

**Town of Garrett Park**  
**Resolution**  
**Overcrowding in the Walter Johnson Cluster Schools**  
**October 10, 2016**

**Whereas**, the high school (HS) and elementary school (ES) that Garrett Park students attend, Walter Johnson HS and Garrett Park ES, are projected to be significantly over capacity in 5 years; and

**Whereas**, based on numbers supplied to the Town Council from long-term projections by the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) Division of Long-Range Planning, Walter Johnson HS will grow to 3725 students, the Walter Johnson cluster's 2 middle schools will grow to 2930 students, and the cluster's elementary schools will grow to 5920 students, in less than 30 years; and

**Whereas**, MCPS held a Roundtable in early 2016 to obtain the opinions of various PTAs on approaches for addressing overcrowding at the high, middle, and elementary school levels in the cluster; and

**Whereas**, the Walter Johnson cluster representatives, as a result of the Roundtable, adopted positions on proposed solutions for the HS, MS, and ES overcrowding issues; and

**Whereas**, the solutions preferred by the Walter Johnson cluster representatives—  
(1) will require land for a MS and at least 1 ES, which have not yet been provided through the many development plans impacting our area; and  
(2) will cost well over \$100,000,000 for land acquisition and school construction; and

**Now therefore be it resolved**, that the Town Council endorses the positions adopted by the Walter Johnson cluster representatives for resolving overcrowding in cluster schools, including—

- (1) reopening the Woodward building as a grades 9 – 12 high school, only if all neighborhoods in the current Walter Johnson cluster are districted within the boundaries of the current cluster – to Woodward or Walter Johnson HS;
- (2) (A) opening a third middle school, if land for a third middle school can be secured within the cluster; or if not,  
(B) constructing additions to Tilden and North Bethesda MSs that would enable them to serve the expected 2930 middle school students; and
- (3) opening a new elementary school, and limiting the upcoming Ashburton ES addition so that the total Ashburton ES capacity is no more than 750 students (in order to avoid delaying the opening of that new school), without redistricting any neighborhoods outside the boundaries of the current cluster; and

**Be it further resolved,** that the Town Council supports land acquisition and school construction funding to implement those 3 cluster positions; and

**Be it finally resolved,** that the Town Council directs the Mayor to send letters to the Superintendent of MCPS, the Board of Education, and the County Council informing them of this action and authorizes a councilmember to testify on behalf of the Town Council before the Board of Education and at other related hearings on this action and associated issues.