

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

April 22, 2020

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education
From: Jack R. Smith, Superintendent of Schools
Subject: Update on Move of the Chinese Immersion Program (03-05-20-01-A)

Board members requested the following information:

Question A

Mrs. O'Neill requested an update regarding the move of the Chinese Immersion program from College Gardens Elementary School to Bayard Rustin Elementary School, and how that process was handled. (Per comments given by Ms. Birgit Berg)

Response

In the 2018–2019 school year, the Chinese Immersion Program at College Gardens Elementary School was relocated to Bayard Rustin Elementary School. While English language instruction transitioned to a Grades K–4 immersion program in the first year, the decision was made to include the entire Grades K–5 Chinese Immersion Program to maintain the staffing and continuity of the program.

During the 2017–2018 school year, the principal at Bayard Rustin Elementary School held several community meetings to discuss the transition and integration of the immersion program into the new school. In order to disrupt the “School within a School” perception, the principal implemented a World Language Chinese Program for all students who were not in the immersion program. This allowed all students to become multilingual learners. In addition, school staff was provided essential professional learning to facilitate and understand the philosophy of immersion and language programming to ensure the school maintained its fidelity to the program.

Overall, parents/guardians of students in the Chinese Immersion Program at Bayard Rustin Elementary School have been pleased with the program’s transition to a new school. They have had multiple opportunities to engage with the principal, school, and district leaders, and they have designed a school culture of language learning that extends beyond the immersion program.

If you have questions, please contact Dr. Maria V. Navarro, chief academic officer, via e-mail.

JRS:MVN:NTH:llh

Copy to:
Executive Staff
Mrs. Franklin
Ms. Webb