly and Brashear traffic congestions? – Request to study the width of driving lanes and parking spaces on both Waverly and Brashear.**
15. **Neighbor is concerned with the noise impact and exhaust of the buses.**
16. **Neighbor concerned that the activity will create major chaos with Penn Ave corridor traffic volume concerns about backup. The traffic surge is a half hour in the am and a half hour in the afternoon.**
17. **Neighbor believes the light improves the traffic / pedestrian safety and likes how it brings people into neighborhood during day providing good eyes on street during the day. Light traffic slowing effects make it safer to cross the street.**
18. **Neighbor noted that the lottery acceptance brought people into neighborhood.**
19. **What will school be giving to community? – Neighbor asked to bring voting back to Park Place School and make provision for community to utilize room for meetings. Green space/site improvements will be open as a park to the neighborhood after school hours. Community oriented events / activities will be coordinated with community groups.**
20. **Is there an opportunity for a pedestrian only phase at the new light? - We can look at the pedestrian only walk (all way stop-diagonal cross) study effects on the vehicle queue.**
21. **Can you look at a starting cycle with the pedestrian countdown? Yes.**
22. **Does the light sequence timing correspond with the lights at Penn and Forbes? It is a borderline condition to evaluate. Coordinating the signals may or may not benefit traffic flow. This is an item to review with city planning and traffic engineer.**
23. **What is the anticipated increase of traffic on Waverly? Will Waverly become the new "cut through"? For some, yes. The anticipation of traffic pattern alterations is taken into consideration with the traffic study.**
24. **Are there more cut throughs to East liberty or Penn Hills? The Morning traffic heads up onto East End from Penn Hills and reverses in the afternoon. The difficulty in making a left turn condition on Penn Ave. is part of the traffic flow and cut through conditions. A left turns light or lane onto Braddock would help the surrounding streets and traffic.**
25. **Is the building going to be fully accessible? Yes, accommodations for an entry ramp and restrooms will be part of building upgrades to meet accessibility guidelines.**

26. **The school is a positive use for the building. Residents commented that they want schools in the urban setting and understand the trade offs. Residents want mutual benefits for the school and the residents. Residents want to help make the process positive.**
27. **Is it possible to give neighborhood residents a preference in the lottery?** The community and school would need to present an argument and review it with the Pittsburgh Public Schools. The school will look to the community to participate in that discussion. Need to work together and present an argument for the idea. The process must ensure accessibility to a diverse student body.
28. **Resident is in favor of the school and sees it as a dream to have a green school that leads by example. The school has demonstrated a collaborative process and hopes to continue dialogue and reach an agreement. Resident noted that it is a positive impact for the children that attend the school.**
29. **What are the Waverly traffic numbers cutting through?** 117 cars turn left from Brashear onto Braddock and a number of them may shift to Waverly. The numbers are 19 cars in the afternoon. The cut through numbers assume all traffic shifting will go to Waverly. People may look past Waverly for other options.
30. **Are there any after school programs?** Yes, the regular programs run until 6pm and special events such as Earth Day are published in the school calendar and available to the community.
31. **Are kids escorted into the building?** Yes, in the morning the students are escorted into the building. In the afternoon, parents park and pick up their children. There is generally a higher volume for startup / orientation in the first month.
32. **Will there be fencing around the property?** Yes, there will be fencing around the edge of the property. Options will comply with the local zoning regulations and reviewed with the community.
33. **What happens if the school doesn't make it?** There are precedents in the city lasting 12 years or more. The goal is to maintain it as a school for a long time.
34. **What is the tax situation? Will the school pay taxes?** We are currently paying taxes for ECS at Frick Park, because it is leased. Because Imagine owns the building, taxes will be paid on it.

**–Contact Jon McCann at 412.247.7970 with comments / questions.**