

Guide to “Excerpts Relating to High School Capacity”

Allen Dyer
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This Guide provides a chronological list of the BOE Minutes pages contained in the Appendix: “Excerpts Relating to High School Capacity.” The Bates number references following each BOE Minutes date and page citation in this Guide correspond to the page numbers in the “Excerpts” Appendix.

December 13, 1990 pp. 14 – 16 Bates Numbers 000001–000003

Dan Jett presented the proposed High School Educational Specifications for 1990. He noted that the last time the specifications had been revised was in 1983 when they were used for the renovation of Atholton High and Glenelg High Schools.

January 15, 1991 pp. 1 – 3 Bates Numbers 000004–000006

A public work session and hearing on the proposed High School Educational Specifications was the purpose of the meeting.

July 25, 1991 pp. 6 – 8 Bates Numbers 000007–000009

Dr. Dan Jett reminded the members of the Board that the proposed High School Educational Specifications had been presented in December of last year and contained recommendations for an ideal high school to meet future needs. He reported that staff had since looked at the specifications from other perspectives including other school systems, architectural standards, Maryland State Department of Education guidelines, net square footage, and the County Executive's recommendation that new schools be downsized by 10%.

November 14, 1991 pp. 13 – 16 Bates Numbers 000010–000013

Dr. Dan Jett noted that the proposed educational specifications have been further refined with a continuing square footage of 162,310. He added that the proposed Western High School, with its new organizational plan, is the first new school to be built by the proposed specifications.

Dr. Jett explained that a few changes had been made to meet the projected enrollment of 1400 students.

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Mr. Hanna made the motion that the general educational specifications be

approved with two minor amendments that consideration be given to increasing the number of women's lavatory facilities in the auditorium area and the removal of stadium lights. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Hutchinson.

The Board voted in favor of the motion.

February 3, 4, 1993 p. 11

Bates Number 000014

Robert Kaufman, Parent

- Suggested that now is the time to discuss next year's operating budget
- Requested that funding be set aside to investigate alternatives, i.e., additional schools in high growth areas or making existing schools larger
- Requested consideration of additional positions for overenrolled schools
- Requested that the electronic media be investigated as a means of teaching large numbers of students
- Stated that redistricting should be avoided
- Voiced concern for years 1996 and 1999
- Stated that the system is breaking under the growth.

Mr. Hanna stated that the Board has previously entertained discussion about larger sized high schools but decided that capacity would not be greater than 1400. He pointed out that one of the problems with larger enrollments was there would be less opportunity for students to participate in singular items such as theater productions.

May 27, 1993

p. 6

Bates Number 000015

Approval of Architect
Eastern High School

Dr. Brown recommended that the Board approve the firm of Thomas Clark and Associates in the amount of \$1,250,000 to design a facility with a 1400 student capacity. The firm is currently the architect for Mount View Middle School and recently completed Pointers Run Elementary School.

The motion for approval was made by Mrs. Cook, seconded by Mrs. French, and approved by the members of the Board.

June 10, 1993

p. 1

Bates Number 000016

Mr. Hanna stated that the Listening Post is an opportunity for the public to address

issues that are not on the agenda.

Gwen Grace, President, Centennial High School PTSA stated the need for a fourth guidance counselor. She noted that there will be 1300 students enrolled in Centennial in the fall. She also requested an additional administrator.

Mr. Hanna responded that the new high schools will be built with a 1400 student capacity and the school system will need to come to grips with staffing needs.

September 21, 1993 pp. 9 – 14 Bates Numbers 000017–000022

Presentation - FY 95 Capital Budget and FY 96-2000 Capital Improvement Program

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[000022] Mrs. French, with regard to the proposed high school additions, asked if a feasibility study had been conducted to determine space availability and what would happen if the capacity was raised to 1500. Dr. Cousin noted that the current educational specifications call for 1400 seat capacity schools.

