

Somerset and Westbrook Elementary Schools Boundary Study

Process Overview
Division of Capital Planning
January 6, 2019



Agenda

- Board Resolution
- Projections and Seats Available
- Policy FAA
- Boundary Process
- Decision Making Process

Board of Education Resolution

ADOPTED
3.1

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

November 26, 2019

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education
From: Jack R. Smith, Superintendent of Schools
Subject: Boundary Study to Explore the Reassignment of Students at Somerset and Westbrook Elementary Schools

Elementary enrollment has continued to grow at Somerset Elementary School. Due to the small site size and site limitations, it is difficult to expand the existing facility. The Westbrook Elementary School service area is located adjacent to the Somerset Elementary School service area. As part of the recent classroom addition constructed at Westbrook Elementary School, a classroom shell was master-planned. As part of the *Superintendent's Recommended FY 2021 Capital Budget and the FY 2021-2026 Capital Improvements Program*, the classroom shell will be built out with an anticipated completion date of September 2021, to relieve the overutilization at Somerset Elementary School.

WHEREAS, On November 4 and 19, 2019, the Board of Education conducted work sessions on all capital and non-capital items in the *Superintendent's Recommended FY 2021 Capital Budget and the FY 2021-2026 Capital Improvements Program*; and

WHEREAS, On November 5 and 7, 2019, the Board of Education conducted public hearings in accordance with Board of Education Policy FAA, *Educational Facilities Planning*, and Montgomery County Public Schools Regulation FAA-RA, *Educational Facilities Planning*, on the superintendent's recommendation; and

WHEREAS, The superintendent of schools recommended a boundary study for Somerset and Westbrook Elementary School to relieve the overutilization at Somerset Elementary School; now therefore be it

Resolved, That a boundary study be conducted for Somerset and Westbrook elementary schools to relieve the overutilization at Somerset Elementary School in accordance with Board of Education Policy FAA, *Educational Facilities Planning*, and Montgomery County Public Schools Regulation FAA-RA, *Educational Facilities Planning*, and be it further

- Adopted November 26, 2019
- Somerset ES overcrowded and enrollment projected to increase
- Capital project at Westbrook ES to increase capacity
 - build out of existing class shell
 - anticipated completion September 2021

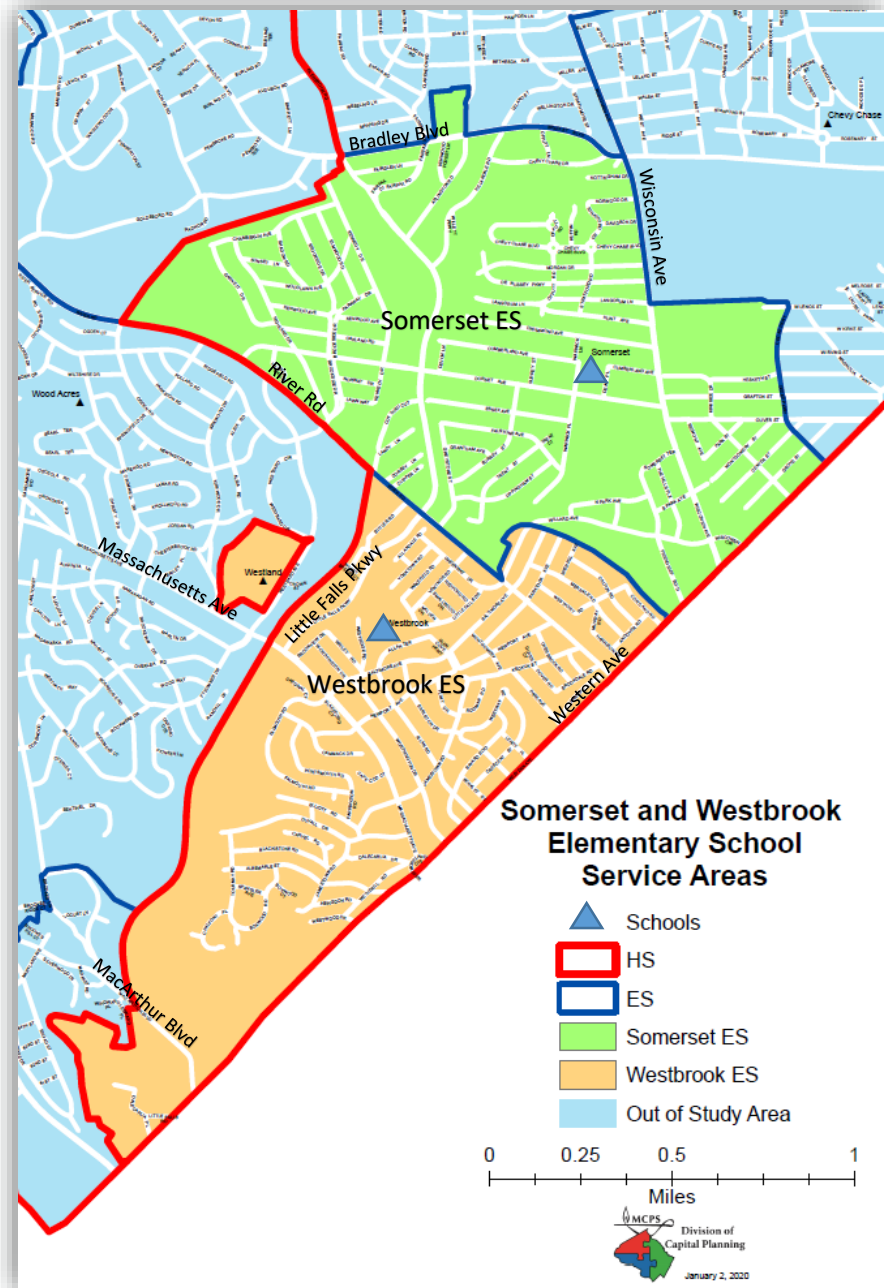
- <https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/planning/SomersetWestbrookBoundaryStudy.aspx>



