

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

February 1, 2023

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education
From: Monifa B. McKnight, Superintendent of School
Subject: William Tyler Page Elementary School Security (12-06-2022-01-A, -B)

Question

During *Public Comments*, Board members requested the following:

Question A

Ms. Wolff requested that staff visit William Tyler Page Elementary School, investigate the concerns raised by Mr. Ganz in his testimony, and report back to the Board with their findings.

Response

Staff in the Department of Facilities Management routinely visit the site as part of the ongoing addition project. Staff members met with Ms. Stacey M. Brown, principal, William Tyler Page Elementary School, and Mr. Kenneth R. Futch, project manager, Division of Design and Construction, Department of Facilities Management, to review concerns expressed by Mr. Ganz during his testimony at the December 6, 2022, Board of Education business meeting. Following is a summary of their conversation:

- Relocatable Classrooms—Ms. Brown has had several conversations with Mr. Ganz regarding the relocatable classrooms. Ms. Brown has assigned a facility aid staff person to accompany students during activities outside of the classrooms. This staff member's responsibilities include visits to the restrooms, routes between classes, and activities on the playground. Ms. Brown shared that the parent/community has been very receptive to the addition of the facility aid staff person and confident that it addresses the safety and security concerns.

- Security Cameras—Four exterior cameras were installed on the portable classrooms. There are two exterior camera views directed on the portables and two exterior camera views directed to the side of the school building. The cameras were operational on January 20, 2023. The school also has two interior cameras.
- Fencing—According to Ms. Brown, the William Tyler Page Elementary School community does not want a fence installed around the relocatable classrooms and walkways because as it cuts off access to the school and paths. This is an important feature and level of access that Ms. Brown would prefer to maintain.

Question B

Ms. Yang requested that staff address the lack of walkway coverage for the portable classrooms as noted in Mr. Ganz's testimony, and report back with their findings.

Response

Walkway extension—Ms. Brown has requested that, if it is possible, the Department of Facilities Management install a temporary cover, such as a canopy, between the relocatable classrooms and the restrooms. Staff in the Department of Facilities Management evaluated the feasibility and determined that it would have to pass code through the Montgomery County Department of Permitting Services, and it would be structurally difficult to build. The portable restrooms are not on foundations and are portable with no anchor or connection points. The next steps are planning with architects and engineers, as well as the contractor about design options and cost to determine if this project is feasible.

If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Dana E. Edwards, chief of district operations, via email, or Mr. Seth P. Adams, director of facilities management, via email.

MBM:MBH:DEE:SPA:imt

Copy to:

Executive Staff

Mr. Adams

Ms. Webb