

# WALTER JOHNSON CLUSTER

## CLUSTER PLANNING ISSUES

**Planning Issue:** The White Flint Sector Plan, adopted in 2010, provides for up to 9,800 mostly multi-family housing units in the White Flint METRO station area. The sector plan is completely within the Walter Johnson Cluster. The plan requires the redevelopment of existing land uses and is phased with major transit and infrastructure improvements. Montgomery County anticipates that it will take 20 to 30 years for build-out of the plan to occur, and the timing of construction will be market driven. Development of some projects has recently begun. A future elementary school site is identified in the sector plan.

The Walter Johnson Cluster has experienced large enrollment increases in the past eight years, primarily driven by the turn-over of homes to younger families. New development in the cluster also has played a role, although by a significantly smaller amount than demographic changes in existing communities. The 2010 adopted White Flint Sector Plan provides for up to 9,800 new multi-family residential units over the next 20 to 30 years. A future elementary school site is recommended in the White Flint Sector Plan. The cluster also will see substantial amounts of new housing associated with the following land-use plans now under consideration: Rock Spring Master Plan, White Flint 2 Sector Plan and Grosvenor-Strathmore Metro Area Minor Master Plan. In addition, a new subdivision will be developed on the “WMAL property” located within the cluster.

A roundtable discussion group convened in spring 2016 to gather input on a range of approaches to accommodate short- and long-term enrollment increases in the Walter Johnson Cluster. The roundtable considered approaches at all three school levels. The Board of Education actions are summarized in the individual school sections below and also are available on the MCPS website at the following link: [http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/uploadedFiles/departments/planning/SupplementB.WJClusterSchools\(3\).pdf](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/uploadedFiles/departments/planning/SupplementB.WJClusterSchools(3).pdf)

As part of the Board of Education action, the superintendent of schools convened the Woodward High School Reopening and Nontraditional Facilities Study Group that included the Downcounty Consortium high schools along with Bethesda-Chevy Chase, Walter Johnson, and Walt Whitman high schools to develop ideas to:

1. Study the reopening of the former Woodward High School to address the space deficits at these high schools; and
2. Explore the possibility to address space deficits at these high schools as well as others countywide by offering alternative programmatic, career technology education, or other educational options for high school students through the use of nontraditional facilities, including commercial facilities.

For additional information related to this study please refer to the MCPS website at the following link: <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/planning/workgroups.aspx>

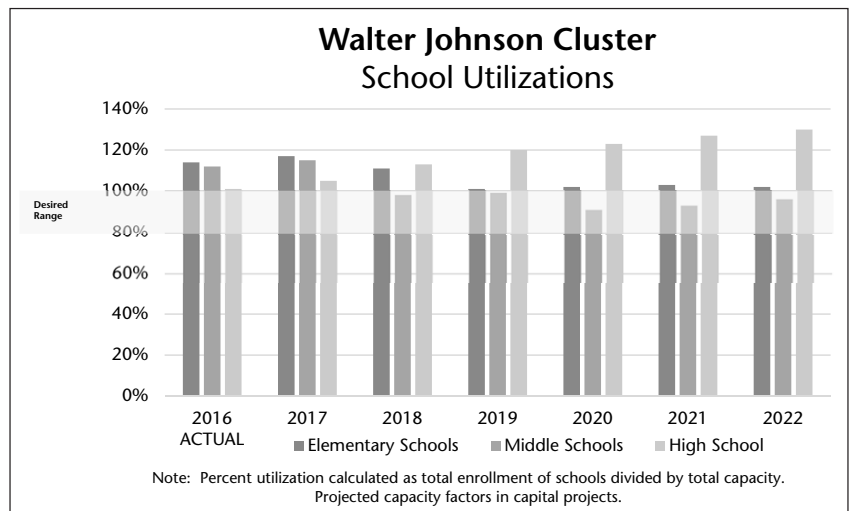
## SCHOOLS

### Walter Johnson High School

**Capital Project:** Projections indicate enrollment at Walter Johnson High School will exceed capacity by nearly 700 seats by the end of the six-year planning period. An FY 2015 appropriation was completed for facility planning to determine the feasibility, scope, and cost for a classroom addition. A plan to address the projected overutilization at Walter Johnson High School will be considered in a future CIP after the outcome of the study group described below. Relocatable classrooms will be utilized until additional capacity can be added.

