

BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

DATE: May 22, 2012

TO: **BOARD OF EDUCATION**

FROM: Dr. Joe A. Hairston, Superintendent

SUBJECT: **UPDATE ON THE NORTHWEST ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT AND RESIDENTIAL FORECAST STUDY**

ORIGINATOR: Renee A. Foose, Deputy Superintendent

**RESOURCE
PERSON(S):** Kara Calder, Executive Director, Planning and Support Operations

INFORMATION

That the Board of Education receives the progress of the Northwest Economic Development and Residential Forecast Study.

Attachments: Executive Summary
Power Point presentation

Northwest Economic and Residential Forecast Study Update Executive Summary

Baltimore County Public Schools enrollment projections published in January 2012 show an increase in students system wide from the current enrollment of 105,315 to 109,133 in 2016 and then to 112,530 in 2021. This represents an increase of 7,215 students, or 6.9%, over ten years. In the northwest planning area of the county, which includes 21 elementary, 5 middle, and 6 high schools, enrollment is projected to increase from the current 22,306 to 23,516 in 2016 and then to 24,568 in 2021. This represents an increase of 2,262 students, or 10.1%, over ten years.

Because the northwest area is projected to grow at a pace greater than the system wide pace and because the area is designated as a growth area by Baltimore County, BCPS is conducting a study of the economic and demographic conditions that may impact residential housing patterns and enrollment growth beyond what is captured in the current scope of BCPS projection methodology. BCPS has engaged Sage Policy Group and Cropper GIS to accomplish the following objectives:

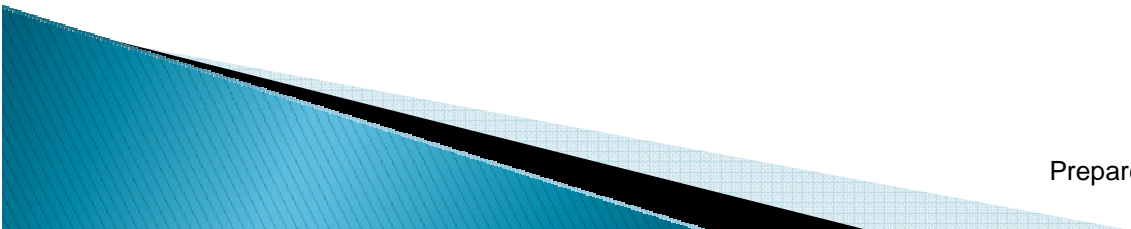
- Review and validate BCPS projection methodology
- Deliver data regarding variables that may impact BCPS projections (housing development, pent up demand for home sales, foreclosure market, job market, pace of economic recovery), analyze the implications of these variables, and quantify their potential impact
- Analyze growth management options and strategies for the short, mid, and long term by community and by school clusters
- Produce overall findings about expected growth and enrollment management for the area that will support planning over five to seven years.

The study began in March 2012 and will conclude in June 2012. The work of the study is managed by the Office of Strategic Planning and is guided by a steering committee that includes BCPS administrators and representatives from Baltimore County Planning, Economic Development, and Budget offices.

The consultants have shared preliminary findings with the steering committee that are guiding the discussion and final analysis of the study. These preliminary findings include:

- BCPS projection methodology is sound; it is supported by and consistent with Maryland Department of Planning's projections
- BCPS projections in the northwest area are likely a low estimate given the real potential for new residential development and housing turnover in the coming years

The steering committee has directed the consultants to conduct a thorough examination of all current and potential relief strategies, recognizing that a combination of different strategies over time will be needed to manage enrollment growth in the area.



Next Steps

- Consultants to produce draft final report.
- Steering committee to meet in June.
- Presentation to superintendent in June.