



Hughes Community Meeting Questions and Answers Fall 2020

Question	Answer
Why can't construction start now while students are not in school?	Hughes's HVAC project construction is planned to start in June 2021 with an expected completion in August 2022. The goal is to complete all renovations within 15 months so that students and staff return to their permanent (and newly renovated) classrooms at the start of the 2022-23 school year. Public works projects, such as the construction at Hughes, are planned years in advance and phased to maintain school operations with minimal disruption within the shortest timeframe feasible. The scope of this project cannot be completed during the school closure due to the need to keep the school operational for teachers along with the unpredictable nature of the closure and the scheduling of contractors, equipment procurement, inspections, approvals and many other aspects which have been aligned to complete this project within the given timeframe.
Is it possible to complete all construction while school is closed?	
Can the 6th graders be sent to the Interim Housing North location rather than the 8th graders?	In an effort to complete the project in the given 15-month period, Hughes will need to find housing for nearly 900 students. During construction, there will only be classroom space available for one grade level at Hughes. Therefore, all 6 th grade students will remain at Hughes. This decision was carefully considered by site and district administration and it was determined that younger students would struggle more with the transition to middle school if they were at an interim site. In addition, Grade 7-8 students share common electives and teaching staff need to remain together for those grades.
Would it be more difficult to send 6th graders to Interim Housing?	
Can the 8th graders stay on the Hughes campus?	
For grades rehoused at another site, will they have the same administrator and secretary?	The Interim Housing site will have two Assistant Principals from Hughes Middle School along with clerical support from Hughes. This provides both sites with familiar administrators and staff during construction. Families will be able to directly communicate with the Principal at Hughes and the Interim Administrators to help support students.
What sort of technology will be installed in classrooms?	The modernization project includes not only new central heating/air conditioning systems but also utility infrastructure, electronic classroom projectors, and new energy efficient lighting. Classroom projection systems include an integrated audiovisual set-up with ceiling mounted speakers situated throughout the room, and teacher and student microphones so that every student in the classroom can be engaged with improved visuals and an enhanced sound system to hear the teacher's instruction regardless of where they are seated in the room.



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How will students be able to participate in sports?	Currently, all sports programs are planned to continue at Hughes Middle School with after school bussing from the Interim North Campus. Sports and transportation may be limited or subject to change due to COVID-19 restrictions.
Could work be delayed for a year to avoid more disruption?	Rescheduling large construction projects can result in the loss of possibly hundreds of thousands of dollars in costs associated with canceling contracts and reinstating plans later. The loss of funds to delay projects would result in a reduction in the already scarce funds available for school improvements. Despite the timing, it is in the best interest of our students and our schools to maintain the current schedule with the available funding allocated for the project knowing that these improvements are for generations of students to come.
Is the Interim Housing North Campus safe?	The Interim Housing North Campus is completely fenced to prevent intruders with a single entry gate similar to the one at the Hughes home campus. All students are required to wear an ID to prevent students other than Hughes students from entering campus. All adults are checked in at the gate and required to sign-in in the Office Visitor Log. Student safety is always a primary concern at any school campus and supported by a campus surveillance system, LBUSD School Safety, a dedicated Campus Security Officer, and two site administrators. For specific site safety protocols, please contact the Hughes administration.
Can the school office be relocated next to the entry gate to provide additional safety?	The school office will be relocated to the 200 building near the front gate during Phase 2 of construction. This will provide the office with access to the single entry system with video screening of visitors to maintain current safety standards for campus access. In the event that the front gate is moved temporarily, the gate entry system will also be installed near the temporary office.