

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

August 29, 2019

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education

From: Jack R. Smith, Superintendent of Schools

Subject: Award of Contract—Districtwide Boundary Analysis

On January 8, 2019, the Board of Education adopted Resolution No. 36-19: Boundary Assessment Study with the following amended resolution:

Resolved, That the superintendent of schools hire a consultant, through the Request for Proposal process and with the approval from the Board of Education, to review school boundaries in light of revised Policy FAA, *Educational Facilities Planning*, gather information and data regarding current school boundaries, benchmark with comparable school systems, and collect community input on the opportunities and challenges related to boundary setting using multiple methods and venues, including but not limited to Capital Improvements Program hearings in fall 2019; and be it further

Resolved, That the consultant present the findings and options to the Board of Education and the superintendent of schools with all deliberate speed, no later than spring 2020, and that the findings and options explore potential modifications to current school boundaries that comport to the four factors in Policy FAA, *Educational Facilities Planning*: student demographics, geography, stability of assignments over time, and facility utilization; and be it further

Resolved, That, after receiving the consultant's report, the Board of Education determine next steps, including how to obtain feedback from the community.

The Board of Education also directed the superintendent of schools to solicit community feedback and input on the scope of services for this analysis as part of developing the Request for Proposals (RFP) to implement the Board of Education's resolution. This feedback and input process was conducted throughout late winter and spring 2019, through community forums, as well as through soliciting and receiving online comments and additional correspondence.

Following an extensive community engagement period, Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) issued RFP No. 4886.1, Boundary Analysis Consultant, on June 25, 2019, with responses due to be submitted no later than 2:00 p.m. on July 15, 2019. The Board of Education received an update on the process and feedback received at its meeting on July 29, 2019.

In response to the RFP, we received multiple proposals with strengths and experience in educational facilities planning. We conducted an extensive review process that included feedback and input from external community stakeholders, as well as evaluation by senior MCPS leadership.

Based on this review process, I recommend that the Board of Education award a contract to WXY architecture + urban design not to exceed \$475,000. The term of the contract will be for one year with up to three one-year renewal options. This firm demonstrated a connection to the intent of the project scope; brings the potential for innovative approaches to this assessment and review; and had support from the community stakeholders engaged in our review process.

WHEREAS, To implement the Board of Education's January 8, 2019, Resolution No. 36-19 calling for a comprehensive review of school and cluster boundaries, Montgomery County Public Schools issued Request for Proposal No. 4886.1, Boundary Analysis Consultant, on June 25, 2019; and

WHEREAS, The intent of the Request for Proposal was to solicit high-quality professional consultants to conduct a comprehensive analysis of the school and cluster boundaries for student assignment in Montgomery County Public Schools and offer findings and observations on the impact and effect of these factors on the current school and cluster student assignment boundaries, as well as what possibilities exist for future boundary modifications to align student assignment patterns with Board of Education policy; and

WHEREAS, Montgomery County Public Schools staff organized and conducted a thorough review process with senior Montgomery County Public Schools leadership and external community stakeholders; and

WHEREAS, Based on the outcome of this review process, the superintendent of schools recommends that the Board of Education award a contract for a comprehensive districtwide boundary analysis to WXY architecture + urban design; and

WHEREAS, The contract award will be for an initial term of one year with up to three one-year renewal options; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the superintendent of schools be authorized to negotiate and execute contract agreements with WXY architecture + urban design to conduct a comprehensive districtwide boundary analysis for a total amount not to exceed \$475,000 for Fiscal Year 2020; and be it further

Resolved, That the superintendent of schools be authorized to execute all other documents and grant any approvals necessary to implement this contract award.

JRS:AMZ:emc