

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

November 16, 2015

AMENDED

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education

From: Larry A. Bowers, Interim Superintendent of Schools

Subject: Elementary School Overutilization in the Lower Portion of the Downcounty Consortium

On November 18, 2013, the Board of Education approved a capacity study to address overutilization in several elementary schools in the lower portion of the Downcounty Consortium. The study was conducted during the 2014–2015 school year. At that time, the enrollments at Forest Knolls, Highland View, Rolling Terrace, and Woodlin elementary schools were projected to exceed capacity by more than 92 seats. The following schools were included in the study:

pre-K/Grades K–5 Schools	Paired Schools
East Silver Spring Elementary School (pre-K–5)	Montgomery Knolls Elementary School (pre-K–2)
Forest Knolls Elementary School (pre-K–5)	New Hampshire Estates Elementary School (pre-K–2)
Highland View Elementary School (K–5)	Oak View Elementary School (3–5)
Rolling Terrace Elementary School (pre-K–5)	Pine Crest Elementary School (3–5)
Sligo Creek Elementary School (K–5)	Piney Branch Elementary School (3–5)
Woodlin Elementary School (K–5)	Takoma Park Elementary School (pre-K–2)

The capacity study explored ways to resolve the elementary school space deficits in the lower portion of the Downcounty Consortium that included the construction of classroom additions, the construction of a new school, or a combination of additions and a new school. At least one option was developed for each school—with the exception of Takoma Park and Piney Branch elementary schools. Two options were developed for each of the paired schools, one option

for the current grade configuration and a second option if the schools were unpaired and became pre-K/Grades K–5 schools.

WHEREAS, A capacity study was conducted during the 2014–2015 school year to explore options to relieve the overutilization of several elementary schools in the lower portion of the Downcounty Consortium; and

WHEREAS, The interim superintendent of schools reviewed and carefully considered the possible options, cost of the possible options, and input from the community to relieve the overutilization of several elementary schools in the lower portion of the Downcounty Consortium; and

WHEREAS, On October 15, 2015, the interim superintendent of schools submitted a recommendation to the Board of Education to construct additions at East Silver Spring, Montgomery Knolls, Pine Crest, Piney Branch, and Woodlin elementary schools to relieve the overutilization of several elementary schools in the lower portion of the Downcounty Consortium; and

WHEREAS; On November 5, 2015, the Board of Education conducted a work session to consider the interim superintendent's recommendation to construct additions to relieve the overutilization of several elementary schools in the lower portion of the Downcounty Consortium; 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 a classroom addition be constructed at East Silver Spring Elementary School to relieve the overutilization of Rolling Terrace Elementary School when the addition opens in August 2020; and be it further

Resolved, That classroom additions be constructed at Montgomery Knolls Elementary School, which serves prekindergarten through Grade 2 students; and Pine Crest Elementary School, which serves Grades 3 through 5 students, to relieve overutilization of Forest Knolls and Pine Crest elementary schools when the additions open in August 2020; and be it further

Resolved, That a classroom addition be constructed at Piney Branch Elementary School to relieve the overutilization of the school with a completion date of August 2021; and be it further

Resolved, That a classroom addition be constructed at Woodlin Elementary School to relieve the overutilization of the school with a completion date of August 2020; and be it further

Resolved, That a feasibility study be conducted to explore the possibility of opening an elementary school on the former Parkside Elementary School site, or another nearby former elementary school site, to relieve over-capacity at nearby schools; and be it further

Resolved, That the reassignment of students be timed to occur when the classroom addition projects are completed and follow the community involvement process as outlined in Montgomery County Public Schools Regulation FAA-RA, *Long-range Educational Facilities Planning*.

LAB:AMZ:JS:DS:bmr