**Planning Study:** Due to the large enrollment increases the past eight years in the Walter Johnson Cluster, a roundtable discussion group convened in spring 2016 to gather input on a range of approaches to accommodate short- and long-term enrollment in the Walter Johnson Cluster. As part of the Board of Education action, the superintendent of schools convened the Woodward High School Reopening and Nontraditional Facilities Study Group that included the Downcounty Consortium high schools along with Bethesda-Chevy Chase, Walter Johnson, and Walt Whitman high schools to develop ideas to:

1. Study the reopening of the former Woodward High School to address the space deficits at these high schools; and
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### North Bethesda Middle School

**Planning Study:** Due to the large enrollment increases the past eight years in the Walter Johnson Cluster, a roundtable discussion group convened in spring 2016 to gather input on a range of approaches to accommodate short- and long-term enrollment in the Walter Johnson Cluster. Based on the outcome of the study, the Board of Education approved to continue with the addition at North Bethesda Middle School to address the projected space deficits at the school. More information relating to this study is available on the MCPS website at the following link: <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/planning/workgroups.aspx>

**Capital Project:** Projections indicate enrollment at North Bethesda Middle School will exceed capacity by 150 seats or more by the end of the six-year CIP planning period. A classroom addition project is scheduled for this school with a completion date of September 2018. Relocatable classrooms will be utilized until additional capacity can be added.

### Tilden Middle School

**Planning Study:** On November 17, 2014, the Board of Education approved a roundtable discussion group (roundtable) to explore the possible collocation of Rock Terrace School with Tilden Middle School on the Tilden Lane site. With an upcoming revitalization/expansion project, Tilden Middle School was identified because of its central location in the Walter Johnson Cluster, its large site size, its accessibility to accommodate the two schools, and the long history of the Walter Johnson cluster serving special education students.

Board of Education Policy IOB, *Education of Students with Disabilities*, states that MCPS is committed to providing students with disabilities the opportunity to interact with non-disabled peers to the maximum extent possible. The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) has stated that state funding would be very difficult to acquire for stand-alone special education centers because students in these centers are not provided opportunities to receive instruction in the general education setting to the maximum extent appropriate. The collocation of special education centers with general education schools, such as the Longview School at Matsunaga Elementary School, allows the school system to address the facility needs of the stand-alone special education centers while meeting the goal to provide special education students with opportunities to receive instruction in the general education environment to the maximum extent appropriate.

The roundtable included parents and staff from Rock Terrace School and Tilden Middle School as well as a representative from the MCCPTA Special Education Committee and the Walter Johnson Cluster. Staff from the Department of Special Education Services, the Division of Long-range Planning, and

Division of Construction also participated in the process. To support the activities, an architect was hired to develop concept plans for the possible collocation of the two schools. The activities of the roundtable included the following:

- Identify opportunities for special education students to receive instruction in the general education environment to the maximum extent appropriate
- Discuss the facility and site implications
- Conduct site visits and engage in discussions with parents and staff at other collocated or soon to be collocated schools in the county and state.

The roundtable met from December 2014 through February 2015 and submitted a report to the interim superintendent of schools in March 2015. Following input from the roundtable and the community at large, the interim superintendent of schools recommended and, on May 12, 2015, the Board of Education approved the collocation of Rock Terrace School and Tilden Middle School.

**Planning Study:** Due to the large enrollment increases the past eight years in the Walter Johnson Cluster, a roundtable discussion group convened in spring 2016 to gather input on a range of approaches to accommodate short- and long-term enrollment in the Walter Johnson Cluster. Based on the outcome of the study, the Board of Education approved to continue with the revitalization/expansion project at Tilden Middle School/Rock Terrace School to address the projected space deficits at the school. More information relating to this study is available on the MCPS website at the following link: <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/planning/workgroups.aspx>

**Capital Project:** A revitalization/expansion project is scheduled for this school with a completion date of September 2020. An FY 2018 appropriation was approved to begin the site work for the project. In order for this project to be completed on this schedule, county and state funding must be provided at the levels approved in this CIP.

Tilden Middle School is currently located in the Woodward facility on Old Georgetown Road. Rather than revitalize/expand the Woodward facility for Rock Terrace School and Tilden Middle School, the current Tilden Holding Facility, located on Tilden Lane, will be revitalized/expanded to house both Rock Terrace School and Tilden Middle School.

