

Office of the Superintendent of Schools  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
Rockville, Maryland

November 26, 2019

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education

From: Jack R. Smith, Superintendent of Schools

Subject: Supplement A—Superintendent’s Recommendation for the Clarksburg, Northwest, and Seneca Valley Clusters Boundary Study

On November 27, 2018, the Board of Education authorized a boundary study to explore high school reassignments for Clarksburg, Northwest, and Seneca Valley high schools to address projected overutilization at Clarksburg and Northwest high schools. Although an addition opened at Clarksburg High School in 2015, student enrollment continues to increase and will exceed capacity by more than 900 students by the end of the 6-year planning period. Although two additions were constructed in 2001 and 2006 at Northwest High School to accommodate growth at the school, student enrollment continues to increase, and projections indicate that student enrollment will exceed capacity by nearly 400 students by the end of the 6-year planning period. In addition to high school reassignments, the Board of Education also included the middle schools in the Clarksburg, Northwest, and Seneca Valley clusters boundary study to address the student enrollment patterns and utilization rates at the middle schools.

The Clarksburg and Northwest high school service areas are adjacent to the Seneca Valley High School service area, which has a revitalization/expansion project scheduled for completion in 2020. As part of the revitalization/expansion project, the school was designed, and currently is under construction, for a capacity of 2,581 students. As part of the project, several career readiness programs were included to serve students in the Upcounty area. The enrollment at Seneca Valley High School is projected to be 1,277 students by the end of the 6-year planning period. With a capacity of 2,581 seats, there will be approximately 1,300 seats available to accommodate students from Clarksburg and Northwest high schools and students in the Upcounty area for career readiness programs.

WHEREAS, In January 2019, the superintendent of schools charged Montgomery County Public Schools staff to conduct a boundary study process to explore high school reassignments for Clarksburg, Northwest, and Seneca Valley high schools, as well as address the student enrollment patterns and utilization rates at the middle schools in the Clarksburg, Northwest, and Seneca Valley clusters in accordance with Board of Education Policy FAA, *Educational Facilities Planning*, and Montgomery County Public Schools Regulation FAA-RA, *Educational Facilities Planning*; and

WHEREAS, The boundary study process occurred from January 2019 through September 2019, resulting in development and review of 14 boundary options for the Clarksburg, Northwest, and Seneca Valley cluster high school and middle school boundaries; and

WHEREAS, Extensive community outreach and engagement was conducted to share information and receive feedback through a variety of approaches, including large community meetings, smaller focus group meetings, online surveys and presentations, social media, and direct e-mail communications; and

WHEREAS, On September 11, 2019, a report was submitted to the superintendent of schools and the Board of Education that summarized the process and the 14 options for the Clarksburg, Northwest, and Seneca Valley cluster high school and middle school boundaries, and a supplement detailing the subsequent phases of community engagement was issued on October 7, 2019; and

WHEREAS, On October 16, 2019, the superintendent of schools publicly issued his recommendation on the Boundary Study for the Clarksburg, Northwest, and Seneca Valley clusters, and provided a presentation detailing this recommendation to the Board of Education on October 28, 2019; and

WHEREAS, On November 4 and 19, 2019, the Board of Education conducted work sessions to consider the superintendent of schools' recommendation for the Clarksburg, Northwest, and Seneca Valley cluster high school and middle school boundaries; and

WHEREAS, On November 13, 2019, the Board of Education conducted a public hearing specifically for this boundary study in accordance with Board of Education Policy FAA, *Educational Facilities Planning*, and Montgomery County Public Schools Regulation FAA-RA, *Educational Facilities Planning*, on the superintendent's recommendation; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the following reassignments be made as indicated on the attached maps:

Reassign from Clarksburg High School to Seneca Valley High School

- The Cabin Branch Community (area east of Stringtown Road, west of Route 355, and north of West Old Baltimore Road) in the Clarksburg Elementary School service area.
- The area south of Old Baltimore Road and west of I-270 in the Clarksburg Elementary School service area.
- William B. Gibbs Elementary School (except the area south of West Old Baltimore Road, west of Route 355, north of Little Seneca Creek and east of I-270).

