

Help Mt. Hebron—HCPSS Revises January 22nd Plan

Based on Planning Committee concerns and community feedback shared in testimony before County Executive Ken Ulman, the Howard County Public School System has revised its earlier plan to address many of those issues. Ray Brown, Chief Financial Officer presented the new plan to the Mt. Hebron Planning Committee on March 14th. The time frame for construction will remain the same despite the project's larger scope. A summary is presented below; to view the actual drawings, click on www.mhhspta.com/8.html. Overall, the revised plan brings Mt. Hebron more than 90% compliant with Ed Spec programmatic space requirements.

Below is a table of concerns and HCPSS' proposed remedies.

Concern	Mitigation	Comments
Loss of 4 existing generalized classrooms	Add 8 more generalized classrooms	~11,000 sf; each meets Ed Spec of 800 sf
New Technology Resource Classrooms will not serve original purpose	See above	Will now serve original purpose
5 classrooms short of Ed Spec	See above	Will now have the same total number as Ed Spec
Need to retain 4 portables	See above	Portables will no longer be required
2 additional floaters to 21	See above	Floaters will be reduced significantly
9 reconfigured classrooms < Ed Spec	Reconfigured Social Studies will meet Ed Spec	Additional analysis is needed to determine what mitigation may be possible for 2 Math and 2 Science classrooms
8 ft hallways in new construction	Original information incorrect	Hallways in new construction will be 10 ft
Student dining area too small for student population	Expand into faculty lounge area	Cafeteria gains only 600 sf (short 1200 ft). Displaces faculty lounge. No further mitigate without major costs (firewalls)
Student congestion in front hallway	Examining ways to improve student use of courtyard and ease congestion	Front entrance including outside will continue to be evaluated; solutions will include committee input
Insufficient storage for Athletics/ Physical Ed	Storage area found ~200 sf	Some shortage remains
Faculty Lounge/Dining Area needed	Include in reconfigured area; comply with contract requirements	Obtain faculty input as to features & location
Requires 14 portables	two 9-unit or an 8-unit and a 6-unit modular instead of portables	See below. Purchase cost will not be from Mt. Hebron's budget. Leased cost would. HCPSS still uncertain on placement.
ADA compliance	Confirm ADA compliance to extent possible. For example, HCPSS estimating 90% of bathrooms will be ADA compliant.	Still evaluating needs.

Plumbing

Plumbing will be addressed as process unfolds. There is funding in the project budget (contingency funding) to resolve issues. If deficiencies are found, they will be replaced or repaired. HCPSS stated that this is a multi-million dollar investment; they do not want waste water destroying any of it.

Heating/Ventilation and Air Conditioning Systems (HVAC)

HCPSS will hire a commission agent to help ensure the success of the project. All equipment will be replaced or repaired. While ductwork is not anticipated to be replaced, if damaged/compromised ductwork is found when exposed, it will be replaced. HCPSS is committed to having this system function successfully when completed.

Gym Floor

The gym floor will be replaced in the main gym. It will no longer be identified as an ad-alternate. Ad-alternates are intended to be non-critical project tasks which could be cut if construction overruns are incurred.

Implementation Plan

To address impact on instructional time and security concerns, HCPSS is recommending two 9-classroom modular units or similar sized located near the building. Most likely the modulars would be placed near the spirit wall and baseball fields. It would be tied into the main building's circulation patterns. It will have 800 sf classrooms; restroom facilities and a public address system are anticipated to be included. Fields and parking lot will be impacted. HCPSS stated they recognize the need for these areas. HCPSS discussed altering the baseball field to permit its continued use during the renovation. HCPSS stated they will work with Mt. Hebron staff to minimize impact.

Funding

HCPSS' revised plan costs \$57.2 million; the January 22nd Plan costed \$54 million. The Superintendent will recommend **full funding** for the project to the Board of Education. The breakdown will be \$27 million in the 1st year and \$27.1 million in the 2nd year. \$3.1 million has already been appropriated for planning purposes. Ad-alternates will be used, as they are on every HCPSS project, for cost management purposes in case cost escalations are encountered as the project is underway. The Mt. Hebron Planning Committee (comprised of parent, student and teacher representatives) will provide input as the ad-alternates are developed. HCPSS intends to construct the entire plan with sufficient funding.

Continued Committee Involvement

HCPSS committed to having the Mt. Hebron Planning Committee engage in continued dialogue about the renovation. During the presentation, Planning Committee representatives provided input on the revised plan. HCPSS will continue to explore and resolve these issues, such as the noise impact on the classrooms in immediate proximity to the weight room, the needs and purpose of the front entrance of the school, the potential for a student gathering space and the need to minimize the number of doors into the physical education area for security purposes. As more detailed plans are required, the Mt. Hebron Planning Committee will provide more feedback.

Many thanks again!

Thank you for the numerous emails, letters and supporters who attended the budget hearing. Together we helped show our commitment to Mt. Hebron's current and future students and convey our message clearly to our local officials. Repeatedly, we have heard what a strong showing we had.

Next Steps

The Superintendent will present this plan as his and staff's recommendation to the Board of Education on April 10th. He will recommend funding based on the project's total cost. He will recommend the Board to approve the project's design schematic.

Anyone wishing to share their opinion of the revised plan is encouraged to do so. You may contact the Board of Education at boe@hcpss.org. You may also contact County Executive Ken Ulman at kulman@howardcountymd.gov.

As always, you will be kept informed of developments and meetings. Stay tuned. Feel free to forward.