An Outline of the Interim Chief Executive Officer’s Recommendation to the Board of Education

New Program: Yes ☒ No ☐

Modified Program: Yes ☐ No ☒

Subject: Approval of the Adelphi Area Schools Site Selection and Over-Enrollment Relief Plan

Abstract and Highlights:

The Board of Education of Prince George’s County accepts the recommendation of the Interim Chief Executive Officer and approves the following site selections and construction plans to address high, middle and elementary schools over-enrollment in the Adelphi area:

1. Replacement and expansion of Cherokee Lane Elementary School to be co-located on the Buck Lodge Middle School campus.
2. Replacement and expansion of Adelphi Elementary School in the Judy Hoyer Family Learning Center (JHFLC) building.
3. Expansion and conversion of the existing Adelphi Elementary School into the New Adelphi Area Middle School.
4. Demolition of the existing Cherokee Lane Elementary School and construction of the New Adelphi Area High School campus.

The above Over-enrollment Relief Plan will achieve the following for the Adelphi Area Schools (see attachment 1):

- Adds 503 seats of elementary school capacity
- Adds 1,200 seats of middle school capacity
- Adds 2,000 seats of high school capacity
- Improves four (4) PGCPS owned properties
- Eliminates the need to purchase a school site for an additional elementary school
- Eliminates the need to implement the 2016 Board approved plan to build a new Adelphi Area Middle School on undeveloped land adjacent to Mary Harris “Mother” Jones Elementary School and owned by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPCC)

Explanation:

As noted in the Board approved FY17 Educational Facilities Master Plan (EFMP), a new 1,200 seat middle school is planned for the Adelphi area to relieve over enrollment at Buck Lodge and Nicholas Orem middle schools and to allow all sixth-graders from their feeder elementary schools to transition to middle school. On May 12, 2016, the Board approved site selection of the Mary Harris “Mother” Jones Elementary School campus (2405 Tecumseh Street, Adelphi, MD 20783) for co-location of this new middle school. Members of the community have since opposed location of the new middle school on this site, which is owned by the M-NCPCC. Due to lack of ownership and community opposition, staff explored alternative site options in the summer of 2018. This exploration resulted in the above Over-enrollment Relief Plan for the Adelphi Area schools. The Plan includes conversion and expansion of the existing Adelphi Area Elementary School into the new middle school facility. The site is comprised of 14.5 acres and has a flat area for middle school fields at the rear of the site. It is ½ mile from the Mary Harris “Mother” Jones Elementary School site.

Also noted in the Board approved FY17 EFMP is the need for a new Adelphi Area High School with 1,700+ seats to relieve overcrowding at High Point, Northwestern and Parkdale high schools. The Over-enrollment Relief Plan demolishes the existing Cherokee Lane Elementary School to make way for the new high school facility. The site is 22 acres and is adjacent to the Adelphi Neighborhood Park. It is located in the catchment area for high school students residing midway between High Point and Northwestern high schools.
In addition, the Board approved FY17 EFMP cited the need for an additional elementary school in the Adelphi Area with 675+ seats to relieve overcrowding of Adelphi, Cool Spring, Mary Harris “Mother” Jones, and Cherokee Lane elementary schools. Rather than constructing an additional school, the replacement of Cherokee Elementary School will be expanded by 400 seats and the replacement of Adelphi Elementary School will expand by 110 seats. Staff notes that minor future boundary adjustments will be required to balance the population among the four Adelphi Area elementary schools. Replacing Adelphi Elementary School at the JHFLC building eliminates the need to identify a new elementary school site. JHFLC is attached to Cool Spring Elementary School and sits on a 21 acre site. Cool Spring Elementary School building is a former Catholic high school with attached dormitories on the JHFLC side. Expansion of the 58,000 square feet JHFLC portion of the facility will accommodate a 560 seat elementary school. Cool Spring Elementary School currently has a capacity of 535 seats. Together the campus would support approximately 1,110 elementary students.