Board of Education Resolution

- To include Somerset and Westbrook elementary schools to relieve the overutilization at Somerset ES
- To be conducted in winter 2020 with the superintendent's report submitted to the Board of Education by the end of the 2019–2020 school year
- Action by the Board of Education on the superintendent's recommendation in November 2020

Map of Study Area



Projections and Available Seats

Schools		Official*	Projections					
		19-20	20-21	21-22	22-23	23-24	24-25	25-26
Somerset ES	Program Capacity	515	515	515	515	515	515	515
	Enrollment	582	577	573	573	577	587	593
	Available Space	-67	-62	-58	-58	-62	-72	-78
Westbrook ES	Program Capacity	547	547	615	615	615	615	615
	Enrollment	341	342	340	337	338	322	325
	Available Space	206	205	275	278	277	293	290

*Source: Office of Shared Accountability, Official Report of Enrollment by Grade and School; As of September 30, 2019

Policy FAA

Educational Facilities Planning

POLICY		BOARD OF EDUCATION OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY
Related Entries:	ABA, ABC, ABC-RA, ACA, ACD, ACG, ACG-RA, ACG-RB, DNA, ECM, ECM-RA, FAA-RA, JEE, JEE-RA	
Responsible Office:	Chief Operating Officer	
Educational Facilities Planning		
A.	PURPOSE	
To affirm the Montgomery County Board of Education's commitment to continuing to provide high-quality facilities that support the educational programming needed to ensure that every Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) student is well-prepared for success consistent with the Board's core values of Learning, Relationships, Respect, Excellence, and Equity		
To establish an educational facilities planning process that effectively anticipates MCPS educational facility needs and establishes a framework for making equitable and fiscally responsible facility decisions in an uncertain future, while considering instructional program priorities, physical condition of the schools, and the impact of under- or overutilized facilities on the educational program		
To promote public understanding of MCPS educational facilities planning processes and provide opportunities for stakeholders to engage in, inform, and respond to those processes		
To coordinate MCPS facilities planning processes with those of other units of local governments and municipalities in Montgomery County		
B.	BACKGROUND	
Educational facilities planning is essential to identify the infrastructure needed to ensure success for every student. The Board has primary responsibility to plan for educational facilities that sustain high-quality MCPS educational programs while effectively responding to changes in student enrollment, educational programming, and physical plant infrastructure.		

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- <https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/policy/pdf/faa.pdf>



Stakeholder Input (Section E)

- Use multiple strategies to obtain community input which may vary according to the nature, size, and scope of project
- Strategies may include, but not be limited to:
 - Focus groups
 - Task forces
 - Work groups
 - Roundtable discussion groups
 - Surveys
 - And other types of planning sessions

Stakeholder Input (Section E)

- Superintendent directs staff to develop options to change school boundaries
- Staff develops options for community input to reflect a range of approaches to advance factors and provide rational
- Seek input from multiple stakeholders to advise superintendent on staff-developed options

Policy Factors (Section G)

- Demographic Characteristics of Student Population
 - Analyses of options take into account the overall populations of affected schools
 - Options should especially strive to create a diverse student body
- Geography
 - Options should take into account the geographic proximity of communities to schools, as well as articulation, traffic, and transportation patterns, and topography