### Ashburton Elementary School

**Planning Study:** Although Ashburton Elementary School had an approved project scheduled for completion in September 2019, the updated enrollment forecast indicated it no longer was sufficient to relieve the projected space deficit. Moreover, the current project expanded the school well above the upper limit of the preferred school capacity range of approximately 740 seats, to 881 seats. Based on the input received from the roundtable discussion group conducted in spring 2016 and to better address the growing enrollment in the Ashburton Elementary School service area, the Board of Education

approved reducing the size of the planned addition to 770 seats and simultaneously constructing a modular addition building to avoid permanently enlarging the school beyond the planned capacity of the school. Once the modular building is no longer required, it would be relocated for future use to another school. Relocatable classrooms will be utilized until additional capacity can be added. In addition, the Preschool Education Program will be relocated to Luxmanor and Wood Acres elementary schools beginning in the 2017–2018 school year. More information relating to this study is available on the MCPS website at the following link: <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/planning/workgroups.aspx>

**Capital Project:** An FY 2018 appropriation was approved to begin the construction for an addition at this school. The completion date is scheduled for September 2019.

### Farmland Elementary School

**Planning Study:** Due to the large enrollment increases the past eight years in the Walter Johnson Cluster, a roundtable discussion group convened in spring 2016 to gather input on a range of approaches to accommodate short- and long-term enrollment in the Walter Johnson Cluster. To address the space deficits at Farmland Elementary School, the Board of Education approved that the enrollment be monitored, and if the space deficit continues to remain at this level, that student reassignments be considered to Luxmanor Elementary School one year prior to the completion of the Luxmanor Elementary School revitalization/expansion project.

More information relating to this study is available on the MCPS website at the following link: <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/planning/workgroups.aspx>

### Garrett Park Elementary School

**Planning Study:** Due to the large enrollment increases the past eight years in the Walter Johnson Cluster, a roundtable discussion group convened in spring 2016 to gather input on a range of approaches to accommodate short- and long-term enrollment in the Walter Johnson Cluster. To address the space deficits at Garrett Park Elementary School, the Board of Education approved convening discussions with several stakeholders including the Montgomery County Child Care Association, the Garrett Park Town Council, and Parent Teacher Association to discuss solutions to address the space deficits at the school. One possible solution may be utilizing the Garrett Park annex located adjacent to Garrett Park Elementary School if needed. The annex, currently leased by a child-care provider, would provide two classrooms, support rooms, and toilet rooms for the school to use. School planners will monitor enrollment at the school for the coming years to determine if the Garrett Park annex will be needed to address the space deficits. More information relating to this study is available on the MCPS website at the following link: <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/planning/workgroups.aspx>

### Kensington-Parkwood Elementary School

**Capital Project:** A classroom addition project is scheduled for this school with a completion date of September 2018. Relocatable classrooms will be utilized until additional capacity can be added.

**Planning Study:** Due to the large enrollment increases the past eight years in the Walter Johnson Cluster, a roundtable discussion group convened in spring 2016 to gather input on a range of approaches to accommodate short- and long-term enrollment in the Walter Johnson Cluster. More information relating to this study is available on the MCPS website at the following link: <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/planning/workgroups.aspx>

### Luxmanor Elementary School

**Capital Project:** A revitalization/expansion project is scheduled for this school with a completion date of January 2020. An FY 2018 appropriation was approved to begin construction for this project.

**Planning Study:** Due to the large enrollment increases the past eight years in the Walter Johnson Cluster, a roundtable discussion group convened in spring 2016 to gather input on a range of approaches to accommodate short- and long-term enrollment in the Walter Johnson Cluster. More information relating to this study is available on the MCPS website at the following link: <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/planning/workgroups.aspx>

### Wynagate Elementary School

**Planning Study:** Due to the large enrollment increases the past eight years in the Walter Johnson Cluster, a roundtable discussion group convened in spring 2016 to gather input on a range of approaches to accommodate short- and long-term enrollment in the Walter Johnson Cluster. More information relating to this study is available on the MCPS website at the following link: <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/planning/workgroups.aspx>

## WALTER JOHNSON CLUSTER

### CAPITAL PROJECTS

School	Project	Project Status*	Date of Completion
Walter Johnson HS	Capacity Study	Proposed	TBD
North Bethesda MS	Classroom addition	Approved	Sept. 2018
Tilden MS/Rock Terrace School	Revitalization/expansion with collocation of Rock Terrace School	Approved	Sept. 2020
Ashburton ES	Classroom addition	Approved	Sept. 2019
Kensington-Parkwood ES	Classroom addition	Approved	Sept. 2018
Luxmanor ES	Revitalization/Expansion	Approved	Jan. 2020

\*Approved—Project has an FY 2017 or FY 2018 appropriation approved in the Amended FY 2017–2022 CIP.