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[000022] Dr. McGowan reminded the Board that a discussion had been held approximately two years ago regarding a rated capacity of 1400 or 1500 for high schools. He believed that it is important to maintain the size of a school so that there is a relationship between the principal and staff to most of the student body. Dr. McGowan suggested that 1500 would be pushing this possibility and that 1600 or 1700 would become too impersonal.

October 7, 1993 pp. 3–4 Bates Numbers 000023–000024

Jerry Kramer, Chairperson, Citizens' Advisory Committee

- Expressed systemwide concern that there is no provision for capital renewal equipment for older schools; new schools receive latest technology due to their capital budgets
- Expressed concern that inequity was being built into the system
- Stated that budget for systemic renovations reflects basic needs
- Recommended that projects be identified for the public for their input
- Suggested that increased capacity for high schools to 1400 should not be bases solely on economics but also the societal effects on student bodies
- Urged the Board to scrutinize program capacity figures in the budget document.

October 7, 1993 p. 6 Bates Number 000025

Sherri Wainger, PTA Council

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- Requested a feasibility study prior to approving high school additions as core facilities may be inadequate
- Supported proposal to accommodate 1400 students in all new high schools

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October 7, 1993 pp. 10–11 Bates Numbers 000026–000027

Carol Caiazzo, PTSA President, Mt. Hebron High

- Supported the recommendation to build all new high schools to 1400 specification
- Stressed the need to make all schools equal
- Stated that all older schools should be updated first, ...

[000026] Dean Sterling, PTSA President, Wilde Lake High

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- Supported the proposed 1400 capacity at Wilde Lake High.

October 12, 1993 pp. 1–10 Bates Numbers 000028–000037

1995 Capital Budget

[000029] In response to the Board's questions regarding the proposed 1400 capacity for Wilde Lake High, Dr. Kalin stated that staffs recommendation is to bring all high schools to this capacity wherever it is possible; to provide the 1000 seat capacity needed by 2004; and to provide additional capacity between 2004 and 2008 when there will be a deficit of 2700 seats for high school students.

February 8, 1994 pp. 9–12 Bates Numbers 000038–000041

Future Direction of the High School Program

Dr. Hickey stated that the General Education Specifications for High Schools were approved November 14, 1991 and that the school system is now at the point of translating the specifications into operational concepts and programs that will be an important departure for the school system.

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...Dr. Jett explained that he projected what the high schools will look like in 1996 and beyond. He noted that two significant decisions were made in the approval of

the specifications; that students need to have an education that is viewed holistically and there are developmental differences between high school students. Schools are being designed to utilize these two philosophical beliefs.

September 22, 1994 p. 2

Bates Number 000042

Mr. Hanna reported that a recent study of the mid-section of the country indicated that small school buildings are the best indicators of performance. He voiced concern that in light of community concern that Board actions enhance the educational performance of students there has been too much talk about big buildings as an answer to address capacity needs.

September 22, 1994 pp. 12–14

Bates Numbers 000043–000045

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- Atholton
- Oakland Mills
- Glenelg
- Howard High addition to 1600 capacity
- Purchase nine relocatables to address overcapacity; total from 50 to 59.

Mrs. Johnston questioned the ability of students to move in the hallways at Howard High with a capacity of 1600 students. Dr. Kalin responded that changes will also be required in the core facility and that a feasibility study will be needed. He pointed out that this particular solution will reduce the amount of redistricting needed. Dr. Kalin stressed the importance of deciding at this point in time the 1600 capacity school and noted that Howard High sits in a high growth district.

Dr. Cousin noted that a 1600 capacity school is most unusual but believed the new ninth grade cluster will help to acclimate students. He stressed the importance of addressing all areas of the school and to meet the needs of the increased number of students.

Dr. Hickey acknowledged that the enrollment at Howard High School is now at 1500 students. Mrs. Kendig, however, added that the principal has indicated that 1400 is optimum. ...

[000044] Mrs. Johnston questioned whether or not there was an earlier discussion regarding the capacity of high schools being at 1400. Dr. Cousin responded in the affirmative noting that the capacity which was decided on was 1332 plus special education.

