

High School Redistricting Previously Asked Questions

1. Would staffing be impacted (allocated) with new students potentially coming into new schools? **Yes, staffing allocations will be adjusted for each school in accordance to the needs of the affected students / families.**
2. Historically, what policy do we have about fake addresses? **Students are required to attend the schools in which they are districted. Exceptions are granted on a case by case basis via the office of the Executive Director of Operations per Special Permission Student Transfer guidelines.**
3. Is the division going to be hiring someone to monitor the compliance of students playing sports in one school, but are not in that school's attendance zone? **We do not have plans at this time to hire staff whose specific purpose is to monitor the attendance zones of student athletes. We will however, continue to investigate instances of reported violations.**
4. Where do students of families at Courthouse Commons attend? **Currently they attend Courtland High School.**
5. Will the shift include students with disabilities and/or a potential shift of a program? **Programs and staffing allocations will be adjusted for each school in accordance to the needs of the affected students/ families.**
6. For those students moving from Massaponax Church Road, does this include all of the subdivisions off of Massaponax Church Road? **Only the Waterford and Battle Park subdivisions are affected.**
7. Is this presentation on the website? **Yes, the presentation can be found under the “News and Highlights” section of the web page.**
8. Since seniors are “grandfathered” to remain at their previously attended school, does this also include juniors? **Seniors are guaranteed the option to remain at their current High School per Special Permission Student Transfer guidelines, and the Board is considering allowing juniors to have this same option. Students who have been redistricted and choose to remain at their existing school will be required to provide their own transportation.**

9. Is your redistricting going to include middle schools? **Not at this time. The Redistricting Committee is recommending the School Board hire a third party consultant to review redistricting on the Elementary and Middle School levels. If approved, this study will not be completed or impact students before the 2020-2021 school year.**

10. With the additional seats at SHS, will they still house the IB and CGS Program? **Both programs are remaining at SHS.**

11. How will this impact students who are part of CGS at RHS and attending SHS? **Students in the above scenario will not experience any changes.**

12. Will SHS be able to accommodate the transferred students? **SHS has enough capacity to absorb the incoming students without impacting the CGS program.**

13. Will transportation for those seniors being “grandfathered” continue to be provided? **This is not being considered at this time.**

14. It is unfair for seniors to remain at their original home school only if they can provide transportation. Not everybody has the luxury of providing transportation to keep their child at the school they’ve been at for three years. Is this concept still open for discussion? **The School Board has left all options on the table. Parents and students are encouraged to share their comments with the School Board during the April 1, 2019 public hearing.**

15. As far as the transfer criteria on the county webpage what does the term “moratorium” mean? **This means that a school is already over 90% of its designed student capacity.**

16. Will the moratorium of high schools be lifted as a result of the moves? **Possibly, but until a redistricting plan is approved by the School Board, that cannot yet be determined.**

17. Are we currently able to apply for a specific school considering the addition of potential students next year? **The Special Permission Student Transfer on-line portal is not yet available for 2019-2020 school year requests. Requests are considered on a case by case basis and must comply with the School Board policy governing student transfers.**

18. Will athletic restrictions be lifted if my child is moved? **If your child is moved due to redistricting, he/she will be permitted to compete for the school in which he/she is enrolled.**
19. What is the timeline of the K-8 redistricting plan? **The Redistricting Committee is recommending the School Board hire a third party consultant to review redistricting on the Elementary and Middle School levels. If approved, this study will not be completed or impact students before the 2020-2021 school year.**
20. With the increased enrollment in the Massaponax corridor, are there plans to build a new high school? **Not at this time. Based upon current projections, which have incorporated all planned subdivisions and building permits on file with the Spotsylvania County Planning Department, the school division expects having capacity to absorb the anticipated growth over the next five years. Projections are continually being adjusted as demographic factors change. Plans for a new high school will occur when capacity at existing high schools have been met and projected to exceed design limits.**
21. At MHS there are a lot of trailers that are not conducive to learning. With this rezoning, will it get rid of the trailers? **With the anticipated reduction of the student population of between 291 and 458 students at MHS, we anticipate retiring these specific trailers. However, newer modular units may be utilized for educational purposes not related to capacity issues.**
22. After you move the existing students from MHS, there is only a plan for 5 years? **We have projected growth for the next 5 years based upon the planned subdivisions and building permits on record with the Spotsylvania County Planning Department. Projections are continually being adjusted as demographic factors change.**
23. What is the long term plan for the school division? **The Schools will continue to make adjustments as student enrollment and needs change. At this time the school division is balancing between the fiscal realities of the costs of a new high school versus the current and projected capacity at our existing high schools.**
24. Have you considered a specialty center/magnet school concept to ease overcrowding? **SCPS currently has seven different specialty programs and is considering adding an additional program in FY20, The Teachers Academy, which is designed for future teachers at Chancellor High School. Expansions beyond these programs will be at the discretion of the Board.**

