



December 17, 2018

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education

From: Michael J. Martirano, Ed.D.  
Superintendent

Subject: Update on Programmatic Options Designed to Alleviate Overcrowding at Centennial and Howard High Schools

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide you with an update and provide a recommendation for the programmatic options designed to alleviate overcrowding to Centennial High School (CHS) and Howard High School (HoHS). Over the past 6 weeks, HCPSS staff has worked with students and families to communicate and assess interest in the five programs described in the table below. Three parent information nights were hosted on November 26, November 27, and December 4, 2018.

On October 18, 2018, the Board of Education voted to explore the following options:

	<b>Strategy</b>	<b>Description</b>
1	Additional Sections of Courses at the Applications and Research Laboratory (ARL)	Pending space at the ARL, the HCPSS would provide additional sections of high-interest courses to students.
2	Work-based Options	Additional sections of courses including GT Intern/Mentor, Apprenticeship, Site-Based Work Experience and Work Release will be offered at CHS and HoHS. In this model, students attend classes in the morning and provide their own transportation to their designated site-based location in the afternoons.
3	Shuttle to Howard Community College (HCC)	Students would attend high school for one period per day and then spend the majority of the school day at Howard Community College (HCC).
4	Project Lead the Way (PLTW) Biomedical Science, Computer Science, and Aerospace @ Marriotts Ridge High School (MRHS)	MRHS would host PLTW Biomedical Science Computer Science, and Aerospace programs focused on pathways in health professions, computer science and engineering.

5	Reassignment with Transportation	Students seeking reassignment from CHS and HoHS to MRHS or Glenelg High School (GHS) will be granted reassignment due to overcrowding. Students <u>may</u> have access to transportation at hub stops similar to the current JumpStart program or a shuttle from HoHS and CHS based on interest.
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The first three options permit students to remain at CHS and HoHS as students but relieves the student load throughout the school day. The last two options require a student to leave CHS or HoHS to become part of the student body at either MRHS or GHS. This memo is an update for options #4: PLTW Programs at MRHS and #5: Reassignment to MRHS or GHS only. A summary of student interest is shown below.

**Option #4 Update: PLTW at Marriotts Ridge High School**

PLTW Aerospace, Biomedical Science, and Computer Engineering programs at MRHS yielded 37 interested students. The projected cost of this option is approximately \$90,000 for supplies and materials, regardless of how many students participate and approximately \$130,000 for transportation. This would lead to total costs of \$220,000.

Interest broken down by PLTW Program

Program Name	Number of Students Interested	Enrollment Projections (40% attrition)
PLTW Aerospace	16 students	10 students
PLTW Biomedical	14 students	9 students
PLTW Computer Science	7 students	4 students

Interest by School

Interest By School	Interested Students
CHS	17 students
HoHS	20 students

**Determination:** Given the high cost and low student interest, I am directing staff not to move forward with this option. Students and their families will be notified during the first week of January.

**Option #5 Update: Reassignment with Transportation**

This option would allow students to seek reassignment from CHS or HoHS to GHS or MRHS by accepting overcrowding as the reason for reassignment. In total, 26 students expressed interest in the reassignment with transportation, with four students wanting to attend Glenelg High School and 22 wanting to attend Marriotts Ridge High School. The estimated cost of this option is \$45,000 for transportation.

**Reassignment with Transportation to Glenelg High School**

Interest By School	Interested Students	Enrollment Projections (40% attrition)
CHS	1 Student	1 student
HoHS	3 Students	2 students

If transportation is provided, this would cost over \$5,000 per each of the students traveling from Centennial or Howard. If only three participate, it would be over \$6,000 per student.

**Reassignment with Transportation to Marriotts Ridge High School**

<b>Interest By School</b>	<b>Interested Students</b>	<b>Enrollment Projections (40% attrition)</b>
CHS	6 Students	4 students
HoHS	16 Students	10 students

**Determination:** Given the high cost of transportation and low student interest, I am directing staff not to move forward with this option as designed. Students who wish to seek reassignment and can provide their own transportation will be granted approval.

In summary, the high programmatic costs, coupled with the low student interest make options 4 & 5 cost prohibitive.

For more information regarding these options, please contact Dr. Caroline Walker, Executive Director of Program Innovation and Student Well-being.

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