


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

November 17, 2011

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education

From: Joshua P. Starr, Superintendent of Schools 

Subject: Collocation of Carl Sandburg Learning Center and Maryvale Elementary School

The delivery of special education services in Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) is guided by Board of Education Policy IOB, *Education of Students with Disabilities*. This policy states that MCPS is committed to the following:

- Improve educational results by assuring access to instruction in the general education class to the maximum extent possible;
- The participation, to the maximum extent possible, of students with disabilities with nondisabled peers in all aspects of school life, including academic, social, and extracurricular activities; and
- Provide a continuum of services for students with disabilities and educating them in the least restrictive environment appropriate for the child to ensure success for every student.

The continuum of services ranges from serving students in their home school to serving students in special education centers. Although consideration must first be given to providing services in the student's home school, some students require that services be provided in a special education center. MCPS currently operates five special education schools. One of these schools, the Regional Institute for Children and Adolescents (RICA), is owned by the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. The other four—Longview School, Rock Terrace School, Carl Sandburg Learning Center, and Stephen Knolls School—are owned by MCPS. Longview School was collocated with Spark M. Matsunaga Elementary School in a facility that was constructed in 2001.

At the November 27, 2007, meeting of the Board of Education, the Board adopted a resolution regarding facility improvements to stand-alone special education centers in MCPS. The resolution stated that prior to the superintendent of schools making a recommendation on facility improvements for any of the stand-alone special education centers, a multistakeholder work group of community members and appropriate staff must be convened.

One of these special education centers, Carl Sandburg Learning Center, is located in a facility that was constructed in 1962, and it is in need of improvements to provide an adequate facility to support the services that the students receive.

In order to continue providing the high level of service in an adequate facility, the superintendent of schools convened a Roundtable Advisory Committee in January 2011 to review the possible collocation of Carl Sandburg Learning Center on the Maryvale Elementary School campus. Maryvale Elementary School was identified for the following reasons: a modernization is scheduled for the school with a completion date of January 2018, the school is located centrally in the county, and the site is large enough to accommodate the Maryvale Elementary School and Carl Sandburg Learning Center programs and students.

WHEREAS, In January 2011, the superintendent of schools convened a Roundtable Advisory Committee, comprising staff and parent representatives from Maryvale Elementary School and Carl Sandburg Learning Center; and

WHEREAS, The Roundtable Advisory Committee met from January through June 2011 and submitted a report to the superintendent of schools on July 8, 2011; and

WHEREAS, Carl Sandburg Learning Center was assessed for modernization in spring 2011 and was ranked as the elementary school in greatest need for modernization; and

WHEREAS, The superintendent of schools reviewed and carefully considered the report of the Roundtable Advisory Committee and feedback from the community at-large, and on October 14, 2011, the superintendent of schools presented a recommendation to the Board of Education to collocate Carl Sandburg Learning Center at Maryvale Elementary School when it is modernized in August 2018; and

WHEREAS, On November 2, 2011, the Board of Education conducted a work session to consider the superintendent's recommendation for the collocation; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Education conducted public hearings on November 10 and 14, 2011, 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 Carl Sandburg Learning Center collocate on the Maryvale Elementary School campus in August 2018 after the completion of the modernization for the two schools; and be it further

Resolved, That two principals be maintained at Carl Sandburg Learning Center and Maryvale Elementary School when the schools collocate in August 2018; and be it further

Resolved, That Carl Sandburg Learning Center and Maryvale Elementary School be designed as one facility and that the classrooms, gymnasium, multipurpose room, and support rooms for each school should be located in separate parts of the building; and be it further

Resolved, That the specialized needs of the Carl Sandburg Learning Center students be incorporated into the design and construction of the modernization of Carl Sandburg Learning Center and Maryvale Elementary School.

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