25. Will staffing follow the students as they move to different schools? **Yes, staffing resources will be adjusted upwards and downwards depending on the needs of the students who are being transferred.**
26. When is the renovation slated to be completed at Courtland HS? **The Courtland High School renovation is expected to be completed in time for the beginning of the FY20 school year, which begins in August 2019. The auditorium is scheduled to open in October of 2019.**
27. What criteria were considered for setting the lines of those areas/subdivision slated to move and those not slated to move? **The High School Redistricting Committee started by analyzing the redistricting study areas recommended by Moseley Architects' Planning the Plan Study. It then reviewed School Board policy JC School Attendance Areas, which lists general considerations for adjusting attendance zones**
28. What is the reason that South Oaks was not included in the area slated to move to Courtland HS? **That subdivision was not identified in the Planning the Plan Study as a potential area to redistrict.**
29. Will we know by the end of April whether or not the school division will decide to redistrict? **We anticipate the School Board taking action on the High School redistricting by the end of April.**
30. Will the moratorium of Courtland be lifted if the School Board decides not to redistrict? **Courtland High School's renovation has incorporated additional classroom space for 300 students. As such, CHS will be below its capacity. However, all transfer requests must meet existing transfer criteria.**
31. How is student rank impacted if my child should be moved from one school to another? **Like any student who may transfer into a school at any point in the year, class rank will be determined amongst all students within the specific cohort.**
32. Will courses like AP Capstone and AP Research be available at CoHS? They do not currently have this program. **We would look to provide continuity for those students currently in and those pursuing the AP Capstone Diploma.**
33. Have you identified the percentage of the students with IEP's that will be moving to each school? **Student demographics are being analyzed, including students with IEPs.**

34. Will transportation routes be impacted to a high degree? **Transportation will be only impacted minimally.**
35. Will all athletics that are currently being offered at MHS be available at CoHS? **All sport options are similar at each of our sites with exceptions to the following: Lacrosse (Located at MHS and RHS) We would look to petition the VHSL should these teams have enough members to be established at the new school site. Ninth Grade Teams (Located at MHS and RHS) Ninth grade teams would not exist at those schools designated at 4B (Chancellor, Courtland, and Spotsylvania)**
36. Had there been any discussion or research to the students graduating and the eighth graders coming in? Why not move the 8th graders instead of shifting the seniors? **Projections of incoming freshman are made each year for each high school. Moving only one class each year to a new school, starting with next year's rising freshmen and progressing one grade level each future school year means the redistricting process would take four years to complete**
37. Concern about student making established sports teams and achieved rank in JROTC? **As with any season, each school conducts tryouts for those students interested in participating in an extracurricular activity. JROTC rank will be honored should a student move from one battalion to another.**
38. Will classes that are not offered at one school provide a student with a dual enrollment option? **All classes, with the exception of those classified as pilots within our Career Pathways guide are offered at each of our comprehensive high schools each year, however, these offerings are dependent on student interest and staff availability.**
39. Will clubs that are offered at CoHS match the clubs we have here at MHS? **Various opportunities exist at each of our comprehensive high schools. Any student organization not currently in place would need to simply fill out a Student Organization Application Form obtain faculty sponsorship and submit to the principal for review.**
40. Why is there not a new school in the works? **Based on current enrollment projections, which are created annually after consultation with the County Planning Department, the proposed redistricting plan should accommodate high school capacity for the next five years. At present, one high school is only at**

approximately 75% capacity. In addition, to construct a new high school would require the passage of another school bond in order to fund this project.

