

Gifted Child Committee Report

Apr 2019

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Events:

3/13 – Mandy and Lang participated MCPS / MCCPTA GCC Quarterly Meeting.

3/26 – Lang attended MCPS delegate assembly.

3/27 – Mandy and Lang attended MCPS HS changes conversation. Our note is attached below.

GCC Note of 3/27 meeting:

March 27, 2019 MCPS Focus Group notes

Betsy Brown - filling in for Lori-Christina Webb

Also present:

Stephanie Frumkin, Takoma Park GT Liaison

Adam Lee - MCCPTA Churchill Cluster coordinator, APASAAG Co-Chair

Rodney Peele - Richard Montgomery IB parent

Mandy Lemar and Lang Lin - MCCPTA GT Chairs

Audra Dove - Clemente GT Liaison and Northwest parent/Liaison

Kurshanna Dean - MCPS, AEI

Jackie Thomas - Westland GT Liaison

Jeanne Franklin - MCPS, Immersion Programs

Sara Sitens - MCPS, Public Information

Cynthia Simonsen - VP of Educational Issues

Jodi Danis - Pyle, GT Liaison

Siva Anantham - Bethesda ES PTA President

Evelyn Chung - Eastern GT Co-Liaison, APASAAG member

Amanda Graver - Curriculum Committee

The following will be presented in final form to the Board of Education on May 30

These are preliminary plans through Fall 2025. They will be phased in over six years, not implemented all at once.

MCPS Goals:

1. Providing strong programs in all high schools: strong comprehensive high schools and more regional programs. Balancing strong local schools with access to unique programs.

2. Kirwan Report is important guide:
<http://dls.maryland.gov/pubs/prod/NoPbITabMtg/CmsnInnovEduc/2019-Interim-Report-of-the-Commission.pdf>
3. Considering student demand and stakeholder feedback
4. Rebranding career readiness → communicate the rigor of the program
5. Change structure of Thomas Edison High School of Technology - currently, this is a part time, half day program requiring travel from local schools. Consultants said there needs to be a new way of thinking.
6. Looking at both selection and increasing seat capacity
7. Identify students who need a challenge
8. Turn scarcity into abundance
9. Career readiness - in many cases, we don't have the critical mass to run the programs in every school, so will need centers

In reviewing various reports and guides, there is a consensus that MCPS needs: Diversity, Equity, Options, Access, and Community

With regard to existing career and college readiness programs, MCPS is collecting stakeholder input and feedback (HOW?) and student demand varies for different programs.

Opportunities to open new programs because of newly opened/reopened schools:

Seneca Valley (2020)
 Kennedy High School (2022)
 Northwood (2025)
 Woodward HS (2025) - reopening

Boundary Study also may suggest possibilities - MCPS is conducting an RFP for a contractor to do the boundary study. Once that contractor is selected, they will be looking for input on the boundary study, including whether specialty programs should be considered as part of the boundary study.

Possible expansion of Early College Programs:

Now: Fall 2019

Middle College programs offered at three high schools:

Starts in grade 9 at Northwest and Northwood HS. You can have dual enrollment at the high school and Montgomery College

Clarksburg HS: Another program, receiving college credits.

Early College - this is a program that would start in 11th grade, where students could attend Montgomery College and receive their Associates' Degree. University of Maryland generally has accepted these transfer credits, although not always. One parent noted that students with an associates' degree could be considered transfer students to colleges. The transfer is YMMV among universities. Parents may need to dig out what can be transferred before letting students take courses. For instance, MCPS AP computer credit is not acceptable by MIT.

Possible programs:

- Themed
- Dual Enrollment
- College and Career
- Career readiness
- Alternatives to Traditional Learning
- Academies and signature programs, within the school or whole school, such as the Northeast Consortium and Downcounty Consortium, which help make schools distinct.

Parents asked how MCPS decided whether specialization at this age was appropriate. MCPS responded that specializing was helpful but not necessary, and research showed that the very process of specializing and getting good at something may be a transferable skill, even if the student did not stay in that subject area after high school.

Currently, Edison is only a career hub. Clarksburg, Northwest, Northwood were dual enrollment programs.

Also looking in the long term at having an auditioned Performance Arts program and a Language Hub, offering less commonly taught languages

Proposal:

Two college and career schools, all day, beginning 9th grade
 Three additional regional IB programs, requiring test, in addition to Richard Montgomery's existing program. MCPS said it would be a test in program. There was still some ambiguity about whether it would be a four year magnet program like RM or two year like offered at some high schools. Betsy said she would find out. Someone else asked whether students at schools with non-test IB programs would be eligible, and she initially said no, that didn't seem fair since they didn't want to take students away from their local schools. However, parents were concerned about this, since the two programs are different. Currently, students at a school like BCC, which has an IB program, are still eligible to apply for RM.

Phase I: 2020-2021 Universal Screening in Grade 8

"Enhanced" selection

Marketing materials being looked at: MCPS will provide one mailing with information on all countywide and regional programs, and one common application for all programs.

Summer 2019 Communication → what was this communication (I don't have it in my notes)

Fall 2019: Marketing/applications

Registration Spring 2020:

Parent commented that spring of seventh grade is a better time to provide parents/students with information about programs, to give them time to digest and ask questions before the fall. Parents also asked about how MCPS would handle multiple applications/acceptances for different programs. MCPS didn't have an answer yet.

Course enrollment uses predictive model showing kids with potential to succeed. Universal screening will be used to identify students, but Montgomery Blair and Richard Montgomery will have the same application process (they already had some changes, with the test being changed, and the process now being name- and school- blind).

College/Career options in high school:

2 college and career schools, all day, 9th grade → Edison with Wheaton, Seneca Valley / IB plus four career readiness programs:

IT Security, Construction, Automotive, Health (Math and science would be later)

4 regional IB programs:

4 regional programs are from current 8 IB programs. There is no new IB program added.

Data

Collecting data from the elementary school and middle school pilots

Opening seats for IB

Can't outrun capacity to do things right

Beyond Phase I

Generally, MCPS wants to offer more online courses and more paths to graduation, distance and virtual learning, early college programs

Miscellaneous

For the middle school pilot, teachers received professional learning from teachers, an Eastern teacher wrote much of the Humanities course. (No word on the math course.)

Parent comments:

- Accountability and less autonomy -- how can we make sure principals are implementing these changes the way MCPS describes them?
- Why was math/science last in the programs to be implemented? MCPS said that they wanted to make sure it was done right, as things like computer science required special educators
- Twice Exceptional students - please hire a consultant to consider things like transportation, distance learning, resources available/time periods for special services to students with special needs. One parent reported many difficulties encountered at Takoma Park STEM regarding a 2E student.