

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

December 11, 2019

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education

From: Jack R. Smith, Superintendent of Schools

Subject: Changing Monocacy Elementary School to a Choice Program School
(11-04-19-02)

Question

Ms. Dixon asked if staff would consider changing Monocacy Elementary School to a *Choice* program school.

Response

On March 8, 2016, Metis Associates presented its report, *Montgomery County Public Schools: Study of Choice and Special Academic Programs*, to the Board of Education and provided detailed information about the methodology and engagement efforts. Staff was charged with addressing Metis' key recommendation and immediately began engaging the community in conversation about the findings, recommendations, and a collective vision of Choice within Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) predicated on equity of access and excellence in teaching and learning. During the September 26, 2016, Board meeting, staff presented a blueprint for responding to the Choice Study, including a time line for addressing the myriad programs, policies, and structures identified by Metis' findings. The Board discussed the blueprint and prioritized in-depth discussion during the 2016–2017 school year. The blueprint identified talent development and the Center Programs for the Highly Gifted, elementary world language programs, and Career and Technology Education as the topics for discussion during the 2016–2017 school year.

The system is in its fourth year of implementing the recommendations of the Choice Study. A variety of programming efforts at the elementary, middle, and high school levels have been employed. As a result of these efforts, MCPS is committed to monitoring student achievement and engagement as part of the programming's continuous improvement cycle, which ranges from three to five years. As we learn about the access and implementation of these programs and efforts, we will revisit opportunities for adjustments as part of the school programming cycle.

MCPS will continue to benchmark with other school systems to implement innovative programming at the elementary school level. As part of that discussion, several factors, including student performance data, community feedback, and facilities, will be considered.

Currently, specific discussion regarding Choice programming at Monocacy Elementary School has not occurred. Should a programming discussion reveal that Monocacy Elementary School or another identified school be considered as a candidate for a Choice school, this will be presented to the Board.

If you have questions, please contact Dr. Maria V. Navarro, chief academic officer, at 240-740-3040.

JRS:MBM:MVN:NTH:smw

Copy to:
Executive Staff
Ms. Webb