- 41. Has the idea of moving 9th graders to junior highs been considered? Move them to middle schools. Several of the division's middle schools are currently at or over designed capacity. To add a grade to middle school would definitely put all over capacity. If sixth grade were moved to elementary school to make room for the addition of 9th graders, this would make several elementary schools over capacity.**
- 42. Why is the division moving so fast to redistrict? Several years ago, the division commissioned Moseley Architects to conduct the Planning the Plan Study. This initiative first looked at ways to maximize existing space at all schools, with special emphasis on Massaponax High. This was done because the Board of Supervisors had approved a variety of new residential developments in the Massaponax High attendance zone, meaning more students would be coming to MHS in the future. Several small renovations have already taken place there, such as the removal of hall lockers in areas of greatest student traffic. Phase II of the study identified areas from which to begin a high school redistricting process. These became the basis of the current high school redistricting effort. In actuality, the preliminary process for redistricting started several years ago.**
- 43. How will we deal with the class ranking of students since we have a number of AP classes that CoHS does not? This will impact them as well. Like any student who may transfer into a school at any point in the year, class rank will be determined amongst all students within the specific cohort.**
- 44. What is the potential impact in the 5 year time frame? What about the 10 year time frame? Will we be right back here? We believe the high school redistricting effort will address student capacity issues for a five year time frame. Obviously the further out the projection the greater the risk of error. It is difficult to predict the type of residential development projects will be approved what impact they will have on student enrollment for the 2025 to 2030 school years. As a practice, we are continuing to review and update our rolling 5 year forecast.**
- 45. Do you have the number of projected student in the next 5 years against the student capacity of MHS? Yes. Those numbers were shared in the Power Point presentation and are available in the 2020-2024 Capital Improvement Plan.**

46. We've already scheduled our classes for next year. I don't think it should be a question on whether juniors should have the option. **The School Board has discussed allowing rising juniors to utilize the same transfer procedures as it does for current rising seniors. This has not yet been finalized, however.**
47. (Statement): Standardization should be a priority at all of the schools.
48. Have we looked at the economic differences? Yes, **Student demographic information, such as students classified as Economically Disadvantaged, is being analyzed.**
49. Will students who move have an opportunity to visit their new school in a small setting? **Yes**
50. What is the level of athletics? **Chancellor, Courtland and Spotsylvania High Schools are classified as 4B within the VHSL. Massaponax and Riverbend High Schools are classified as 6A within the VHSL. These rankings have been set for the next four years.**
51. Why is the school division rushing through this process? With 20+ teachers that are yet to be hired, why would we move individuals now? **If students are moved to different schools now, then teachers will be reassigned to accommodate their educational needs.**
52. Why was this not seen 5 years ago? Who decides this moving forward? **Enrollment projections are made every year and are contained in the Capital Improvement Plan. Projected enrollment is partially determined by new residential developments that are not submitted to the County Planning Department with a five year lead time. This means that five years ago, we did not know how many new developments would be approved by the Board of Supervisors. The School Board ultimately decides on a redistricting plan.**
53. Why is Riverbend not included and/or impacted in these potential moves? **Riverbend High School is not included because its attendance zone does not border Massaponax's attendance zone. Each of the other high schools do border Massaponax's attendance zone at some point. In addition, the current enrollment at Riverbend High school has the second highest building capacity behind Massaponax High School. Conversely, Courtland and Spotsylvania High school have the greatest capacity.**
54. Why was there a renovation to CoHS but not an addition to MHS? **Courtland High School is the division's oldest, having been built in 1980. It's mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems needed to be updated**

regardless of student enrollment. Massaponax was built in 1998 and its building systems are still considered in useful life. Additionally, while schools may add classroom space, the capacity of common areas such as the cafeteria/commons, library, gym etc limit future student enrollment unless they are also enlarged.

- 55. Have we considered expanding MHS by moving up? Based on the building's original design, it would not be optimal to add another story.**
- 56. If this does go through in the next 4 months, what allowances would be provided to the students who want to stay? Rising seniors and possibly rising juniors would be permitted via the transfer process to continue to attend MHS if parents provided transportation.**
- 57. Has there been any work on school feeder patterns? Moseley examined feeder patterns and determined that based on the unique geography of the County and the location of schools, the current system was as efficient as it could be.**
- 58. Would those seniors and possibly juniors that are allowed to remain at their school receive a free parking permit? This had not been considered up to now. This idea will be forwarded for consideration.**
- 59. Why can't we simply move the trailers from CoHS to MHS and renovate MHS? Once the renovation at Courtland is completed, some of the modular units could be utilized at other schools, including Massaponax. However, construction costs of a renovation for Massaponax High would be prohibitive and would require the passage of a new bond referendum.**
- 60. Is the social life of the students being considered? Some students have social anxiety and this needs to be taken into consideration. It is being considered and support will be in place should students be redistricted.**
- 61. Would my child have the same academic opportunities at CoHS that they have here at MHS? All courses, with the exception of those classified as pilots within our Career Pathways guide are offered at each of our comprehensive highs schools each year. However, these offerings are dependent on student interest and staff availability**

