


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

March 19, 2024

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education

From: Monique T. Felder, Interim Superintendent of Schools 

Subject: Boundary Study Scope Recommendation to Determine the Service Area for the new Crown High School and the Expansion of Damascus High School

To address the urgent space needs in the mid-county region, the new Crown High School was approved for planning and construction with a completion date of August 2027. The high schools identified to populate the new high school included: Gaithersburg, Northwest, Quince Orchard, Richard Montgomery, and Thomas S. Wootton high schools. While these high schools were identified as part of the initial funding recommendation, this identification was not a Board of Education adopted boundary scope.

In addition to the new Crown High School, Damascus High School has an approved Major Capital Project that will renovate and expand the existing school, with a scheduled completion date of August 2027. The expansion of Damascus High School was intended to accommodate students from Clarksburg High School, projected to be overutilized by over 400 students in the 2029–2030 school year.

As noted above, the new Crown High School and the Damascus High School Major Capital Projects are both scheduled to be completed in August 2027. As part of the *Superintendent's Recommended FY 2025 Capital Budget and FY 2025–2030 Capital Improvements Program*, it was recommended that since both capital projects require a boundary study process and both are scheduled to be completed August 2027, a holistic review of needed boundary adjustments would be conducted between November 2023–January 2024, and a recommendation would be provided to the Board of Education in February 2024, as part of the spring amendments process for the *FY 2025 Capital Budget and FY 2025–2030 Capital Improvements Program*.

WHEREAS, The new Crown High School is being constructed to address the overutilization at high schools in the mid-county region; and

WHEREAS, The Damascus High School Major Capital Project includes the expansion of the existing facility to address the overutilization at Clarksburg High School; and

WHEREAS, Both the new Crown High School and the Damascus High School Major Capital Projects are scheduled to be completed in August 2027; and

WHEREAS, Clusters identified to populate the new Crown High School are adjacent to both Clarksburg and Damascus clusters; and

WHEREAS, The interim superintendent of schools, as part of the spring amendments for the *FY 2025 Capital Budget and the FY 2025–2030 Capital Improvements Program*, recommended a combined boundary study for the new Crown High School and the Damascus High School Major Capital Projects; and

WHEREAS, On February 27 and March 7, 2024, the Board of Education held two work sessions on the interim superintendent of schools' recommendation for the boundary study scope to determine the service area for the new Crown High School and the expansion of Damascus High School; and

WHEREAS, On March 7 and 14, 2024, the Board of Education held two public hearings for community members to provide testimony on the interim superintendent of schools' recommendation for the boundary study scope to determine the service area for the new Crown High School and the expansion of Damascus High School; and

WHEREAS, Pursuant to Montgomery County Public Schools Regulation FAA-RA, *Long-range Educational Facilities Planning*, Additional Guidelines for Developing Options for School Boundaries and Geographic Student Choice Assignment Plans, *The superintendent of schools develops recommendations for the scope through a multi-step process which considers first the minimum unit of analysis that could address the immediate concern, then considers the maximum extent of the potentially affected geographic area(s) that may need to be considered to effectively address the four factors established in Board Policy FAA, Educational Facilities Planning*; now therefore be it

Resolved, That one boundary study be conducted for the new Crown High School and the expansion of Damascus High School and the boundary study scope include the following high schools:

- Winston Churchill
- Clarksburg
- Damascus
- Gaithersburg
- Richard Montgomery
- Northwest
- Poolesville
- Quince Orchard
- Seneca Valley
- Watkins Mill
- Thomas S. Wootton

and be it further

Resolved, That the boundary study scope for the combined new Crown High School and the expansion of Damascus High School include the following middle schools:

- John T. Baker
- Cabin John
- Roberto W. Clemente
- Forest Oak
- Robert Frost
- Gaithersburg
- Herbert Hoover
- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
- Kingsview
- Lakelands Park
- Montgomery Village
- Neelsville
- John Poole
- Ridgeview
- Rocky Hill
- Hallie Wells
- Julius West

and be it further

Resolved, That no elementary schools be included in the boundary study; and be it further

Resolved, That due to the extent of the boundary study, a Request for Proposal will be issued to hire a consultant to support Montgomery County Public Schools staff with the boundary study process, including, but not limited to, facilitation and community engagement; and be it further

Resolved, that the following is an anticipated timeline for the combined boundary study process to determine the service area for the new Crown High School and the expansion of Damascus High School:

- Spring 2024—Request for Proposal is released
- Summer 2024—Board of Education approves consultant
- Fall 2024—Montgomery County Public Schools staff and consultant prepare for community engagement process and provide stakeholders with meeting information
- Early 2025–Fall 2025—Boundary Study process (community meetings, option development, feedback)
- Early 2026—Boundary study report is released
- Winter 2026 (February)—Superintendent of schools’ recommendation on the boundary study is released
- Winter 2026 (February–March)—Board of Education work sessions, public hearings, and action on the superintendent of schools’ recommendation on the boundary study;

and be it further

Resolved, That this boundary study be conducted in accordance with Board of Education Policy FAA, *Educational Facilities Planning*, and Montgomery County Public Schools Regulation FAA-RA, *Long-range Educational Facilities Planning*.

MTF:MBH:SPA:ALK