Howard High School

Mrs. Cook made the motion to retain the capacity for Howard High School at 1400 rather than 1600 as proposed in the budget. She stated that it is in the best interest of the school system to keep high schools at the 1400 capacity in order maintain a high level of safety and so that administrators will have a better opportunity to know their students and interact with them. The motion was seconded by Mrs. French.

In response to Mrs. Cook, Bill Grau, Site Planner, reported that the proposed budget would be revised to include \$206,000 for planning in FY 96 and \$2,055,000 for construction in FY 97.

Mrs. Johnston supported Mrs. Cook motion and agreed that as schools become larger safety becomes a greater issue. She was extremely concerned about injury to students and staff (intentional or unintentional). She pointed out that recent research indicates that students receive a better education in smaller schools.

Mrs. Kendig concurred with the motion and noted an extensive discussion on the issue during the public work session.

Dr. Cousin suggested that equipment costs will have to be added to the construction funding and that this would hold true for all proposed additions.

Mrs. French also agreed with the motion and stated her concern that the core facility cannot be extended to meet the demands of further additions. She suggested choosing a school newer than one built in 1951.

Mrs. Cook recognized the fact that the school system will be faced with additional students and continued overcrowding in the future but preferred to deal with these issues through the use of relocatables and redistricting.

Mr. Hanna also concurred with the motion and voiced concern about the overall ambiance of schools as they drift toward larger and larger sizes. He noted that larger schools lessen the possibility for students to be involved when it is a singular opportunity, i.e., president of the SGA. He was not eager to go from a 1200 to 1400 capacity school at the time the decision was made. Mr. Hanna asked for proof of the educational benefit of larger schools other than the ability to save money.

The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

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Effective High Schools

Mrs. Kendig made an additional motion noting Dr. Kalin's earlier comment that the school system is in the business of teaching and learning. Her motion included a request to staff to provide the Board with information to hold a discussion on the issues surrounding larger high schools. Her request was based on her experience as a parent of a student in a Howard County high school of 1500; the reduction of civility and hence safety among students; the information on the Sizer project, "A Study of High Schools"; and on the literature surrounding the issues of school choice.. She pointed out that by reducing the capacity to 1400, Howard High would still produce a 20% overcapacity enrollment of 1600 students, without knowing the effects of inclusion. She stressed the importance of looking at the high schools in terms of what constitutes an effective school.

The motion was seconded by Mrs. Cook.
[000048]

November 22, 1994 p. 23

Bates Number 000050

High School Size

This agenda item was moved forward for discussion. Mr. Hanna commented that he received a letter recently from one of the council members regarding a 1600 capacity high school. He stressed the importance of sharing the concerns raised by the Board in making the decision to remain with a 1400 capacity. He added that it would be incumbent of the new Board to take a look at the issue and where it stands for the years to come. Mr. Hanna noted that the school system will be looking at one perhaps two new high schools and renovations and enlargements and suggested that it should be done philosophically as to what will benefit the education of students, not brick and mortar. Mrs. Kendig was in agreement.

With regard to school size being unrelated to achievement, Mrs. French stated that she would like to look at the issues of student assault, violence, suspension, participation in activities, and parent involvement. Also, if there is no research or true definition of what is considered a small or large high school, she thought that the Board might take a stab at a definition for a baseline. She suggested visiting Prince George's County to visit a large high school and take a walk through to see such things as its architectural arrangement. Mrs. French stated that the Board also

needed to look at consistency between elementary, middle, and high schools with regard to proportions.

Mrs. Cook voiced concern about violence and supported Mrs. French's request. She pointed out that the Board decided to leave Howard High School at 1400 because of philosophical discussions.

Mrs. Johnston added that school climate also needs to be considered in school size.

The Board members agreed to have the report brought back at a later date as a regular agenda item.

January 12, 1995 pp. 16–21 Bates Numbers 000051–000056

FY 96 Capital Improvement Program and 1995 Boundaries

...Dr. Kalin pointed out that in the year 2005, 1362 additional seats will be needed. By taking all the high schools to 1600, the overcapacity problem would be eliminated. He stressed the point that this solution would work as far as number are concerned but it becomes of question of policy.