In conclusion, with the Board’s approval, the Department of Capital Programs will conduct an objective evaluation for the planning and implementation of the above Over-enrollment Relief Plan for the Adelphi Area Schools. The evaluation will consider the existing facility conditions, the anticipated educational programs, proposed enrollments and other technical site constraints that will affect final design implementation. Specifically:

A Feasibility Study will be conducted on:
1. Adelphi Elementary School to study the feasibility of expanding and converting this facility into the New Adelphi Area Middle School building.

A Site Test Fit Analyses will be conducted on:
1. The Buck Lodge Middle campus for co-location of a new and expanded Cherokee Lane Elementary School.
2. The existing Cherokee Lane Elementary School site for the New Adelphi Area High School.

A Project Planning Committee will be established for each site as outlined in the DCP Project Planning Committee process. Each committee will use the Board approved Educational Specification (Ed Spec) prototype for middle, elementary and high schools, respectively, and tailor the Ed Spec to the individual school’s needs.

Budget Implications: None at present; possible implications for future Capital Improvement Plan.

Staffing Implications: None

School(s) Affected: Elementary Schools: Cherokee Lane, Adelphi, Cool Spring and Mary Harris “Mother” Jones
Middle Schools: Buck Lodge and Nicholas Orem
High Schools: High Point, Northwestern and Parkdale

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Preparation Date: November 28, 2018
Person Preparing: Shawn Matlock
Board Agenda Introduction Date (Consent): January 24, 2019
Board Action Date (Consent): January 24, 2019

Endorsed: Associate Superintendent of Supporting Services
Endorsed: Chief Operating Officer
Endorsed: Chief Financial Officer
Approved: Interim Chief Executive Officer
RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Board approved FY17 Educational Facilities Master Plan (EFMP) cited the need for three (3) new schools in the Adelphi area of the County: 1) a 675+ seat elementary school; 2) a 1,200 student middle school; and 3) a 1,700+ seat high school; and

WHEREAS, a Feasibility Study is required prior to State funding by the State of Maryland whenever a Local Education Agency (LEA) considers replacement or abandonment of an existing school rather than renovate 50% or more of the building and/or add to it as per Section 203 of the Interagency Committee on School Construction (IAC) Public School Construction Program (PSCP) Administrative Procedures Guide; and

WHEREAS, Prince George’s County Public Schools (PGCPS) has an existing contract with Grimm & Parker Architects to design the new Adelphi Area Middle School at the Mary Harris “Mother” Jones campus; and

WHEREAS, PGCPS will modify the existing contract with Grimm & Parker Architects to undertake a feasibility study of Adelphi Elementary School’s conversion into the New Adelphi Area Middle School; and

WHEREAS, PGCPS will retain the services of another architectural/engineering firm to perform Site Test Fit Analyses of 1) the Buck Lodge Middle campus for co-location of a new and expanded Cherokee Lane Elementary School; and 2) the Cherokee Lane Elementary campus for the New Adelphi Area High School;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of Prince George’s County accepts the recommendation of the Interim Chief Executive Officer and approves:

1. Replacement and expansion of Cherokee Lane Elementary to be co-located on the Buck Lodge Middle School campus pending the recommendation of a Site Test Fit Analysis
2. Replacement and expansion of Adelphi Elementary School in the Judy Hoyer Family Learning Center (JHFLC) building
3. Expansion and conversion of the Adelphi Elementary School facility into the New Adelphi Area Middle school pending the recommendation of a Feasibility Study
4. Demolition of the existing Cherokee Lane Elementary School and construction of the New Adelphi Area High School campus pending the recommendation of a Site Test Fit Analysis.

Submitted by: Mr. Shawn Matlock
Agenda Date: January 24, 2019
Discussion: January 24, 2019
First Reader: Emergency: Amended: Deferred:
Consent: Tabled: Approved: