

Walter Johnson Cluster Roundtable Discussion Group

Secondary Schools Approach 1

Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removes any chance of being redistricted out of cluster **** • More program, more educational activities more AP classes, etc.**** • Possible in near term***** • Everyone in Walter Johnson cluster graduates with Walter Johnson on their diploma**** • Good to have breadth of course offerings *** • Can we think about how to use/optimize technology to make classes smaller? • Larger Walter Johnson community remains intact ** • Elite sports teams, best of best • Maintain reputation of schools** • Kids go to same high school through the four years * • Cheapest, quickest short-term remedy * • Ranked 1st by several parents • Can address size of school with through schools within schools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elite sports teams only best of the best *** • Students will get lost in the crowd – no personalized learning • More competition for college entrance/acceptance ***** • Limited number of college acceptance per school ***** • Adversely affects students with IEPs (ADHD, anxiety, depression, etc.)? How can they be expected to navigate through a mega school? **** • Fear that very big schools will not serve needs of special education/learning disabled students **** • Issues with personalized education ** • Extracurricular activities too competitive; too few students get to participate versus smaller high school ***** • Too many bodies in the building for safe operation ***** • Exceeds state and MCPS school size guidelines **** • Community can't absorb the additional traffic ***** • Students safety because of more traffic (drivers and walkers) **** • Walter Johnson property is fixed in acreage so there would be a loss of green space with addition ***** • Graduation limitations ***** • Overtaxing for administration and counselors ***** • Size of middle schools still huge ***** • Limited opportunity for participation in after school sports, arts, etc.***** • Does not foster a sense of community and cannot fit the community at events such as concerts, theater, sports ***** • Lack of parking for events such as concerts, theatre, sports * • Navigating physical building***** • Large number causes kids to get lost in the crowded hallways, internal traffic **** • Addition would reduce green space on Walter Johnson site*** • Logistics for pick-up/parents *****

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Secondary Schools Approach 2

Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possibility of becoming a consortium • Opportunity for magnet or specifically program at high school level ***** • Long term solution that accommodates Walter Johnson cluster (and possible surrounding high school capacity issues) ***** • Better safety net for students and options for special education needs ***** • Woodward reputation * • Student safety (drivers and walkers) ***** • Two high schools that meet state and MCPS size guidelines ***** • Smaller school is more personal ***** • More opportunities for college acceptance because of more leadership positions and more extracurricular opportunities *** • Builds sense of community immediately and long-term ***** • Smaller teams at grade level ***** • More opportunity for extracurricular activities ***** • More access to administration and counseling • Smaller school and student body ***** • More opportunities for activities that colleges look at such as lead in plays first chair in band/orchestra, etc. ** 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Split articulation from middle to high school may be a possibility **** • Possibility of becoming a consortium • Fewer courses offered ** • Additional school not feasible as a near/mid-term solution ***** • Deciding boundaries for Walter Johnson-Woodward split ***** • Size of middle schools *** • Can't start improvements for Woodward until Tilden Middle School leaves facility in 2020 *** • If Woodward is not revitalized/expanded, students will be sent from top high school (Walter Johnson) to 2nd class school (Woodward) *** • Woodward might not get revitalized/expanded just renovated ** • Woodward needs to be totally rebuilt (time/cost issue) ***** • Walter Johnson High School would have large excess capacity that would need filling • Loss of holding school *

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Secondary Schools Approach 3

Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How many students would need to be transported between schools • All students graduate from Walter Johnson High School *** • Smaller schools ***** • Two campuses still one school • Reduces number of kids in building * • More individualized attention 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exceeds state and MCPS guidelines **** • Splits school which diminishes high school experience for Grade 9 and 10 students ***** • Doesn't change size of graduating class ***** • Closed campus for Grade 9 and Grade 10 (no open lunch) • Transporting students between building ***** • School still too big for students with IEPs • Limited number/more competition of college acceptance **** • Average kids may get lost in high populated schools *** • Loses opportunity to take full breath of classes *** • Over taxing on administration and counselors ***** • Scheduling challenge for some classes that are appropriate for all grade levels. Would teachers teach at both campuses? ***** • Age segregation ** • Time to implement ***** • Security issue * • Difficult for Grade 9 who are taking upper level classes **** • Limited extra-curricular activities for students *****

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Secondary Schools Approach 4

Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walter Johnson High School building can accommodate the number of students without an addition ***** • Both middle schools stay at 1,000 students (no addition needed) ***** • Keeps younger students separate from older students* • Possibly the most cost effective ** • Elevated issues at both middle and high HS level *** • Grade 8 students could easily take Grade 9 classes *** • Separated Grade 8 from Grade 6 at key developmental stage *** • Creates more bonding across Grade 9 * • Similar to Grade 9 academy at Blair High School or “wing” in Howard county ** • Everyone graduates from Walter Johnson High School * • Keeps Walter Johnson High School at current size * • Some kids already switch schools and some classes * 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doesn't change size of graduating class * • Grades 8 and Grades 9 cannot do high school activities ***** • Diminished experience for Grade 8 and Grade 9 students ***** • Limited extracurricular activities ***** • Grades 8 and Grades 9 cannot compete with middle school/high school opportunities ***** • Upsets the academic structure ***** • Average kids may get lost in highly populated schools **** • Infrastructure busses ***** • Developmental challenges for Grade 8 and Grade 9 pairing **** • Not a possible solution in near term ***** • Grade 9 students need to be in a high school environment ***** • Concerns with implementation of athletics and sports * • Sports competition is affected ***** • College acceptance limited # per school ***** • Different teacher certifications for Grade 8 and Grade 9 *

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Secondary Schools Approach 5

Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Could block schedules help transportation and availability of all classes? • Similar to college schedules/campuses *** • Cost effective short term option ** • More parking * • Kids would get exercise • Happens sooner rather than later ** • Probable easier to get space for an annex than to get land for a school * • Keeps some curricular /extracurricular opportunities • Lots of private schools make it work • Connected community as all students would graduate from one school **** • If it came with a field than could be supported * • Reduces overcrowding in physical building ** • Only support as a short term option * • The actual space available may be a good fit (class, etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kids would have to walk ***** • Not clear that there is any cost savings * • Doesn't solve the issue of one football team, one play, etc. *** • Some duplication of administrative positions and nurses **** • Only a temporary solution ***** • Only deals with high school capacity issues **** • Solution to get kids out of the building is not a lofty education goal *** • Kids may not like this approach because they may not feel like they are part of school ** • More competition for college entrance/acceptance ** • College acceptance- limited # per school * • Average kids may be lost in big school **** • Graduating class too big • Current and future residents could be turned off – bad for property values • Students have to cross streets ***** • Concern with safety and security ***** • Scheduling difficulties ***** • Logistics * • Course limit/course availability • The actual space available may not be a good fit • Long, dangerous walk

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Secondary Schools Approach 6

Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time frame earlier solution * • Grade 11 and Grade 12 only partial day at school * • Helps schedule for internship * 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hurts students who need to work for family income and/or college savings ***** • Need for extra-curricular in order to achieve parity ***** • Doesn't seem to help anything ** • Overall reaction was ridiculous***** • Does not work ***** • Difficult to schedule ***** • Could be logistically challenging/burdensome regarding busses***** • Kids could not have after school jobs***** • Families lose option for older kids to take care of younger kids/siblings*** • Different bus schedule than rest of county ***** • Increases traffic to the community more often than one start one end time/student safety • Negative impact for teachers**** • Less opportunity to participate in sports/extra school activities *****

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Secondary Schools Approach 7

Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prep for college courses online *** • Could supplement another approach ***** • MCPS is already implementing at some schools ** • Positive for motivated students * • Immediate implementation * • Deals with kids in an “online” world that they understand 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For part of the day, the school is still fully populated, maybe 3200 students ** • Limited opportunities ** • Does not relieve capacity ***** • Might impact social development and communication skills **** • No supervision ***** • No monitoring of grades ** • Still have large graduating class sizes *** • Less student engagement ***** • Less opportunities for extracurricular activities*** • Not good approach for unmotivated students **** • Online classes not uniform ** • Unclear how this would impact students of 504 plans/IEPs ** • Still have a lot of competition for college entrance/acceptance • Course need to be developed, improved, etc. • Could take staff time away from other activities

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Secondary Schools Approach 8

Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relieves capacity issues ***** • All schools meet state and MCPS guidelines ***** • Long term solution ***** • More opportunity for extra-curricular *** • More leadership opportunities for students ***** • Better for college application **opportunities (colleges only take certain number of students from each high school • Smaller middle schools would provide more personal attention for students ***** • More personalized education at high school *** • Get land from a development plan – same portion paid by developers rather than taxpayers (for middle school) ** • Creates three smaller middle school in long run *** • All pros of #2 • Allows for future growth ** • Smaller schools better for special education needs, both socially and academically** 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need land ***** • Time to implement ***** • Extra capacity at Walter Johnson High School would need to be filled • Redistricting—loss of tradition • Could affect property values • For high school level not Walter Johnson cluster anymore • Will likely require tax increases • Middle school would need a boundary study to decide which kids attend new school • Fewer courses • More expensive *** • Possibility that there is no relief for middle schools • No intermediate relief for middle schools (North Bethesda Middle School addition eliminated)