

MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Rockville, Maryland

November 16, 2015

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education
From: Philip Kauffman, Member of the Board of Education
Subject: Proposal for a Boundary Study for the Unity Area



Montgomery county residents of the Unity area, located in the northeast portion of the Laytonsville Elementary School service area, near the boundary of the Gaithersburg and Sherwood clusters, recently sent the Board of Education a petition requesting reassignment from Gaithersburg Cluster schools to Sherwood Cluster schools (see attached map of the Unity area). In response to that petition and my question, staff has provided the following useful information to the families that would be affected by this boundary change.

Most of the addresses listed on the petition are located along Flintridge Drive with a few others on Olanwood Court, Sundown Road, and Damascus Road. The current school assignments are Laytonsville Elementary School, Gaithersburg Middle School, and Gaithersburg High School.

The closest route to schools in the two clusters are as follows:

**Unity area to Gaithersburg
Cluster Schools**

To Laytonsville ES—4.6 miles
To Gaithersburg MS—10.7 miles
To Gaithersburg HS—11.6 miles

**Unity area to Sherwood
Cluster Schools**

To Belmont/Greenwood ES—5.5 miles
To Rosa M. Parks MS—5.6 miles
To Sherwood HS—7.8 miles

Student enrollment records indicate there are 18 students from the Unity area enrolled in the MCPS schools listed above:

- Laytonsville Elementary School—6 students
- Brooke Grove Elementary School—1 student
- Gaithersburg Middle School—4 students
- Rosa M. Parks Middle School—2 students
- William H. Farquhar Middle School—1 student
- Parkland Middle School—1 student
- Gaithersburg High School—1 student
- Sherwood High School—2 students

Based on this information, I would like a boundary study to review the school assignments for the Unity area. The reassignments would be to Greenwood Elementary School, Rosa M. Parks, and Sherwood High School. I anticipate that this study would take place beginning in the fall of 2016. I therefore offer the following resolutions:

Resolved, That the Board of Education initiates a boundary review process as part of the *Amended FY 2017–2022 Capital Improvements Program*, in the 2016–2017 school year to consider reassignment of the Unity area from Gaithersburg Cluster schools to Sherwood Cluster schools; and be it further

Resolved, That the area to be reviewed includes areas east of, but not including, Howard Chapel Road from the county border in the north to Hawlings River Regional Park (also known as Rachel Carson Conservation Park) in the south, and east to the boundary line between the Gaithersburg and Sherwood clusters.

Resolved, That the schedule for the boundary study include the boundary advisory committee process being conducted in fall 2016, followed by superintendent's recommendation in February 2017, followed by Board of Education work session, public hearing, and action in March or early April 2017.

PK:IRI:lsh

Attachment