[000051]...Mrs. French stated that she saw Dr. Kalin's information as an argument to avoid building another high school. Dr. Kalin responded that it defines a problem but not necessarily a solution.

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Dr. Campbell stated that it was her impression that the Board essentially arrived at the decision that 1,400 was the ideal size and that much of the impetus for reopening the discussion was due to fiscal concerns spurred primarily by suggestions made by the County Council. Dr. Hickey encouraged the Board to reaffirm that decision or look at other alternatives in light of the Hammond High project. Dr. Campbell commented that she brought the issue up in order for the Board and public to recognize where the dilemma is coming from and the need for possible reconsideration by the Board's decision.

[000052] Mr. Bounds did not think it was just the impetus of the Council because the Board members are also elected officials to the extent that they provide for the students and must be fiscally responsible. He stressed the importance of looking at all the ramifications. He believed the data will be very helpful to the Board in responding to the capacity and commended staff for developing the information.

Mrs. French stated that the Council, as a whole, has not asked the Board to increase the capacity of the schools. She preferred that they come to a consensus

and then communicate with the Board.

Mrs. Cook acknowledged that the previous Board made the decision regarding the 1,400 capacity during the approval of the capital budget and stated that the members had requested specific information on how to handle the population explosion. The request, according to Mrs. Cook, came out of their frustration with having to make a quick decision on something they felt was very important. She noted that the sitting Board at the time felt very strongly about the decision to take Howard High to 1,400. She stressed the importance of determining what is in the best interest of the students.

Mrs. French noted that part of the earlier discussion was that if a high school were approved at 1,600 that it would actually, with overcapacity, reach 1,800. The Board felt that by capping the capacity at 1,400 it would ensure that no school would be above 1,600. She pointed out that building a new school with a larger capacity is greatly different from enlarging a school as the core facility must be taken into consideration.

Dr. Cousin suggested that the Board conduct a feasibility study of the high schools as there are site and core facilities issues as well as fiscal issues. He indicated that staff will, in the near future, present a recommendation for such a study.

[000053] High School Size

Scott Pfeifer, Principal on Special Assignment, informed the Board that recent research, consultations with principals across the state, and consultations with consultants in school safety provided the basis for the report on High School Size. He provided the following data:

- Larger schools were in favor in the 60s and 70s; recent literature states that smaller is better
- School size appears unrelated to student achievement; no overpowering variable; schools are effective regardless of size
- Smaller schools provide greater opportunities for participation in school activities
- Students have more positive feelings about their school when it is smaller; students and staff get to know each other better
- Conversations indicate that size appears to be unrelated to parent involvement; percentage of parents will be larger in smaller schools
- School safety issues become easier to plan and manage as size decreases; more important than size, however, is that safety is the result of good

planning

- Larger school buildings can be safe with greater planning and additional resources
- Optimal size is from 500-600 students to no larger than 1500 students
- Organizational arrangements provide the key for smallness within bigness, i.e., ninth grade cluster, or a school within a school; River Hill, Wilde Lake, and Eastern High Schools represent different variations.

[000054] Mr. Bounds stated that high school size is obviously an area the Board is going to be discussing considerably. He wanted to look at other schools that are larger, incorporate a school within a school, and have an opportunity to talk with people in those situations. He thought it would be helpful for the Board. He also wanted an opportunity to talk with administrators within the Howard County schools and get their impressions as they are the one who have to work with the Board's decision.

Mr. Pfeifer acknowledged having met with the principals and that the consensus had been that smaller is better. Eugene Streagle, Principal, Howard High, stated that he has been with the school system for 27 years and that Howard High is the largest building he has been assigned to - 1,629 next year. He stated that the options are certainly viable but that it depends on what the community wants their principal to be. He indicated to the Board that he has prided himself on knowing the students in his building. He believed it was fortunate that the system has been committed to schools of 1,400 students because any amount over that number produces the potential for more time being spent in managing rather than in instruction. He noted that students remember how they were taught and how they were taught to deal with others. We have great students and teachers, according to Mr. Streagle. He stated that most principals would agree that having a larger number of students will produce greater losses.

