



June 12, 2005

Memorandum

To: Montgomery County Planning Board

From: Karl Moritz, Research & Technology Center, 301-495-1312

Re: FY2007 Growth Policy: Acceptance of School Test Results

Beginning in July 2004, the Montgomery County Growth Policy is not revisited by the County Council on an annual basis. However, there continues to be an annual component of the revised growth policy: a review of the results of the school test. The school test determines if residential subdivisions in any school clusters should be subject to either a school facilities payment or a moratorium.

Staff will be requesting the Planning Board's acceptance of the attached school test results for FY07. These results find that all clusters pass the growth school test at each of the three levels: elementary, middle, and high school.

A year ago, the Planning Board received a presentation by Montgomery County Public Schools staff about the methodology underlying the school forecasts and a discussion of the major capacity issues facing Montgomery County Public Schools. Staff is not planning to make a similar presentation this year, but if Board members would prefer to have an expanded presentation, please let me know.

Acceptance of School Test Results

As in the past, the School Test analysis is prepared by Montgomery County Public Schools staff using the methodology adopted by the County Council. Planning staff has reviewed the results of the MCPS analysis and we endorse the findings that there are no clusters where subdivisions should be subject to either the school facilities payment or to a moratorium.

The school test compares projected 2011 enrollment with 2011 classroom capacity for each of the 25 high school clusters at the elementary, middle and high school levels. At the elementary and middle school levels, enrollment must not exceed 105 percent of capacity and "borrowing" from adjacent clusters is not permitted. At the high school level, enrollment must not exceed 100 percent of capacity, but if it does, "borrowing" from an adjacent cluster is permitted.

According to the analysis, enrollment does not exceed 105 percent of capacity in any cluster at the elementary or middle school level. At the high school level, there are two clusters where enrollment exceeds 100 percent of capacity: Blake and Wootton. For each of these clusters, however, there is an adjacent cluster with sufficient excess capacity so that the growth policy test result is “adequate.”

The Planning Board has the official role of finding that school facilities are adequate for FY2007. In making this determination, the Planning Board must use the methodology adopted by the County Council to make that finding. Staff has attached the school text portion of the growth policy to this memo, and will be reviewing the test with the Board at the worksession.

Planning staff recommends that Planning Board accept the results of the school test as calculated by Montgomery County Public Schools staff, for FY2007. These findings are attached at circle 1.

Once accepted by the Planning Board, this table (along with the resolution adopted by the Council in October 2004) will constitute Montgomery County’s growth policy for FY 2007.

Public School Facilities

S1 Geographic Areas

For the purposes of public school analysis and local area review of school facilities at time of subdivision, the County has been divided into 24 areas called high school clusters, as shown in Map 32. These areas coincide with the cluster boundaries used by the Montgomery County Public School system.

The groupings used are only to administer the Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance and do not in any way require action by the Board of Education in exercising its power to designate school service boundaries.

S2 School Capacity Measures

The Planning Board must evaluate available capacity in each high school cluster and compare enrollment projected by Montgomery County Public Schools for each fiscal year with projected school capacity in 5 years. If sufficient high school capacity will not be available in any cluster, the Planning Board must determine whether an adjacent cluster will have sufficient high school capacity to cover the projected deficit.

The Planning Board must use 100% of Council-funded capacity at the high school level and 105% of Council-funded capacity at the middle and elementary school level as its measures of adequate school capacity. This capacity measure does not count relocatable classrooms in computing a school's permanent capacity.

Council-funded regular program classroom capacity is based on calculations that assign 25 students for grades 1-6, 44 students for half day kindergarten where it is currently provided, 22 students for all day kindergarten where it is currently provided, and an effective class size of 22.5 students for secondary grades.

S3 Grade Levels

Each cluster must be assessed separately at each of the three grade levels -- elementary, intermediate/middle, and high school.

S4 Determination of Adequacy

After the Council has approved the FY 2005-2010 CIP, the Planning Board must recalculate the projected school capacity at all grade levels in each high school cluster. If the Board finds that public school capacity will be inadequate at any grade level in any cluster, but the projected enrollment at that level will not exceed 110% of capacity, the Board may approve a residential subdivision in that cluster during FY 2005 if the applicant commits to pay a School Facilities Payment as provided in County law before receiving a building permit for any building in that subdivision. If projected enrollment

at any grade level in that cluster will exceed 110% of capacity, the Board must not approve any residential subdivision in that cluster during FY 2005.

