

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY

INFORMATIONAL REPORT

DECISION ON SCOPE STUDY FOR HAVRE DE GRACE HIGH SCHOOL

NOVEMBER 5, 2012

Background Information:

Grimm & Parker Architects was hired to perform a scope study to assess the current building condition, safety, and educational program efficiency of the Havre de Grace High School facility. They also were tasked to assess the existing site conditions and to recommend options for the modernization or replacement of the Havre de Grace High School that would result in a more efficient use of program space and the school site. The existing Havre de Grace High School is comprised of two building complexes on either side (north and south) of Congress Avenue. The three-story classroom building is on the north side of the street and the one-story gym and auditorium building is to the south. The current facility is approximately 144,000 square feet and has a state-rated capacity of 850 students.

The study includes three proposed re-development categories for Havre de Grace High School. The planning team was asked to perform a technical evaluation of the buildings, site improvements, traffic circulation around the buildings, and the development of standard educational space summary to determine the proposed size of the building. The scope of work under this task was to develop design solutions which present options to maximize the building's circulation, function and adjacencies to meet current educational program delivery. A target design capacity of 1,100 – 1,200 was developed through an analysis of standard program capacity for all standard high school program areas, a signature program and a modest growth increase over time.

Discussion:

The Scope Study Committee for the Havre de Grace High School project explored many options and those options were refined into four (4) conceptual design solutions, which address all or most of the important design considerations. From one of these categories, it has been determined that a new replacement school (Option C) would offer the best long-term solutions for the academic program and resolve the safety, security and administrative challenges for the students, staff and visitors with the 'open campus' conditions created by the separation between the existing school buildings by Congress Avenue and also between the buildings and fields by Juniata Street.

This option provides a new school that addresses and corrects inefficient circulation and program adjacencies, constraining ceiling heights, code and ADA deficiencies, as well as

undersized program areas, while also providing the opportunity to construct the replacement facility without disruption to the existing operations of the school. The replacement option constructs a new facility on the existing fields across Juniata, eliminating any direct or significant impact to delivery of the program curriculum in the existing facility. With this option, there would be no requirement for construction of temporary classrooms, preliminary sitework or more costly phased demolition phases as would be necessary with Options A or B.

Once the County provides funding commitment for design services, the next step will include the development of Educational Specifications and the refinement of the building layout, room sizes, adjacencies, and the site development during the Schematic Design Phase. Planning approval must be granted by the State Public School Construction Program in order for this project to be considered for future State funding. The proposed FY 2014 Capital Improvement Program budget request, with a five-year capital improvement budget projection plan, includes a funding request for full design services. These funds are contingent upon final County funding approval.

Superintendent's Recommendation:

The Superintendent of Schools recommends that the Board of Education approve Option C – Complete Replacement with a gross building square footage of 225,279 and a state-rated capacity of 1,148.