May 25, 1995

pp. 6-7

Bates Numbers 000057-000058

[000058] Mrs. French questioned the present school capacity and its impact on the number of parking spaces. Dr. Kalin reported that as of December 31 there were 1,260 students attending Mt. Hebron which has a capacity of 1,015. Mrs. French commented that the County Executive and County Council have been advocating increasing the capacity of high schools to 1,600 students and pointed out that Mt. Hebron is almost at this point. Any additional space required for parking will mean the loss of playing fields. She favored the additional parking spaces but noted that this is the type of concern that surfaces when increasing the size of high schools. She noted that even if students ride buses parking will be needed for staff

and parents.

Mrs. Johnston noted that the problem is not unique to Mt. Hebron High School as students are parking along roadways at other schools as well. It has become a safety issue.

Dr. Hickey stated that while busing students would reduce the parking problem many students drive because they are involved in after school activities or have jobs. He added that Mt. Hebron has one of the worse parking situations, and the new spaces will relieve the problem but not resolve it.

Mrs. Cook suggested that students and parents who will be affected by larger high school additions and potential parking problems should communicate their concerns to the members of the council and County Executive.

June 22, 1995 p. 11 Bates Number 000059

Approval of Architect Feasibility Study for High School Additions

Dr. Cousin recommended the approval of Thomas Clark and Associates in the amount of \$247,000 and Dustin Enterprises, Inc., in the amount of \$20,475 for completion of the high school additions feasibility study. He pointed out that Glenelg High School had been removed due to concerns raised by the Health Department and land acquisition issues.

The motion for approval was made by Dr. Campbell and seconded by Mrs. French.

Mr. Bounds questioned whether or not the feasibility study would include looking at 1,400 and 1,600 capacity schools. Dr. Cousin responded in the affirmative.

The Board voted approval.

September 14, 1995 pp. 15–23 Bates Numbers 000060–000068

Feasibility Study for Additions to Centennial, Glenelg, and Howard High Schools

[an extended discussion of the differences between additions to create a 1,400 capacity versus creating a 1,600 capacity]

September 28, 1995 pp. 11–20 Bates Numbers 000069–000078

High School Capacity

Mrs. Cook asked for consensus from the Board members to change the agenda item from an action item to a discussion item, and the Board members agreed.

[000070] Ms. Johnston stated that she was opposed to increasing the high school capacity to 1,600 without the ability to improve the core and support facilities. She was concerned that problems would develop with security, safety, and vandalism. She stressed the importance of providing students the ability to complete four years of high school and be successful.

Dr. Campbell noted that student achievement based on the size of the school cannot be predicted. Additional instructional, administrative, and support staff are necessary to serve a larger student enrollment, and the school system does not have that philosophical support of the county government to provide those resources. She did not want to buy into the county government's suggested solution to accommodate the increased high school enrollment without its support for additional required resources. She also expressed concern that the enrollment of a high school with a designated capacity of 1,600 would, in reality, result in a much higher enrollment.

[000070] Mr. Bounds commented that available studies indicate that school size does not affect achievement; however, smaller schools provide more opportunities for student involvement in activities. He suggested that anticipated problems are more management related, because a larger student population becomes more difficult to manage. Additional resources will be required in the operating budget to address those management and safety concerns. If the capacity is increased to 1,600, there may be a need to impose an enrollment cap to assure the public that the enrollment will not increase beyond that figure.

Mrs. Cook noted that a 1,400 student population is, in fact, a large school and not a small school. She also expressed concern about constructing additions on schools without increasing the circulation and core facilities. Howard County has been fortunate not to have experienced a violence problem in our schools and that the safety of the students has to be a consideration in making the decision concerning capacity. She cited an example of a school in a neighboring county where two students bumped into each other in the hallway, resulting in a serious fight.

[000071] Mrs. Cook remarked that the school system is not warehousing students; it has to provide an education for those students, and it cannot be done in an extremely large school. She stated that space and dollars are driving the

educational program; however, it is the educational program which must drive the space. The Board cannot look at only dollars; it has to look at the program and how that program addresses the needs of the students. She stressed that the students are the school system's first priority, and the school system must provide an education for those students.

[000071] Ms. Francis agreed with Mrs. Cook that schools are not warehouses, and there are certain things that cannot be overlooked. As a high school student, she experiences the congestion in the corridors everyday, and she urged the Board to require wider hallways if the capacity is increased.

[000072] Presentation of the Superintendent's FY 97 Capital Budget Request, FY 98-2002 Capital Improvement Program, and FY 97-2006 Long-Range Master Plan

[000073] • Proposed increased capacity for two high schools to 1,600 students.

[000075] Dr. Kalin stated that the Board is being asked to consider constructing additions to two high schools--Howard High and Mt. Hebron High Schools--to increase the capacity of each school to 1,600. He pointed out that the illustrated plan meets the needs of the student population but does not provide a seat for everyone at the peak of high school enrollment in 2007. The strategy is to provide fewer seats than needed at the peak to prevent having to close schools when the high school enrollment begins to decline.

Mrs. French expressed concern that the students will move and the need for capacity in a specific area may change. Dr. Kalin responded that the planning assumptions are as concrete as possible, and the projected needs are expected to approximate actual future needs. He added that changes in zoning and the General Plan are factors that could influence future needs.

October 5, 1995 pp. 1-7 Bates Numbers 000079-000085

Mrs. Cook invited public testimony concerning the Superintendent's Proposed FY 97 Capital Budget Request, FY 98-2002 Capital Improvement Program, FY 97-2006 LongRange Master Plan, and the proposed FY 97 Operating Budget.

[public testimony with numerous cautions regarding increasing high school capacity to 1,600]

October 10, 1995 pp.1-15 Bates Numbers 000086-000100

Dr. Kalin explained the definition of capacity as it is used throughout the capital budget document:

- 1,332 Regular population only
- 1,400 Regular population plus special education
- 1,600 Regular population only

High school capacity is calculated at 90% utilization-10% of the teaching stations are not being used at any point in time. If the utilization factor were 100%, 131 spaces would be added to the capacity. It is possible to use all stations, and some schools are already using the other 10%. However, capacities in the budget document are calculated using the 90% factor.

Mrs. French was surprised to learn that the 1,600 capacity did not include special education students.

[000091] Mr. Bounds commented that although he did not agree with other government officials that relocatables should be used to calculate capacity, he felt that the more permanent relocatable additions should be included in the capacity and noted that it was not reflected in the budget document. Dr. Kalin responded that the Board must approve changes in the capacity of a building. Staff will need to discuss the issue and make recommendations to the Board. He pointed out that there could be political ramifications if the capacities are adjusted.

[000095] Mrs. French felt it was necessary to address school size before consideration is given to the ten planning factors used for the redistricting process. She could not justify increasing high school capacity to 1,600. She did agree, however, to a capacity of 1,400 because of cost constraints. The educational welfare of the individual student and the kind of education the parents want for their children must be considered. The high school experience must provide for participation in activities and the opportunity for the student to excel. She suggested that another new high school will be needed which will allow a permanent home for the Technology Magnet Program, provide relief for Howard and Long Reach High Schools, and provide equity of program and opportunities among all of the high schools. She wondered if the Fulton site would be the best location for a new high school and if funding requests should be accelerated.

Mrs. French asked if an addition could be constructed onto Long Reach High School to permanently accommodate the Technology Magnet Program. Dr. Cousin responded affirmatively and indicated that some parking and hard surface play areas would be lost.

Dr. Hickey added that the concerns about educational welfare and opportunities for participation are speculative. He pointed out that the current enrollment of Howard High School is 1,600 and student performance is good. He acknowledged the preference of high school principals to keep capacity at 1,400. The school system's long-term responsibility of not building for the enrollment peak must also be considered, at the same time determining a reasonable capacity that will still provide educational soundness.

