

Concept of Forestville school unveiled at workshop

By ELIO GUGLIOTTI
STAFF WRITER

As designs for a new K-8 school in Forestville take shape, the community got its first glimpse at what a K-8 future will look like.

"I think you're going to see the results of all the work has come to fruition tonight," said Superintendent of Schools Philip Streifer.

Streifer was addressing the audience that gathered Feb. 22 at Greene-Hills Elementary School for a workshop on the progress of the Forestville K-8 school project.

The Board of Education is building two new, 900-student K-8 schools in the city that will replace O'Connell, Bingham, and Greene-Hills elementary schools and Memorial Boulevard Middle School.

One school is to be built on land off of Matthews Street and Clark Avenue. The Forestville school will be built on the existing Greene-Hills school site using the adjacent former Crowley auto dealership and Starlite Market properties.

Plans for the school

show it will have a square footprint and be approximately 125,000 square-feet. The school will be designed with the intention of separating younger and older students.

"Good school planning tries to separate the population," said Ryszard Szczypek, lead architect for the project, who led a presentation on the plans for the school.

The elementary and middle school classrooms will be on opposite ends of the school. The elementary and middle school will have their own entrances on either side of the main entrance, which faces Pine Street.

The first floor of the school will house kindergarten and first grade classroom clusters, along with five classrooms for sixth grade. Administrative offices, the gym, and a library media center will also be on the first floor, between the elementary and middle school classrooms.

Second through fifth grade classroom clusters will be on the second floor opposite five classrooms for

seventh grade. The majority of the school will be two stories with the only exception being a small third floor for the middle school. Five eighth grade classrooms will make up the third floor of the school.

The design of keeping younger and older students separate extends to the cafeteria as well as classrooms. The cafeteria, which will be on the second floor and will seat about 300 people, will have separate lines for elementary and middle school students. The seating area also will be designed to keep students separated.

A playground will be located outside the cafeteria for elementary students, while kindergarteners will have their own playground near their classrooms.

The school's design is also meant to separate bus and car traffic entering the school.

The main entrance into the school property will be off of Pine Street that will feed into separate drop-off areas for buses and parents. Buses will exit only onto Hadden Street, while cars will be able to leave the school through Pine Street

or Daley Street.

Szczypek added that a traffic light will be put on Pine Street at the school's entrance.

After Szczypek's presentation, the public was given chance to ask questions about the school.

Several people who own homes neighboring the school were in the crowd and asked what the school's impact would be on them.

Architects working on the school told them, with the way the school's footprint fell, the project would encroach on some of the property lines. They said buffers, either solid fences or natural ones such as

trees, would be installed along the property's border.

One parent asked whether the classes at the middle and elementary schools would begin at the same time or have staggered starting times.

Streifer said school officials are currently looking into that issue. He said there are some efficiencies to starting class at the same time, but no final decision has been made.

Streifer also was asked what would happen to the faculty at the schools that are set to be closed. He said teachers would be guaranteed a position in the district, it just may not be at the school. As for administrators, he said, the new school will have one principal and two assistants. The positions will be filled through a selection process, he said.



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A surveillance photograph taken at the 7-11 on Riverside Ave., Bristol. Police are seeking the public's help in identifying the robbery suspect.

Police seek public help identifying suspect

By ELIO GUGLIOTTI
STAFF WRITER

Police are looking for the public's help to identify a suspect from a November robbery of the 7-11 on Riverside Avenue.

Police have released surveillance photographs taken during the robbery, in the hopes that the public can identify the suspect.

At about 9:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 11, police received a call that the 7-11 at 200 Riverside Ave. was robbed. Police said cash was stolen and one employee received minor injuries during the robbery.

The male suspect was described as about 5 feet 10 inches tall, in his late 40s, with visible tattoos on his

right forearm.

Anyone with information on this robbery or with information on the suspect can contact Det. Suchinski at (860) 314-4572. Anonymous tips can be left by calling (860) 585-8477 or via email at bpdcrime-watch@ci.bristol.ct.us. The reference case number for this robbery is 09-49221.

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