

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

February 14, 2024

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education

From: Monique T. Felder, Interim Superintendent of Schools

Subject: Thomas S. Wootton High School—Interagency Coordinating Board

Question

During the December 5, 2023, Board meeting, following agenda item 6.1—*Public Comments*, Ms. Yang requested the following information:

Per Ms. Eckerle’s testimony, please look into the ICB situation at Wootton regarding the extracurricular use of the school space and its rental to outside groups. School groups/clubs should have first use privileges.

Response

Staff in the Office of Facilities Management (OFM) reached out to the Office of Community Use of Public Facilities (CUPF), the office that handles administrative responsibilities for the Interagency Coordinating Board. OFM staff received the following response from Mr. Ron Maxson Jr., operations manager, CUPF:

"In researching this matter, I have learned from staff that we have knowledge of only one request when there was a system error on our end when the school forwarded their request. The request was not received by our administrative reservation portal where incoming receipts for administrative requests would be located. Bear in mind this is only one incident we are aware of.

We learned of this conflict in November via contact from the School Business Administrator (SBA) at Wootton stating that there were two dates on which the Marching Band had a conflict. The SBA pointed to a request submitted on a specific date. Staff could not locate the request in the incoming receipts; however, a team leader found the request in an IT backup folder. The request was immediately processed. The user group scheduled was relocated to another space. In that situation there was displacement of the Marching Band on two dates. We have not heard of any other conflicts since that incident.

I am not sure who stated that this was about money that MCPS receives. As you know, schools and ICB/CUPF have a successful partnership that allows CUPF to reimburse MCPS for a percentage of utilities, maintenance supplies and full/overtime salaries. Community use is not a revenue source for either MCPS or CUPF as we strive to make access to public facilities affordable and equitable for our community.

Please provide any specific information you might have about any other MCPS facility that has experienced conflicts between school activities and community use. We have always held and follow the policy that school activities take priority to community use. This is why MCPS follows the policy of providing CUPF a list of all planned school calendar events/activities before the school year starts with updates and amendments submitted throughout the year to help CUPF continue to be aware of school activities that may cause any facility to be unavailable for community use.

If you have additional questions or need more information, please let me know.”

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Seth P. Adams, associate superintendent of facilities management, via email.

MTF:MBH:SPA:lmt

Copy to:

Executive Staff

Ms. Webb