[000098] Mrs. Cook stated that the bottom line is what is educationally sound. She added that a 1,400 capacity school is not a small school; it is large. She felt that a 1,600 capacity is not educationally sound. She acknowledged that, at the urging of County Council members to reduce the burden on capital expenditures, the Board is considering a 1,600 high school capacity, and projects have been eliminated from the capital improvement program. She stated, however, that the time comes when the Board must say what is in the best interest of the students of Howard County and what will benefit them educationally.

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Mrs. Cook stated that the Board must consider educational value and factors as well as cost, but the county government is looking only at dollars. Dr. Hickey agreed that the Board's decisions will need to consider the same economic factors that the county looks at, but the Board must also consider the needs of the school system, its students, and the educational program.

[000099] Mr. Bounds listed the planning assumptions he would prefer to use in the approval of the capital budget request:

- That the capacity of Glenelg High School be increased to 1,400, which will require a resolution to the septic system issue.
- That the capacity of all other older high schools be 1,400.
- That the capacity of new high schools be increased to 1,600.

He noted that if those planning assumptions are used, and the new high school is eliminated, there would be 10% overcapacity countywide at the enrollment peak in the year 2008. Mr. Bounds felt that political realities must be recognized, and the county officials have made their feelings clear concerning the new high school and increased capacity at existing high schools. The Board may have to make some decisions it doesn't want to make, but making those decisions now will allow the redistricting process to provide real long-term stability throughout the county. If one or more of the planning assumptions fail, then the alternative would be to construct the new high school at Fulton or some other site.

[000100] It was agreed that Dr. Kalin would provide information to the Board concerning the increase of capacity at the new high schools to 1,600, and the increase of capacity at the existing schools to 1,400, including Glenelg High School.

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Mrs. French expressed concern about increasing the capacity at the new high schools without additional teaching stations. Mr. Bounds explained that the planning assumption would increase the capacity to 1,600, and staff would need to make recommendations to accommodate those students. Dr. Hickey added that the 100% utilization factor will have a cost associated with it. Every teaching station and space is used during every period of the day. It requires more teachers to float from classroom to classroom.

Dr. Cousin explained that increasing capacity to 1,600 would require 100% utilization of teaching spaces plus the addition of six teaching stations.

October 12, 1995 pp. 1-7 Bates Numbers 000101-000107

Dr. Hickey stated that at the work session on October 10, the Board discussed at great length the parameters for developing the capital budget request and capital improvement program. Dr. Kalin and other staff have revised the capital improvement program and long-range master plan to implement those parameters.

Dr. Kalin summarized the planning assumptions mandated by the Board during the work session:

- Retain the Fulton high school project in the plan.
- Construct an addition to each older high school.
- Place up to 1,600 students in each of the new schools.

[000104] Dr. Campbell referred to a newspaper article that generated public concern that the Board had approved increasing capacity at high schools. She explained that the Board's intention is to accommodate the overcapacity in the new high schools which have wider corridors and larger core facilities to serve the additional students. The Board was concerned about approving a capacity where a school would not be considered overcrowded until the enrollment was 20% over that capacity. As a result, the approved capacity number would not be changed. Student enrollment will be accommodated by using a 100% utilization factor and identifying additional teaching stations.

It was Dr. Campbell's belief that the Board does not have to change its philosophy on education in order to accommodate the additional projected students. If a capacity is approved at 1,600, it is possible that the enrollment could increase to 1,800 or 1,900 students. She thought that the public's main concern was that the capacity would be approved at 1,600 and, in reality, the enrollment would increase considerably above that.

Dr. Kalin stated that if the Board does not approve a 1,600 capacity, the figures cannot be changed on any chart. Dr. Campbell noted that by using the approved capacity numbers, the charts will reflect an accurate picture of the overenrollment at each school.

Dr. Hickey explained that essentially the Board is capping the enrollment at 1,600 and not changing the approved capacity.

