

BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

DATE: January 22, 2013

TO: **BOARD OF EDUCATION**

FROM: S. Dallas Dance, Superintendent

SUBJECT: **REPORT ON CONSOLIDATION OF EASTWOOD AND NORWOOD ELEMENTARY AND HOLABIRD MIDDLE SCHOOLS TO PRE-K THROUGH 8 STEM MAGNET**

PRESENTERS: Kevin A. Hobbs, Deputy Superintendent

RESOURCE PERSONS: Karen Blannard, Assistant Superintendent, Elementary Schools, Zone 1

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board of Education receives information regarding the consolidation of Eastwood Elementary, Norwood Elementary, and Holabird Middle schools to preK through 8 Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) magnet.

Executive Summary

Board of Education Meeting
January 22, 2013

Report on Consolidation of Eastwood and Norwood Elementary Schools and Holabird Middle Schools

In November executive leadership met with the principals of Eastwood, Norwood and Holabird to discuss how the magnet program at Eastwood could be expanded and to then engage the community in obtaining feedback. On December 10, a joint meeting with all three school communities was held to propose two innovative options. After the community meeting, each individual principal held meetings with their specific school communities. Additionally, the administration has been in dialogue with the county government to release the Eastwood facility to the county at the end of the 2012-2013 school year, pending Board of Education approval.

Based on input from the community, staff is recommending that Eastwood, Norwood and Holabird become one school on two campuses as a Kindergarten through Grade 8 Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) magnet. The building currently housing Norwood would serve Pre-K to third grade, and the building currently housing Holabird would serve Grades four to eight. The rationale for this selection is as follows.

- The upper and lower schools will share the same mission and vision.
- A continuum of services will be provided for Kindergarten through eighth grade students with a strong focus on STEM 21st-century skills that will prepare students for college and the work place.
- Opportunities will be provided for grade level and vertical team planning to focus on a continuum of academic services for all pre-kindergarten through Grade 8 students.
- This community-based magnet program will expand opportunities for all Dundalk area students and serve as a direct feeder into Dundalk High School programs.
- Both facilities will have access to 21st century technology, including both on and off campus field experiences, for all students.

Programmatically, this provides our students with an outstanding opportunity for 21st century learning.

Based on this recommendation, staff is seeking Board of Education approval to close the Eastwood Center Elementary Magnet School effective for school year 2013 – 2014.