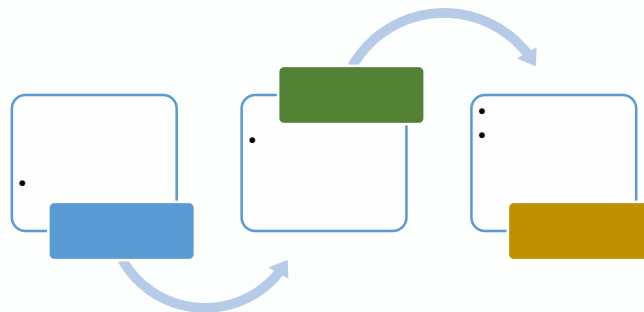
Policy Factors (Section G)

- Stability of School Assignment Over Time
 - Options should result in stable assignments for as long a period as possible and consider recent assignments
- Facility Utilization
 - Plans should result in facility utilization in 80-100% range over the long term, whenever possible.
 - Shared use of a facility by more than one cluster may be the most feasible plan in some cases
 - Plans should be fiscally responsible

Policy Factors (Section G)

- Superintendent will provide a rationale for each recommendation that demonstrates extent to which each factor is advanced
- While each factor will be considered, it may not be feasible to reconcile each and every recommendation with each and every factor.

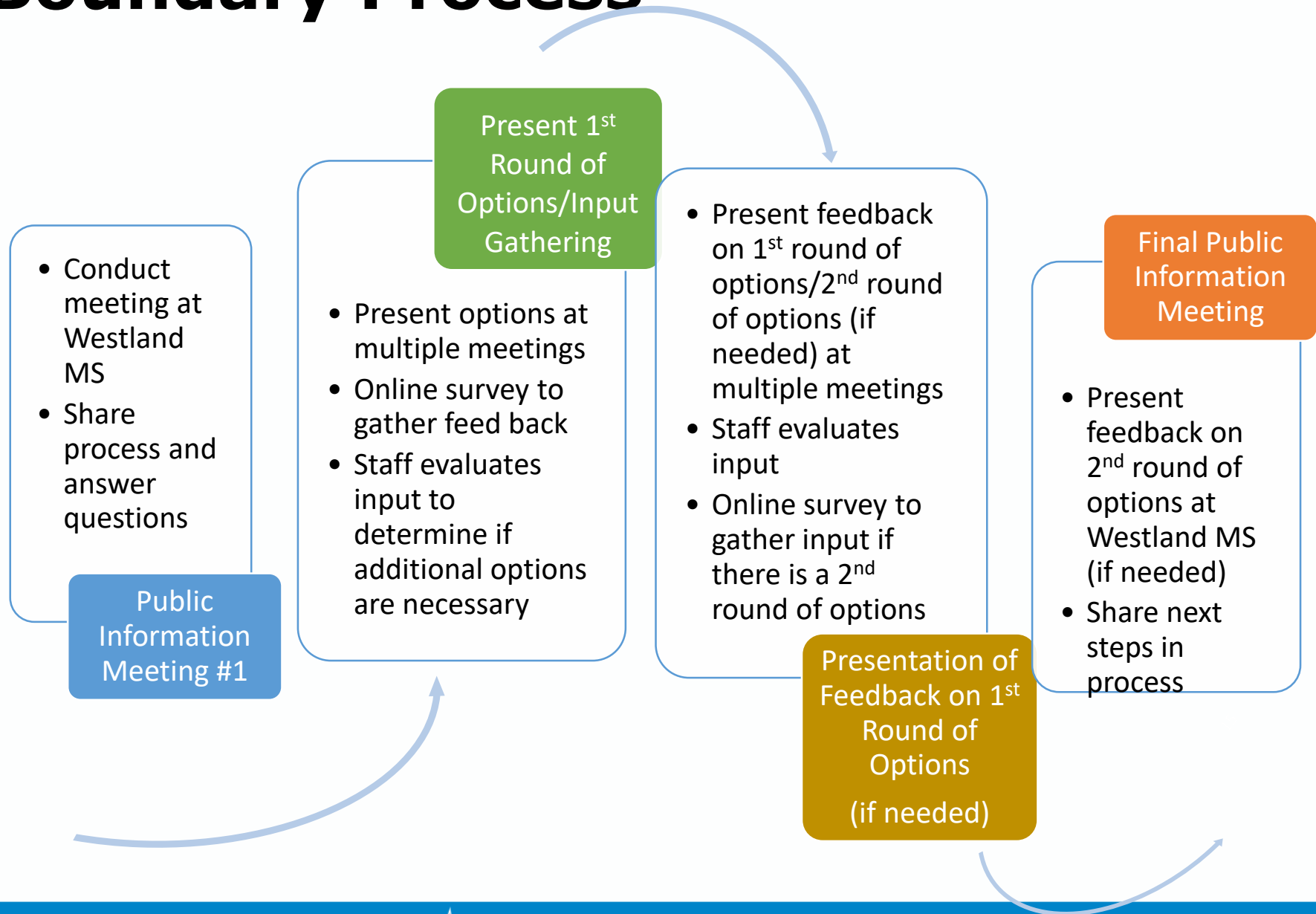
Boundary Process



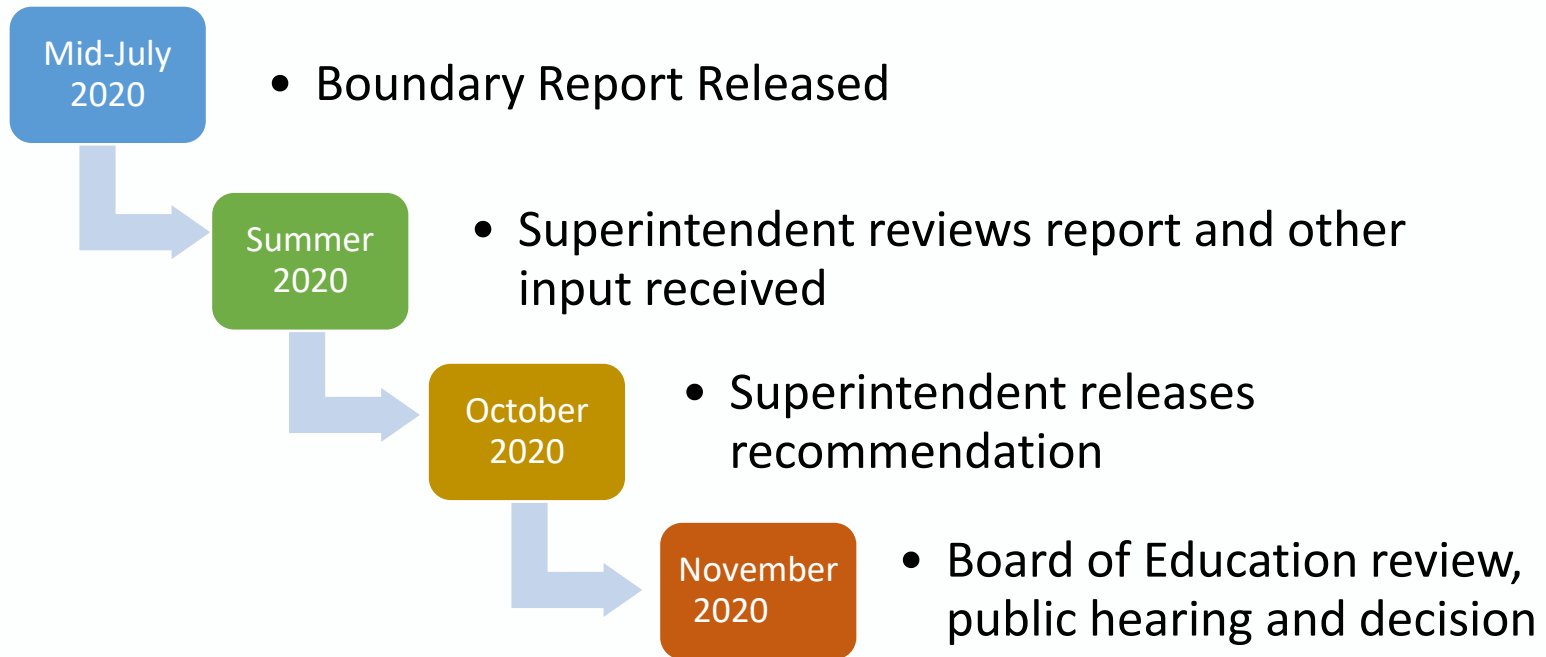
Process

- ☐ Broad outreach using multiple strategies for obtaining community input which may vary according to the nature, size, and scope of the project
- ☐ Policy factors used by staff to create options
- ☐ Online surveys
- ☐ Community meetings to gather input
- ☐ Video of meeting/questions
- ☐ Letters to superintendent
- ☐ Staff evaluation of online surveys

Boundary Process



Next Steps



Schedule of Meetings

Date	Action
January 6th	Public Information Meeting #1
January 8 th (snow date)	
January 30 th	Presentation of 1 st Round of Options
February 5 th	
February 6 th (snow date)	
February 18 th (if needed)	Presentation of 2 nd Round of Options
February 19 th (if needed)	
February 20 th (snow date)	
February 26th	Public Information Meeting #2
February 27 th (snow date)	

All meetings are 7:00–8:30 pm at Westland MS Cafeteria

Questions



Websites

- <https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/planning/SomersetWestbrookBoundaryStudy.aspx>
- <https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/boe/>