After the Council in 2005 has approved the amended FY 2005-2010 CIP, the Planning Board again must recalculate school capacity. If capacity at any level is projected to be inadequate, the Board must take the actions specified in the preceding paragraph in FY 2006.

S5 Senior Housing

If public school capacity is inadequate in any cluster, the Planning Board may nevertheless approve a subdivision in that cluster if the subdivision consists solely of multifamily housing and related facilities for elderly or handicapped persons or multifamily housing units located in the age-restricted section of a planned retirement community.

S6 Clusters in municipalities

If public school capacity will be inadequate in any cluster that is wholly or partly located in Rockville, Gaithersburg, or Poolesville, the Planning Board may nevertheless approve residential subdivisions in that cluster unless the respective municipality restricts the approval of similar subdivisions in its part of the cluster because of inadequate school capacity.

S7 Development District Participants

The Planning Board may require any development district for which it approves a provisional adequate public facilities approval (PAPF) to produce or contribute to infrastructure improvements needed to address inadequate school capacity.

Growth Policy: Elementary and Middle School Test for FY 2007

Reflects County Council Adopted FY 2007-2012 Capital Improvements Program (CIP) and MCPS Enrollment Forecast

Elementary School Enrollment and MCPS Capacity

Cluster Area	Projected Sept. 2011 Enrollment	100% MCPS* Capacity With Council Adopted FY07-12 CIP	Capacity Remaining @ 100% MCPS capacity
B- CC	3,036	2,752	-284
Blair	3,785	3,510	-275
Blake	2,299	1,941	-358
Churchill	2,486	2,646	160
Clarksburg	3,316	2,965	-351
Damascus	1,955	2,101	146
Einstein	2,380	2,010	-370
Gaithersburg	3,700	3,968	268
Walter Johnson	3,073	2,946	-127
Kennedy	2,291	1,775	-516
Magruder	2,599	2,509	-90
R. Montgomery	2,299	1,975	-324
Northwest	3,767	3,514	-253
Northwood	2,498	2,375	-123
Paint Branch	2,246	1,965	-281
Poolesville	635	754	119
Quince Orchard	2,828	2,596	-232
Rockville	2,467	2,199	-268
Seneca Valley	2,291	2,185	-106
Sherwood	2,346	2,484	138
Springbrook	2,796	2,861	65
Watkins Mill	2,488	2,509	21
Wheaton	2,422	2,213	-209
Whitman	2,034	2,052	18
Wootton	2,993	3,052	59

Growth Policy Test with Growth Policy (GP) Capacity

105% GP** Capacity With Council Adopted FY07-12 CIP	Growth Policy Test: Students Above or Below 105 % GP Cap.	Growth Policy Test Result - Capacity is:
3,258	222	Adequate
4,638	853	Adequate
2,539	240	Adequate
3,123	637	Adequate
3,677	361	Adequate
2,886	931	Adequate
2,838	458	Adequate
4,998	1,298	Adequate
3,507	434	Adequate
2,477	186	Adequate
3,416	817	Adequate
2,562	263	Adequate
4,249	482	Adequate
3,068	570	Adequate
2,778	532	Adequate
851	216	Adequate
3,159	331	Adequate
3,169	702	Adequate
2,752	461	Adequate
2,936	590	Adequate
3,757	961	Adequate
3,334	846	Adequate
2,956	534	Adequate
2,365	331	Adequate
3,425	432	Adequate

Middle School Enrollment and MCPS Capacity

Cluster Area	Projected Sept. 2011 Enrollment	100% MCPS* Capacity With Council Adopted FY07-12 CIP	Capacity Remaining @ 100% MCPS capacity
B- CC	1,018	1,098	80
Blair	1,976	2,402	426
Blake	1,163	1,425	262
Churchill	1,298	1,415	117
Clarksburg	1,422	1,264	-158
Damascus	987	992	5
Einstein	976	1,510	534
Gaithersburg	1,517	1,866	349
Walter Johnson	1,566	1,866	300
Kennedy	1,191	1,371	180
Magruder	1,197	1,719	522
R. Montgomery	926	1,044	118
Northwest	1,840	2,082	242
Northwood	1,128	1,398	270
Paint Branch	1,165	1,385	220
Poolesville	312	500	188
Quince Orchard	1,232	1,730	498
Rockville	958	1,030	72
Seneca Valley	1,256	1,483	227
Sherwood	1,284	1,561	277
Springbrook	1,109	1,227	118
Watkins Mill	1,100	1,216	116
Wheaton	1,531	1,837	306
Whitman	1,222	1,341	119
Wootton	1,450	1,576	126

