

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

March 9, 2010

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education

From: Jerry D. Weast, Superintendent of Schools

Subject: Recommendation for Oakland Terrace Elementary School Satellite Location at Sligo Middle School

The enrollment at Oakland Terrace Elementary School currently exceeds capacity by approximately 340 students and projections indicate that the enrollment will exceed capacity by more than 450 students in the 2011–2012 school year. Long-term, the reopening of Downcounty Consortium Elementary School #29 (McKenney Hills site), in August 2012, will provide the capacity to relieve the overutilization at Oakland Terrace Elementary School. The current enrollment at the school has impacted the utilization of the facility and the site and projected enrollment growth will further exacerbate the conditions at the school. The multipurpose room is unable to accommodate the lunch program for the current and future enrollment. In addition, there is a lack of sufficient toilet facilities for students and staff. Because there currently are relocatable classrooms on the campus, there is a lack of play area for the students during physical education and recess.

To address the extreme overcrowding at Oakland Terrace Elementary School and the projected increase in enrollment for the next two academic years, on November 19, 2009, the Board of Education asked the superintendent and Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) staff to work with the Oakland Terrace Elementary School staff and community to explore options to relieve overutilization.

Sligo Middle School was identified as the best facility for an Oakland Terrace Elementary School satellite location. Sligo Middle School is 1.5 miles away from Oakland Terrace Elementary School and is located adjacent to the eastern part of the Oakland Terrace Elementary School service area. The school currently has 383 seats available and projected enrollment indicates that the school will have 412 seats available during the 2010–2011 and 2011–2012 school years.

Montgomery County Public Schools staff held three public information meetings, on December 7 and 14, 2009, and on January 11, 2010 to gather input and identify concerns from the community and school staff on the proposed satellite location. The meetings were well attended and provided the public with the opportunity to ask questions and voice concerns with the satellite plan. In response to school staff and parent concerns, MCPS staff compiled the issues and questions that were raised during the meetings in a *Planning Grid*, and forwarded this document to the superintendent and Board of Education Members.

WHEREAS, The superintendent and MCPS staff worked with the Oakland Terrace Elementary School and Sligo Middle School staffs and communities to explore ways to relieve overutilization at Oakland Terrace Elementary School by creating an interim satellite location for one or two elementary grade levels at Sligo Middle School; and

WHEREAS, MCPS staff conducted three public information meetings on December 7 and 14, 2009, and on January 10, 2010, to gather input and identify concerns from the community and school staff for a proposed satellite location at Sligo Middle School; and

WHEREAS, The superintendent reviewed and carefully considered all of the input received, including the information in the *Planning Grid*, correspondence from concerned parents, and the impact of keeping all students at Oakland Terrace Elementary School for the next two years, and on February 18, 2010, released a recommendation to house the Oakland Terrace Elementary School kindergarten classes in the lower level of Sligo Middle School for the 2010–2011 and 2011–2012 school years; and

WHEREAS, On February 22, 2010, the Board of Education conducted a work session to consider the superintendent's recommendation for housing the Oakland Terrace Elementary School kindergarten students at Sligo Middle School; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Education conducted a public hearing on March 3, 2010, in accordance with Board of Education Policy FAA, *Long-range Educational Facilities Planning*, and Montgomery County Public Schools' Regulation FAA-RA, *Long-range Educational Facilities Planning*, on the superintendent's recommendation; now therefore be it

Resolved, That kindergarten students from Oakland Terrace Elementary School be housed in the lower level of Sligo Middle School for the 2010–2011 and 2011–2012 school years; and be it further

Resolved, That the superintendent and MCPS staff work with Oakland Terrace Elementary School and Sligo Middle School to ensure a smooth transition and implementation.

JDW:LAB:JLL:bc