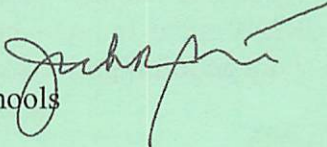


Office of the Superintendent of Schools
MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Rockville, Maryland

August 31, 2017

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education

From: Jack R. Smith, Superintendent of Schools 

Subject: Recommendation for an Elementary School Site Selection Process in the Downcounty Consortium

In the 2014–2015 school year, a capacity study was conducted to address overutilization in several elementary schools in the lower portion of the Downcounty Consortium. The following Grades pre-K/K–5 schools were included in the study: East Silver Spring, Forest Knolls, Highland View, Rolling Terrace, Sligo Creek, and Woodlin elementary schools. Also included in the study were the following paired schools: Montgomery Knolls (pre-K–2), New Hampshire Estates (pre-K–2), Oak View (Grades 3–5), Pine Crest (Grades 3–5), Piney Branch (Grades 3–5), and Takoma Park (pre-K–2) elementary schools. The capacity study explored various ways to resolve the elementary school space deficits in the lower portion of the Downcounty Consortium that included additions to existing schools, a new school, or a combination of both.

On October 15, 2015, then interim superintendent of schools, Mr. Larry A. Bowers, recommended to the Board to construct additions at East Silver Spring, Montgomery Knolls, Pine Crest, Piney Branch, and Woodlin elementary schools. On November 16, 2015, the Board approved the following capital projects to address the overutilization in the lower portion of the Downcounty Consortium:

- An addition at East Silver Spring Elementary School to relieve the overutilization at Rolling Terrace Elementary School, to be completed by September 2020.
- Additions at Montgomery Knolls and Pine Crest elementary schools to relieve overutilization at Forest Knolls and Pine Crest elementary schools, to be completed by September 2020.
- An addition at Piney Branch Elementary School to relieve its overutilization, to be completed by September 2021.
- An addition at Woodlin Elementary School to relieve its overutilization, to be completed by September 2020.

The Board also approved a feasibility study to explore the possibility of opening an elementary school in the Downcounty Consortium to address the space deficits at these schools.

Based on the results of the feasibility study, my recommendation is to evaluate whether a revised plan should be developed to address elementary school overutilization in the lower portion of the Downcounty Consortium. As a first step, I believe it is prudent to convene a site selection committee to evaluate potential elementary school sites in the lower portion of the Downcounty Consortium. My recommendation is to begin the site selection process in fall 2017, with Board action in March 2108. The adopted Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 Capital Budget and Amendments to the FY 2017–2022 Capital Improvements Program includes funding for the aforementioned five elementary school addition projects. At this time, I do not recommend any changes to these projects.

After the site selection process is complete and a recommendation by the site selection committee is released, we will evaluate that report and provide the Board with a recommendation by February 2018. This time frame coincides with the Board's spring amendment process in March 2018.

WHEREAS, In the 2014–2015 school year, a capacity study was conducted to address overutilization in several elementary schools in the lower portion of the Downcounty Consortium; and

WHEREAS, The capacity study explored various ways to resolve the elementary school space deficits in the lower portion of the Downcounty Consortium that included additions to existing schools, a new school, or a combination of both; and

WHEREAS, On November 16, 2015, the Board of Education approved five elementary school addition projects to address the overutilization in the lower portion of the Downcounty Consortium; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Education also approved a feasibility study to explore the possibility of opening an elementary school in the Downcounty Consortium; and

WHEREAS, Staff conducted an internal review and evaluation of the program and classroom requirements of a new elementary school in the lower portion of the Downcounty Consortium; now therefore be it

Resolved, That a site selection committee be formed to evaluate potential elementary school sites in the lower portion of the Downcounty Consortium; and be it further

Resolved, That the site selection process begin in fall 2017; and be it further

Resolved, That after the site selection process is complete and a recommendation by the site selection committee is released, the superintendent of schools will evaluate that report and provide a recommendation to the Board of Education by February 2018, with Board of Education action in March 2018; and be it further

Resolved, That the time line coincides with the Board of Education's spring amendment process in March 2018; and be it further

Resolved, That the funds approved in the adopted Fiscal Year 2018 Capital Budget and Fiscal Years 2017–2022 Capital Improvements Program for the five elementary school addition projects will not change at this time.

JRS:AMZ:JS:lm