September 30, 1997 pp. 4-5

Bates Numbers 000108-000109

- New high school in the Fulton area - alternative solutions to accommodate high school enrollment if the new high school is not funded.
- Additions to five high schools plus Mt. Hebron HS: Howard HS, Oakland Mills HS, Centennial HS, Atholton HS, and Glenelg HS.
- If capacity were increased to 1,500 for schools receiving new additions, and capacity of three new schools were decreased to 1,500-result: 628 students overcapacity countywide.
- ...
- Dr. Campbell: Supported 1,400 (1,332 plus special education) capacity for high schools. 100-200 overcapacity at new schools should be a minimal expectation at the peak for high school enrollment. Should present to the county a plan which is in the best interest of the students and is the most reasonable and functional solution.
- Ms. Johnston: Supported 1,400 capacity for high schools. Unwilling to compromise opportunities for students to participate in extracurricular activities or to jeopardize academic performance by increasing capacity.
- Mr. Bounds: Supported construction of new high school in the Fulton area but was not optimistic that the project would be funded. Alternatives to provide student seats will have to be addressed. Pointed out that decisions concerning the

high school capacities will need to be made before the additions are planned.

- Mrs. French: Supported 1,400 capacity so that each student will have the opportunity to participate in activities and be a real participant in the school. Larger schools increase the anonymity of the student. Supported the current plan to build a new high school.

May 13, 1999 pp. 12–13 Bates Numbers 000110–000111

Glenelg HS - Approval of Schematic Design

Presenter: Dr. William Brown, Director of School Planning and Construction, and Mr. Gary Blanton, SHW Group, Inc./Architect.

Highlights:

- Base Project
 - o To increase the capacity of the school to accommodate 1,400 students by constructing a new addition to the school and a small amount of support space.

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Mrs. French pointed out that the classrooms are planned for 720 sq.ft. and that the educational specifications require 800 sq.ft. She stated her preference for larger classrooms between 750-800 sq.ft. Mr. Blanton responded that there had been a 10% reduction in the educational specifications, and he believed that the reduction was necessary in order for the project to be within the construction budget. Dr. Cousin stated that all of the recent additions to high schools have included classrooms below 800 sq.ft. Dr. Brown commented that the classrooms at Long Reach and River Hill high schools are 720 sq. ft., and staff has not received any complaints. Mrs. French stated that she had received many complaints from teachers concerning the small classrooms. It was her understanding that the reduction in the size of the classrooms was necessitated by the reduction in funding that was provided for those recent projects. In response to Dr. Campbell, Mr. Blanton added the new classrooms will be similar to existing classrooms. Mrs. French reiterated her concern that the classrooms should be larger.

July 27, 2000 pp. 12–13 Bates Numbers 000112–000113

Centennial HS Addition - Approval of Schematic Design. Presenter: Dr. Brown introduced Mr. Louis Fry, Fry and Welch Associates, Architects and Planners, to present the project.

Highlights:

- Additions will increase the school's capacity from 1,085 to 1,400 in accordance with the 1995 Educational Specifications for Howard County High Schools.

October 11, 2001 pp. 6–9 Bates Numbers 000114–000118

Resolution to Condemn Property for School Purposes - Glenelg AS

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WHEREAS, the Board of Education of Howard County (hereinafter referred to as the Board) has determined by previous action that each Howard County high school, including Glenelg High School, must be capable of accommodating a student population of approximately 1,400;

WHEREAS, the existing school building at Glenelg High School (hereinafter Glenelg) in its present condition cannot accommodate 1,400 students;

December 17, 2001 p. 3 Bates Number 000118

Ms. Lorraine Seelaus, Village of River Hill

- Recommended that the Board continue to target 1,400 as the capacity for high schools.
- Cited the following points made by high school administrators in support of smaller schools:
 - o Smaller schools provide greater opportunities for participation in school activities.
 - o Students have more positive feelings about their school when it is smaller; students and staff get to know each other better.
 - o School safety issues become easier to plan and manage as size decreases.

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