62. Given that the school board meeting is April 1st, what do we have to do as a community to make sure you slow down this process? **The School Board is interesting in receiving all viewpoints during their public hearing. Including individuals interested in slowing down the process.**
63. Is there a possibility of doing two separate class rankings? **Class rank will be determined amongst all students within the specific cohort of each school.**
64. Since a relationship has already been established with the school counselor, will the counselor of the rising seniors be moved with them? **Counselors currently serve and have connections with many students and families across all grade levels. Those students who will be redistricted may always ask for a letter of recommendation from a former counselor, teacher, or administrator.**
66. Will grandfathered in seniors still qualify for sports? **Yes.**
67. The parking lot at CoHS was full a couple of years ago. With 400 additional students driving to school where are you going to park them? **Option 2 (which affects the largest number of students) shifts approximately 260 new students to Courtland at all grade levels. There is a total of over 400 designated student parking places in the renovated design.**
68. Will those seniors who are remaining receive priority when getting a parking permit? **Yes. Senior permits go on sale before others.**
69. Will all of the streets off of Leavells Road be moving? **No. The primary streets affected are Windsor Drive and Loriella Park Drive and those that intersect with these roads. Students who live on a majority of streets off of Leavells Road will not be impacted.**
70. The two options are very similar. What other options/criteria was considered by the committee? **In addition to reviewing Moseley's Planning the Plan study areas, the Committee reviewed School Board Policy JC School Attendance Areas, which provides general considerations for adjusting attendance zones.**

71. The final decision is made by which board? **The School Board**
72. Plantation Forest is the same distance to CoHS as Lee's Parke is. Not quite sure why this is being considered. **Actually Lee's Parke is much closer to Courtland than is Plantation Forest.**
73. Were parents from Plantation Forest included on the committee to come up with options since they are going to move? **Each school had a minimum of two parent representatives to advocate for their children's school's best interests.**
74. If the district is looking at a K-12 plan, doesn't it make sense to wait a year on this? **The need to provide future capacity relief at Massaponax High School has been identified for several years and was one of the catalysts in undertaking the Planning the Plan Study. The study areas identified by Moseley are logistically obvious and thus proved a logical starting points from which the Redistricting Committee developed its options. Those options address immediate capacity issues and while a future K-12 analysis by a third party is recommended by the Redistricting Committee, student growth at Massaponax High continues in the meantime.**
75. What is the likelihood that this will occur since the district has spoken about this over the past couple of years? **The Redistricting Committee's options were presented to the School Board at its February 25, 2019 meeting, and the follow up community information meetings have now been completed. The Board's Public Hearing will be held on April 1, 2019. We anticipate a decision will be made regarding redistricting options no later than the end of April.**
76. Will those students who are permitted to stay at their school (senior and juniors) have to complete the transfer process? **Staff is currently examining this to determine the most expeditious way to enroll these students.**
77. If a student is grandfathered in why would they need to complete the transfer process? **See above**

78. What would happen if you already have a student on a special transfer? Will we follow the same process of renewals? **At present, yes.**
79. How are you managing your number of students in the options presented and the number of student transfers that occur? **Transfer students from the current school year are automatically “rolled” into next school year’s enrollment numbers at the school attended in 2018-2019. Rising seniors and possibly rising juniors will be rolled into the next school year’s enrollment numbers in similar fashion.**
80. What about the students who are conditioning for fall sports? **If they are rising seniors and Elect to stay at their current school next year, then there is no impact. If the School Board extends this option to rising juniors, again no impact. Rising sophomores who are redistricted will be eligible to play for their new school in the fall.**
81. What will happen to the students slated to come over here if the construction/renovation to CoHS is not completed? **Based on progress to date, we believe the renovation will be complete by the beginning of the 2019-2020 school year with the exception of the auditorium, which will be completed in October 2019.**
82. How will you fit the students in the commons area and get them lunch in the time allotted with The extra students added? **Current lunch lines have been re-configured as part of the renovation and an additional serving station will be added to enhance delivery.**
83. What’s safety factors are in place if my child has to go to another school? **All high schools have the same safety resources, including personnel devoted to maintaining safe and secure school environments.**
84. What is the cost of this move to the taxpayer with transportation? **The Pupil Transportation Department has analyzed the costs associated with the proposed redistricting options and they are essentially the same as those incurred by current operations. In fact, there would be a modest savings of approximately .165 per mile if redistricting is approved.**

85. Is it cheaper to add trailers at MHS than pay for all of this transportation? **While adding Modular units would add student capacity to the school, common areas such as the library, cafeteria, auditorium, and gym might then require expansion to accommodate these additional students.**
86. When will a decision be made on a final plan so we can plan for a transfer? **Redistricting is an agenda item slated for discussion at the School Board's April 8, 2019 meeting.**
87. Is there a chance that a transfer form can be provided to the seniors the day after a decision is made to expedite the process? **Yes. Again, this is being analyzed by staff.**
88. How will you let the public know once a decision has been made? **The school division will use every communication tool at its disposal to get this information to the public.**