Office of the Superintendent of Schools
MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Rockville, Maryland

October 2, 2019

<u>MEMORANDUM</u>

To: Members of the Board of Education

From: Jack R. Smith, Superintendent of Schools

Subject: Thomas Edison High School of Technology Course Enrollment (08-29-19-01)

Question

During Public Comments, Mrs. Smondrowski requested information regarding which courses are full at Thomas Edison High School of Technology (Edison), and what is the criteria that needs to be met in order to gain entrance to Edison.

Response

As of September 18, 2019, 732 students were enrolled in programs at Thomas Edison High School of Technology, including Architecture; Automotive Technology; Automotive Collision; Carpentry; Construction Electricity; Cosmetology; Cybersecurity; Building Construction Technology; Graphic Design; Academy of Health Professions; Hospitality; Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning; Law Enforcement; Masonry; Network Operations; Plumbing; and Restaurant Management.

After typical enrollment fluctuations at the beginning of each school year, many of these programs are at or near capacity, although there continue to be daily changes in enrollment that provide opportunities for more students. One program, the Academy of Health Professions, is full with a substantial wait list. Other programs such as Automotive Technology, Law Enforcement, Cybersecurity, Hospitality, Plumbing, and Masonry remain open for additional student enrollment. Staff at Thomas Edison High School of Technology continues to monitor enrollment daily, outreach to students who are interested in available programs, and manage a wait list for programs that are at capacity. Students continue to be accepted throughout the first month of school and additional students will begin second semester each year.

In order to be accepted into the program, students must complete an application. The first round of applications are submitted in early November as is customary for high school application programs. In the 2018–2019 school year, Thomas Edison High School of Technology and central services staff designed a lottery process to mirror other high school application programs. However, after the first round of applications, there was an insufficient number of students

to conduct lotteries. As a result, additional rounds of applications then were accepted on a rolling basis until programs reached capacit. During the subsequent round of applications, students were accepted into the program following a review by a school-based committee. The review included prioritizing students who needed full programs of study to meet high school graduation requirements and, in some cases, ensuring that students had necessary prerequisites for programs such as Cybersecurity or the Academy of Health Professions. Information about applying to programs at Thomas Edison High School of Technology may be found on the website.

Moving forward, beginning in 2020–2021, these processes will transition to a full interest-based process, with student assignments made by lottery. As part of the expansion of high school programs, a transition also will be made to use the high school "common application," which will be managed through central services.

If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Maria V. Navarro, chief academic officer, at 240-740-3040.

JRS:MVN:NTH:jpm

Copy to:
  Executive Staff
  Mr. Murphy
  Ms. Webb