\*Programmed—Project has expenditures programmed in a future year of the CIP for planning and/or construction funds.

\*Proposed—Project has facility planning funds approved in FY 2017 or in FY 2018 for a feasibility study.

## WALTER JOHNSON CLUSTER

### Projected Enrollment and Space Availability

Effects of the Approved Amendments to the FY 2017–2022 CIP and Non–CIP Actions on Space Available

Schools		Actual 16–17	Projections								
			17–18	18–19	19–20	20–21	21–22	22–23	2026	2031	
Walter Johnson HS	Program Capacity	2335	2321	2321	2321	2321	2321	2321	2321	2321	2321
	Enrollment	2355	2428	2615	2774	2857	2943	3024	3200	3300	
	Available Space	(20)	(107)	(294)	(453)	(536)	(622)	(703)	(879)	(979)	
	Comments	See text	+1 LFI								
North Bethesda MS	Program Capacity	864	864	1229	1229	1229	1229	1229	1229	1229	
	Enrollment	1101	1142	1171	1185	1194	1171	1162	1300	1300	
	Available Space	(237)	(278)	58	44	35	58	67	(71)	(71)	
	Comments			Addition Complete							
Tilden MS	Program Capacity	927	943	943	943	1200	1200	1200	1200	1200	
	Enrollment	912	936	953	964	1021	1090	1164	1300	1300	
	Available Space	14	7	(10)	(21)	179	110	36	(100)	(100)	
	Comments	Planning for Rev/Ex	-1 AUT	Revitalization/Expansion in Progress		Rev/Ex Complete					
Ashburton ES	Program Capacity	651	666	666	770	770	770	770			
	Enrollment	905	959	903	899	912	932	913			
	Available Space	(254)	(293)	(237)	(129)	(142)	(162)	(143)			
	Comments	Planning for Addition	-3 PEP	-1 PEP	Addition Complete						
Farmland ES	Program Capacity	714	714	714	714	714	714	714			
	Enrollment	758	813	834	854	868	865	835			
	Available Space	(44)	(99)	(120)	(140)	(154)	(151)	(121)			
	Comments	See text									
Garrett Park ES	Program Capacity	776	776	776	776	776	776	776			
	Enrollment	804	840	882	888	894	882	894			
	Available Space	(28)	(64)	(106)	(112)	(118)	(106)	(118)			
	Comments	See text									
Kensington–Parkwood ES	Program Capacity	472	472	746	746	746	746	746			
	Enrollment	656	652	664	667	674	676	676			
	Available Space	(184)	(180)	82	79	72	70	70			
	Comments			Addition Complete							
Luxmanor ES	Program Capacity	411	406	406	758	758	758	758			
	Enrollment	484	490	514	549	573	606	614			
	Available Space	(73)	(84)	(108)	209	185	152	144			
	Comments	Planning for Rev/Ex	+1 PEP	@ Grosvenor	Rev/Ex Complete Jan. 2020						
Wyngate ES	Program Capacity	777	777	777	777	777	777	777			
	Enrollment	738	714	727	708	696	715	716			
	Available Space	39	63	50	69	81	62	61			
	Comments										
Cluster Information	HS Utilization	101%	105%	113%	120%	123%	127%	130%	138%	142%	
	HS Enrollment	2355	2428	2615	2774	2857	2943	3024	3200	3300	
	MS Utilization	112%	115%	98%	99%	91%	93%	96%	107%	107%	
	MS Enrollment	2013	2078	2124	2149	2215	2261	2326	2600	2600	
	ES Enrollment	4345	4468	4524	4565	4617	4676	4648	4800	4900	



## WALTER JOHNSON CLUSTER

**Facility Characteristics of Schools 2016–2017**

Schools	Year Facility Opened	Year Reopened/ Revitalized	Total Square Footage	Site Size Acres	Adjacent Park	Reloc-atable Classrooms	County Programs	Home School Model
Walter Johnson HS	1956	2009	365,138	30.9				
North Bethesda MS	1955	1999	130,461	19.99		5		
Tilden MS	1967	1991	135,150	29.8				
Ashburton ES	1957	1993	81,438	8.3		8		
Farmland ES	1963	2011	89,988	4.8	Yes			
Garrett Park ES	1948	2012	96,348	4.4	Yes			
Kensington-Parkwood ES	1952	2006	77,136	9.9		7		
Luxmanor ES	1966		61,694	6.5	Yes	3		
Wyngate ES	1952	1997	89,104	9.5				