

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

March 22, 2018

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education

From: Jack R. Smith, Superintendent of Schools

Subject: Superintendent's Recommendation for the Shady Grove Sector Plan
Boundary Study

Student enrollment at the elementary school level in the Gaithersburg Cluster has resulted in several schools exceeding their program capacities. In the 2014–2015 school year, a *Gaithersburg Cluster Elementary School Capacity Study* was conducted to determine whether additions to cluster schools could address projected space deficits, compared to opening a new elementary school. The results of the study concluded that challenges existed with both approaches and, therefore, a Tri-Cluster Roundtable Discussion Group for the Gaithersburg, Col. Zadok Magruder, and Thomas S. Wootton clusters was formed. On April 19, 2016, the Board approved several recommendations to address the overutilization at the elementary schools in the Gaithersburg Cluster. In order to address the overcapacity at Washington Grove Elementary School, the Board of Education approved a boundary study process to be conducted in spring 2017, to reassign the portion of the Shady Grove Sector Plan within the Gaithersburg Cluster service area to the Col. Zadok Magruder Cluster schools. A Boundary Advisory Committee was formed in spring 2017, and the committee's report was provided to the Board of Education. I provided my recommendation to the Board of Education on February 26, 2018. I recommend the following resolution for Board of Education approval.

WHEREAS, The Boundary Advisory Committee met from April 2017, through May 2017, to review boundary options to reassign the portion of the Shady Grove Sector Plan located east of Interstate 370 in the Washington Grove Elementary School, Forest Oak Middle School, and Gaithersburg High School attendance areas to the Col. Zadok Magruder Cluster schools; and

WHEREAS, On August 31, 2017, the Board of Education approved an elementary school site selection process to evaluate potential elementary school sites in the Gaithersburg Cluster; and

WHEREAS, The purpose of the site selection process was to identify additional options for the Board of Education to consider in determining the best approaches to alleviate overutilization at several elementary schools in the Gaithersburg Cluster; and

WHEREAS, With the approval of the site selection process, the Board of Education approved that the potential reassignment of the portion of the Shady Grove Sector Plan in the Washington Grove Elementary School service area not be considered until after the site selection process was complete; and

WHEREAS, On September 6, 2017, the Boundary Advisory Committee report was released and included member evaluations of the boundary options, as well as Parent Teacher Association position papers; and

WHEREAS, On February 26, 2018, the superintendent of schools released his recommendation for the Gaithersburg Cluster Elementary School Site Selection and supported the Site Selection Advisory Committee's recommendation that the City of Gaithersburg Kelley Park site be the location of a new Gaithersburg Cluster elementary school; and

WHEREAS, Based on the recommendation for a new elementary school in the Gaithersburg Cluster, the superintendent of schools' recommendation, at this time, is to not reassign the portion of the Shady Grove Sector Plan within the Gaithersburg Cluster service area to Col. Zadok Magruder Cluster schools; and

WHEREAS, A recommendation will be considered as part of the amended Capital Improvements Program process in fall 2018 if student enrollment projections at Washington Grove Elementary School indicate reassignment should be reexamined; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board of Education approve the superintendent of schools' recommendation to not reassign the portion of the Shady Grove Sector Plan within the Gaithersburg Cluster service area to Col. Zadok Magruder Cluster schools.

JRS:AMZ:JS:lmt