


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

November 16, 2015

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education

From: Larry A. Bowers, Interim Superintendent of Schools 

Subject: Rachel Carson Elementary School Overutilization

Rachel Carson Elementary School has faced space deficits for many years and is projected to exceed capacity by more than 300 students for the next six years. On November 17, 2014, the Board of Education authorized several studies to explore options to add capacity and address the overutilization of Rachel Carson Elementary School. Feasibility studies at Fields Road and Jones Lane elementary schools were conducted to determine if the capacity of these schools could be increased in order to relieve the overutilization at Rachel Carson Elementary School; the feasibility study for the revitalization/expansion project at DuFief Elementary School included options to increase the capacity to relieve the overutilization of Rachel Carson Elementary School. Last, an evaluation to construct a new elementary school in the Quince Orchard Cluster was considered.

WHEREAS, Enrollment levels at Rachel Carson Elementary School have resulted in space deficits for many years, and the school is projected to exceed capacity by more than 300 students for the next six years; and

WHEREAS, Feasibility studies were conducted during the 2014–2015 school year at DuFief, Fields Road, and Jones Lane elementary schools, as well as consideration of a new school in the Quince Orchard Cluster, to relieve the overutilization of Rachel Carson Elementary School in the future; and

WHEREAS, The current and projected enrollment at DuFief Elementary School falls below the desired range of enrollment of 450 students; and

WHEREAS, The interim superintendent of schools reviewed and carefully considered the possible options, costs of the possible options, the impact of new residential development, and input from the community on the possible options to relieve the overutilization of Rachel Carson Elementary School; and

WHEREAS, On October 15, 2015, the interim superintendent of schools submitted a recommendation to the Board of Education to increase the capacity of the DuFief Elementary School revitalization/expansion project to 740-student capacity in order to relieve the overutilization of Rachel Carson Elementary School; and

WHEREAS, On November 5, 2015, the Board of Education conducted a work session to consider the interim superintendent's recommendation to increase the capacity of the DuFief Elementary School revitalization/expansion project to 740-student capacity to relieve the overutilization of Rachel Carson Elementary School; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Education conducted public hearings on November 9 and 12, 2015, in accordance with Board of Education Policy FAA, *Long-range Educational Facilities Planning*, and Montgomery County Public Schools Regulation FAA-RA, *Long-range Educational Facilities Planning*, on the interim superintendent's recommendation; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the capacity of the DuFief Elementary School revitalization/expansion project be increased to 740 students to relieve the overutilization of Rachel Carson Elementary School; and be it further

Resolved, That, as part of the Fiscal Year 2017–2022 Capital Improvements Program, the budget for the DuFief Elementary School revitalization/expansion project be increased to include the additional capacity needed to relieve the overutilization of Rachel Carson Elementary School; and be it further

Resolved, That the reassignment of students from Rachel Carson Elementary School to DuFief Elementary School be timed to occur when the DuFief Elementary School revitalization/expansion project is completed and follow the community involvement process, as outlined in Montgomery County Public Schools Regulation FAA-RA, *Long-range Educational Facilities Planning*.

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