Reassign from Northwest High School to Seneca Valley High School

- The Clopper Mill Elementary School island.
- The Spark M. Matsunaga Elementary School island.
- The northern portion of Germantown Elementary School (forested area south of Fountain Hills Drive).

Reassign from Neelsville Middle School to Rocky Hill Middle School

- Fox Chapel Elementary School.
- Capt. James E. Daly Elementary School.

Reassign from Rocky Hill Middle School to Neelsville Middle School

- The Cabin Branch Community (area east of Stringtown Road, west of Route 355, and north of West Old Baltimore Road) in the Clarksburg Elementary School service area.
- The area south of Old Baltimore Road and west of I-270 in the Clarksburg Elementary School service area.
- William B. Gibbs Elementary School (except the area south of West Old Baltimore Road, west of Route 355, north of Little Seneca Creek and east of I-270).

Reassign from Roberto W. Clemente Middle School to Kingsview Middle School

- The portion of Great Seneca Creek Elementary School that articulates to Roberto W. Clemente Middle School.

Reassign from Kingsview Middle School to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School

- The Spark M. Matsunaga Elementary School island;

and be it further

Resolved, That the boundary changes be implemented beginning with Grades 9 and 10 students in September 2020, and that Grades 11 and 12 students remain in their current high school of attendance for the 2020–2021 school year; and be it further

Resolved, That the implementation continue with Grades 9 through 11 students in the 2021–2022 school year, followed by full implementation of Grades 9 through 12 students in the 2022–2023 school year; and be it further

Resolved, That the boundary changes be implemented beginning with Grades 6 and 7 students in September 2020, with Grade 8 students remaining in their current middle school of attendance for the 2020–2021 school year, followed by full implementation of Grades 6 through 8 students in the 2021–2022 school year; and be it further

Resolved, That current Grade 9 students who have begun one of the following special programs be permitted to remain at their current high school to complete the special program.

Clarksburg High School

- Advanced Placement Power Scholars Signature Program (APPS)
- Pathways in Network and Information Technology (P-TECH)

Northwest High School

- Ulysses Signature Program
- Middle College (MC<sup>2</sup>) Program;

and be it further

Resolved, That current Grade 9 students in all other Career Readiness programs, local academy or signature programs, or other school-based programs will not be permitted to remain in their school assignment, if they are reassigned, as there are other comparable programs at Seneca Valley High School; and be it further

Resolved, That current Grade 8 students at Clarksburg and Northwest high schools may continue to apply to the special programs previously noted; however, a final decision on acceptance will not be made until after this Board of Education action; and be it further

Resolved, That the local signature programs—Advanced Placement Power Scholars Signature Program (APPS) at Clarksburg High School and the Ulysses Signature Program at Northwest High School—only will be offered to current Grade 8 students in the home school areas of Clarksburg or Northwest high schools, respectively; and be it further

Resolved, That the Pathways in Network and Information Technology (P-TECH) and Middle College (MC<sup>2</sup>) programs are centrally managed programs with seats available by lottery from each of these clusters and students will be notified on the status of their application after the Board of Education decision on this boundary reassignment; and be it further







Resolved, That the superintendent of schools and Montgomery County Public Schools staff will ensure that academic and support services are provided for students who are reassigned to their new school of assignment, and for all students in the schools affected by this boundary study, that are commensurate with their needs; and be it further

