

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

March 28, 2011

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education

From: Jerry D. Weast, Superintendent of Schools

Subject: Superintendent's Recommendation for Thomas Edison High School of Technology and Wheaton High School Modernization

Thomas Edison High School of Technology and Wheaton High School are located on the same site and share one facility. The facility is scheduled for modernization with a completion date of August 2015 for the building and August 2016 for the site. Given the significant cost and long-term implications involved in modernizing this facility, staff was directed to gather stakeholder input regarding the relationship between the Thomas Edison High School of Technology and Wheaton High School programs through the Roundtable Advisory Committee process. In addition, staff in the Office of School Performance, the Office of Curriculum and Instructional Programs, and the Department of Facilities Management reviewed the relationship between Thomas Edison High School of Technology and Wheaton High School to determine the most effective use of buildings, programs, and staff before moving into the feasibility study in April 2011 and the design process in September 2011.

WHEREAS, The superintendent of schools convened the Thomas Edison High School of Technology/Wheaton High School Roundtable Advisory Committee to provide input regarding the relationship between programs in the two schools; and

WHEREAS, The Thomas Edison High School of Technology/Wheaton High School Roundtable Advisory Committee met from November 2010 through January 2011 and submitted a report to the superintendent of schools and the members of the Board of Education on January 27, 2011; and

WHEREAS, The superintendent of schools reviewed and carefully considered the Thomas Edison High School of Technology/Wheaton High School Roundtable Advisory Committee Report and feedback from the community at large and released recommendations regarding the modernization for Thomas Edison High School of Technology and Wheaton High School on February 10, 2011; and

WHEREAS, The superintendent of schools directed the Office of School Performance, the Office of Curriculum and Instructional Programs, and the Department of Facilities Management to review the relationship between the programs at the two schools to determine the most effective use of buildings, programs, and staff before moving into the feasibility study; and

WHEREAS, The site of Thomas Edison High School of Technology and Wheaton High School is limited, and the two schools currently are located in one facility; and

WHEREAS, There are significant fiscal constraints in both the Montgomery County Public Schools capital and operating budgets; and

WHEREAS, On February 28, 2011, the Board of Education conducted a work session to consider the superintendent of schools' recommendation and requested two alternatives to the superintendent of schools' recommendation; and

WHEREAS, On March 15, 2011, the Board of Education conducted public hearings, in accordance with Board of Education Policy FAA, *Long-Range Educational Facilities Planning*, and Montgomery County Public Schools Regulation FAA-RA, *Long-Range Educational Facilities Planning*, on the superintendent of schools' recommendation and the two alternatives; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the separate identities of Thomas Edison High School of Technology and Wheaton High School be maintained; and be it further

Resolved, That the current half-day, Grades 11–12 center program model for Thomas Edison High School of Technology continue; and be it further

Resolved, That one facility with shared spaces be designed and constructed for the modernization of Thomas Edison High School of Technology and Wheaton High School; and be it further

Resolved, That the feasibility study should develop options to maximize effective use of the building and site to provide flexibility in the future; and be it further

Resolved, That the programs at both Thomas Edison High School of Technology and Wheaton High School be enhanced to increase student interest, access, participation, and successful completion of challenging Career Technology Education programs; and be it further

Resolved, That programs requiring specialized facilities, which cannot easily be replicated at local high schools be improved and expanded; and be it further

Resolved, That beginning in the 2012–2013 school year, the Project Lead The Way Program at Wheaton High School be expanded into an application entrance program for students from the

Downcounty Consortium and explore options for students from outside the Downcounty Consortium, who do not attend a school with the Project Lead The Way Program, to complete the Project Lead The Way Program at Wheaton High School; and be it further

Resolved, That the superintendent of schools directs staff to review areas of overlap staffing at Thomas Edison High School of Technology and Wheaton High School to assure maximum program effectiveness and operational budget savings and include recommended staffing changes in the Fiscal Year 2013 Operating Budget; and be it further

Resolved, That the marketing and selection process of students for the Thomas Edison High School of Technology be coordinated through the Division of Consortium Choice and Application Program Services, as is the process with other choice application programs, beginning in the 2011–2012 school year.

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