


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

March 28, 2023

**REVISED**

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education

From: Monifa B. McKnight, Superintendent of Schools 

Subject: Boundary Study Scope Recommendation to Determine the Service Area for the Reopening of Charles W. Woodward High School

By 2026–2027 school year, the following Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) high schools will have a projected seat deficit—Montgomery Blair at 582 seats, Albert Einstein at 465 seats, Wheaton at 368 seats, and Walter Johnson at 768 seats—for a total deficit of 2,183 seats. To address these urgent space needs in the Downcounty Consortium and Walter Johnson High School, the following capital projects were approved: John F. Kennedy High School Addition (completed August 2022); Northwood High School Addition and Facility Upgrade (completion August 2026); and Charles W. Woodward High School Reopening (completion August 2026). Upon completion, Northwood High School is projected to have a surplus of 471 seats and the former Charles W. Woodward High School will reopen with 2,159 seats.

The reopening of Charles W. Woodward High School is divided into two phases: Phase I is currently under construction and will be completed by August 2024. Northwood High School will relocate to the former Charles W. Woodward High School for two years, beginning in 2024–2025 school year, while its facility is under construction.

Phase II of the reopening of Charles W. Woodward High School will be under construction while Northwood High School is housed at this facility. In August 2026, both the Northwood High School project, as well as Phase II of the former Charles W. Woodward High School project will be completed; therefore, Northwood High School will return to its new facility and the former Charles W. Woodward High School will reopen.

MCPS Regulation FAA-RA, *Educational Facilities Planning*, guides many of the capital and non-capital processes, such as boundary studies. The regulation states that the superintendent of schools will recommend to the Board of Education the potential scope of the changes to school boundaries “in terms of the geographic area(s) of the county potentially impacted.” In addition,

the regulation states that the superintendent of schools first considers the “minimum unit of analysis” that could address the concerns, 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 of Education Policy FAA, *Educational Facilities Planning*.” The regulation further states that “concerns potentially affecting broader communities may require the scope to extend to the consideration of options involving communities in adjacent clusters.”

WHEREAS, As part of the spring amendments for the *Fiscal Year 2024 Capital Budget and Amendments to the Fiscal Year 2023–2028 Capital Improvements Program*, the superintendent of schools recommends a boundary study scope to determine the service area for the reopening of Charles W. Woodward High School; and

WHEREAS, Pursuant to Montgomery County Public Schools Regulation FAA-RA, *Educational Facilities Planning*, the superintendent of schools, to determine a recommendation for the scope of this boundary study, considered the “minimum unit of analysis” and then considered the “maximum extent” of the geographic areas to be considered to “effectively address the four factors established in Board of Education Policy FAA, *Educational Facilities Planning*”; and

WHEREAS, Montgomery County Public Schools Regulation FAA-RA, *Educational Facilities Planning*, states that “concerns potentially affecting broader communities may require the scope to extend to consideration of options involving communities in adjacent clusters;” and

WHEREAS, On February 23, 2023, the Board of Education held a work session on the superintendent of schools’ boundary study scope recommendation to determine the service area for the reopening of Charles W. Woodward High School; and

WHEREAS, On March 9, 2023, the Board of Education held a public hearing for community members to provide testimony on the superintendent of schools’ recommendation; and

WHEREAS, On March 14, 2023, the Board of Education held a second work session to further discuss the recommendation of the superintendent of schools and the public hearing testimony; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the scope of the boundary study to establish the service area for the reopening of Charles W. Woodward High School includes the following high schools:

- Bethesda Chevy-Chase
- Montgomery Blair
- Albert Einstein
- Walter Johnson
- John F. Kennedy
- Northwood
- Wheaton
- Walt Whitman

and be it further

Resolved, That the scope of the boundary study to establish the service area for the reopening of Charles W. Woodward High School includes the following middle schools:

- Argyle
- Eastern
- A. Mario Loiederman
- Newport Mill
- North Bethesda
- Parkland
- Thomas W. Pyle
- Odessa Shannon
- Silver Creek
- Silver Spring International
- Sligo
- Takoma Park
- Tilden
- Westland

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 an anticipated timeline for the boundary study process to determine the service area for the reopening of Charles W. Woodward High School is provided below:

- Spring 2023—Request for Proposal is released
- Summer 2023—Board of Education approves consultant
- Fall 2023—Montgomery County Public Schools staff and consultant prepare for community engagement process and provide stakeholders with meeting information
- Early 2024–Fall 2024—Boundary Study process (community meetings, option development, feedback)
- Early 2025—Boundary Study report is released
- Winter 2025 (February)—Superintendent’s recommendation on the boundary study is released
- Winter 2025 (February–March)—Board of Education work sessions, public hearings, and action on the superintendent’s 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*.

MBM:MBH:DEE:SPA:ALK:lmt