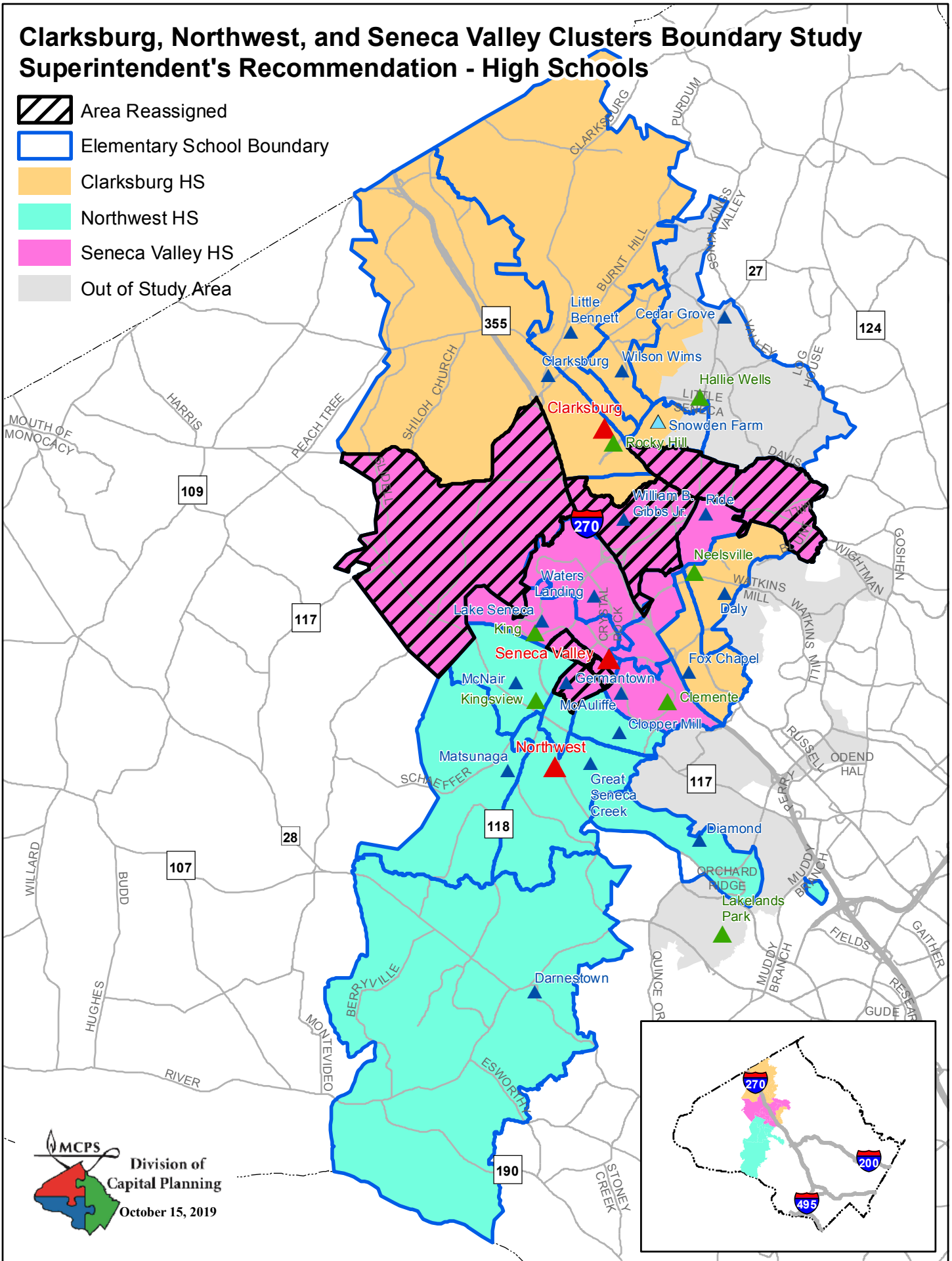
Resolved, That the superintendent of schools and Montgomery County Public Schools staff will engage in community building efforts in the Clarksburg, Northwest, and Seneca Valley Clusters to ensure that all students and families feel welcome in their new school communities.

Attachments









JRS:AMZ:SA:AK:ds

# Clarksburg, Northwest, and Seneca Valley Clusters Boundary Study Superintendent's Recommendation - High Schools

-  Area Reassigned
-  Elementary School Boundary
-  Clarksburg HS
-  Northwest HS
-  Seneca Valley HS
-  Out of Study Area



# Clarksburg, Northwest, and Seneca Valley Clusters Boundary Study Superintendent's Recommendation- Middle Schools

-  Area Reassigned
-  Elementary School Boundary
-  Current HS Boundary
-  Clemente MS
-  Hallie Wells MS
-  King MS
-  Kingsview MS
-  Lakelands Park MS
-  Neelsville MS
-  Rocky Hill MS
-  Out of Study Area

