The School Board on Thursday supported a plan to add 13th and 14th grades to Capitol High School and approved the pupil progression plan for the upcoming school year.

If the state Board for Elementary and Secondary Education approves of the Capitol High plan in July, the school would offer basic college courses, including remedial English and math, to high school graduates who want to go to college but who might not be fully prepared.

The extra two grades, called the Capitol Postsecondary Institute, would be added to the school’s math and science tutorial enhancement under the school system redesign plan and are offered as a way to attract white students to the one-race school.

Under the school system’s redesign and desegregation plan, Capitol High can only accept white applicants because its student body is composed almost entirely of blacks.

The Capitol Postsecondary Institute is fashioned after the Bossier City Community College, which was spawned by a similar plan instituted at Airline High School in Bossier City 22 years ago.

“There is a great need for a community college system in East Baton Rouge Parish and in our state,” Dr. Bernard Weiss said at the board meeting Thursday.

Deshotels said it would be unfair to pay the CPI teachers more than highly qualified teachers of advanced placement courses, which also can earn a student college credit, and honors courses.

The pupil progression plan adopted Thursday gives individual elementary schools and their advisory councils the option of using transition classes to try to accelerate kindergarten graduates who don’t meet state promotion guidelines for admission to first grade.

A child in a transition class is evaluated at the end of the year and can be assigned to grades one or two, depending on the grade level promotion standards he meets. Associate Superintendent Donald Hoover said at least 60 percent of the children placed in transition classes join their peers in second grade, and the remaining fall a year behind the children they started with in kindergarten.

Parent-Teacher Association President Beverly Trahan and board member Eva Legard argued against transition classes earlier in the week, calling them another means for the school system to retain children.

However, they both agreed that the decision to use the classes should be left up to each school’s advisory council.

The pupil progression plan includes a proposal that says courses that offer weighted grades should be offered to all middle and high school students, but that they should only be given weighted credit for earning A’s and B’s in those courses.

However, the proposal does not go into effect this year. Next year’s Pupil Progression Plan Committee must consider the proposal, and can throw it out.

In the meantime, the staff was directed by the Instructional Services Committee to develop curriculums for the tougher courses that would offer the weighted credit. That would ensure that weighted credit would not be given for the same work being done in courses that do not offer the enrollment incentive of extra credit.

The board on Thursday was scheduled to consider a reorganization by Superintendent Bernard Weiss of the school system’s central office staff. However, during the meeting, Weiss pulled the item from the agenda, saying the board apparently wished to review it further before voting on it.