Growth Policy Test with Growth Policy (GP) Capacity

105% GP** Capacity With Council Adopted FY07-12 CIP	Growth Policy Test: Students Above or Below 105 % GP Cap.	Growth Policy Test Result - Capacity is:
1,181	163	Adequate
2,622	646	Adequate
1,536	373	Adequate
1,630	332	Adequate
1,465	43	Adequate
1,134	147	Adequate
1,796	820	Adequate
2,292	775	Adequate
2,244	678	Adequate
1,607	416	Adequate
1,890	693	Adequate
1,229	303	Adequate
2,339	499	Adequate
1,725	597	Adequate
1,536	371	Adequate
543	231	Adequate
1,914	682	Adequate
1,205	247	Adequate
1,701	445	Adequate
1,701	417	Adequate
1,488	379	Adequate
1,370	270	Adequate
2,032	501	Adequate
1,465	243	Adequate
1,748	298	Adequate

In cases where elementary or middle schools articulate to more than one high school, enrollments and capacities are allocated proportionately to clusters.

Growth Policy - High School Test for FY 2007

Reflects County Council Adopted FY 2007-2012 Capital Improvements Program (CIP) and MCPS Enrollment Forecast

High School Enrollment and MCPS Capacity

Cluster Area	Projected Sept. 2011 Enrollment	100% MCPS* Capacity With Council Adopted FY07-12 CIP	Capacity Remaining @ 100% MCPS capacity
B- CC	1,649	1,665	16
Blair	2,662	2,830	168
Blake	1,808	1,716	-92
Churchill	1,909	2,008	99
Clarksburg	1,354	1,600	246
Damascus	1,480	1,643	163
Einstein	1,607	1,592	-15
Gaithersburg	2,152	2,126	-26
Walter Johnson	2,095	2,131	36
Kennedy	1,441	1,727	286
Magruder	1,900	2,020	120
R. Montgomery	1,863	1,966	103
Northwest	2,279	2,228	-51
Northwood	1,382	1,621	239
Paint Branch	1,710	1,998	288
Poolesville	708	868	160
Quince Orchard	1,840	1,796	-44
Rockville	1,159	1,607	448
Seneca Valley	1,431	1,527	96
Sherwood	2,099	2,063	-36
Springbrook	2,053	2,148	95
Watkins Mill	1,631	1,876	245
Wheaton	1,411	1,490	79
Whitman	1,907	1,922	15
Wootton	2,291	2,023	-268

Growth Policy Test with Growth Policy (GP) Capacity

100% GP** Capacity With Council Adopted FY07-12 CIP	Growth Policy Test: Students Above or Below 100 % GP Cap.	Growth Policy Test Result - Capacity is:	Growth Policy Test Result - Capacity is:
1,710	61		Adequate
2,993	331		Adequate
1,778	-30	Paint Branch 383	Adequate
2,115	206		Adequate
1,643	289		Adequate
1,688	208		Adequate
1,800	193		Adequate
2,340	188		Adequate
2,363	268		Adequate
1,935	494		Adequate
2,115	215		Adequate
2,093	230		Adequate
2,295	16		Adequate
1,710	328		Adequate
2,093	383		Adequate
900	192		Adequate
1,980	140		Adequate
1,778	619		Adequate
1,665	234		Adequate
2,183	84		Adequate
2,273	220		Adequate
2,025	394		Adequate
1,643	232		Adequate
2,025	118	R. Montgomery 230	Adequate
2,183	-108		Adequate

The Growth Policy schools test compares projected enrollment in 2011-12 to total capacity in 2011-12, including programmed additional capacity available by that year.

The Growth Policy schools test uses 105% Growth Policy (GP) Capacity for elementary and middle schools, and 100% GP Capacity for high schools.

The Growth Policy schools test is within cluster for elementary and middle schools, and at high school level capacity may be "borrowed" from adjacent clusters,

* MCPS program capacity based on a variety of classroom capacities determined by programs in the school, including variations for class-size reduction schools, and Pre-K/ Head Start, ESOL, and Special education programs (as published in November in the CIP and in June in the Master Plan.)

** Growth Policy elementary cluster capacity for schools based on rating all K rooms at 22, and all other elementary rooms for Grades 1- 5 at 25:1.

***Growth Policy secondary school capacity for Grades 6-12 based on rating all rooms at 22.5:1.

Enrollment projections by Montgomery County Public Schools, October 2005.