



MEMORANDUM

TO: Suffolk City School Board Members
FROM: Dr. John B. Gordon III, *Superintendent JB/G/AG*
DATE: January 7, 2025
RE: Planning for Innovation Center

There are sixteen content area specialists that are currently housed at Booker T. Washington Elementary as the School Administrative office does not have enough room for them to have offices. The new Lab School as well as the additional Pre-K classroom at Booker T. Washington Elementary has necessitated a look at other options.

The former Children's Center space behind The College and Career Academy at Pruden was vacated by the Children's Center June 2024.

In addition, the space where our Community Engagement Office currently resides in the Operation Center Building is just across from our SPS Pharmacy. This location has long been looked at for a possible Wellness Clinic for our Employees. Administration plans to bring forth those plans at a later date. A Wellness clinic would serve SPS employees who participate in the SPS Health Benefit program by providing acute care for minor illnesses, biometric screenings, physicals, and diabetic coaching all at cost allowing the division to help control our health care costs and allowing employees to use the clinic instead of the emergency room and urgent care when their primary care physician cannot see them in a timely manner. Much like the SPS Pharmacy, run by an outside contractor, but serving only SPS employees ensures unparalleled customer service and becomes a valuable benefit to attract employees to SPS. The Wellness Clinic will be another strategy to help SPS recruit and retain staff.

This building and space have been evaluated and reviewed by RRMM for HVAC needs, offices, and renovations. We believe this space can further enhance our instructional innovation while promoting more collaboration between the Teaching and Learning Department and our Community Engagement Team in order to further promote the instructional strategies that are being used throughout Suffolk Public Schools. It is our goal to provide a flexible instructional space in order to meet the everchanging needs of the school division.

The preliminary plans are attached to this memorandum and are almost ready to go out for bid. The Suffolk Public School Board will be requested to review and take action on the awarded contract at the February 2025 meeting. Currently, The Suffolk Public School Capital Improvement plan does not have a funding source for this project, therefore it is our intention to use FY2025 year end funds to complete this project. If the bids are higher than our preliminary estimate, the Instructional Innovation project may be funded over multiple fiscal years, which would further delay our secondary goal of creating a Wellness Clinic.

tlg
M# - 004