

Dear MVMPCS community,

Based on questions we received from the town hall and email, we have consolidated and answered them here. Please feel free to reach out to the [high school proposal team](#) with questions and feedback.

Why the quick timeline?

Expansion qualifies MVMPCS to apply for the MSDE Public Charter Schools Replication and Expansion Grant program (http://marylandpublicschools.org/programs/Documents/Charter-Schools/MDCSP_FAQ0319.pdf). This grant supplies up to \$900,000 start-up funding over the first three years of expanded operations. In order to apply, the BOE must first receive the proposal and their meeting is in May. The annual report is also during that meeting and it makes sense to include the proposal during that meeting for efficiency. This is the last year that the grant will be offered. Whether or not MVMPCS is a grant award recipient, the program expansion would pay for itself through PPA and eventually contribute to the financial health of the school. However, this is an opportunity to expand as an innovative program that would pay for itself, while increasing the chances for supplemental funding that could greatly enhance the space and materials our students will use.

Do we have room to expand?

In short, yes! There is classroom space to accommodate the initial year of the proposed expansion (the addition of a 30-student 9th grade cohort). Using the PPA, will also still be able to lease additional space on the existing campus or within easy walking distance for satellite classroom space in year two and beyond of the expansion. The long-term goal for the school (aside from the high school expansion) is, of course, to obtain a new facility where our whole school can continue to grow and thrive.

Can we afford to expand without taking away from the school's current programs?

Yes! The high school has the benefit of working within our existing financial framework. There are fixed costs that are already covered by the existing budget, like rent & utilities, which will give some financial flexibility for the program during the first couple of years of expansion. Current budget projections indicate that the high school will not only be fully funded and self-sustaining from year 1, it will be able to contribute a proportional share towards all operational costs by year 2, thereby freeing resources to help all programs at MVMPCS and add to the financial health of the organization as a whole.