

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

November 18, 2021

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education

From: Monifa B. McKnight, Interim Superintendent of Schools

Subject: Supplement B—Interim Superintendent’s Recommendation for the Bethesda, Somerset, and Westbrook Elementary Schools Boundary Study

On May 21, 2020, the Montgomery County Council adopted the *FY 2021 Capital Budget and the FY 2021–2026 Capital Improvements Program* (CIP) for Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS). A classroom addition for Bethesda Elementary School was approved to address its space deficits. However, due to fiscal constraints, the Board of Education’s request to include funding for a 3-classroom shell build-out for Westbrook Elementary School to address the overutilization at Somerset Elementary School was not approved, with all expenditures for this project removed from the adopted CIP.

The *Board of Education’s Requested FY 2022 Capital Budget and Amendments to the FY 2021–2026 Capital Improvements Program*, released on November 1, 2020, eliminated funding for the Bethesda Elementary School addition project and added back the funding to the Westbrook Elementary School shell build-out project as part of an effort to address revenue shortfalls and take advantage of available capacity at Westbrook Elementary School.

On May 27, 2021, the County Council adopted the MCPS amended FY 2021–2026 CIP and approved the shell build-out project for Westbrook Elementary School, as requested by the Board of Education. As a result, the capacity at Westbrook Elementary school would increase to accommodate students from Bethesda and/or Somerset elementary schools.

On November 19, 2020, the Board of Education authorized a boundary study to explore school reassignments between Bethesda, Somerset, and Westbrook elementary schools (Resolution Nos. 514-20 and 515-20). Bethesda and Somerset elementary schools are projected to exceed capacity and Westbrook Elementary School will have available capacity throughout the six-year planning period. All three schools are part of the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Cluster and all three schools articulate to Westland Middle School and Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School; therefore, it was not necessary to include the middle or high schools in this boundary study.

WHEREAS, On November 19, 2020, the Board of Education authorized a boundary study to explore student reassignments between Bethesda, Somerset, and Westbrook elementary schools to address the overutilization of Bethesda and Somerset elementary schools (Resolution Nos. 514-20 and 515-20); and

WHEREAS, The boundary study process occurred from January to March 2021, to review nine staff-developed reassignment options for the Bethesda, Somerset, and Westbrook Elementary Schools Boundary Study; and

WHEREAS, In June 2021, a report was submitted to the Board of Education that summarized the boundary study process and the nine Montgomery County Public Schools' staff-developed reassignment options for the Bethesda, Somerset, and Westbrook Elementary Schools Boundary Study; and

WHEREAS, On October 25, 26, 28, and November 9, 2021, the Board of Education conducted work sessions on the *Superintendent's Recommended FY 2023 Capital Budget and the FY 2023–2028 Capital Improvements Program* including the Bethesda, Somerset, and Westbrook Elementary Schools Boundary Study; and

WHEREAS, On November 2, 4, and 8, 2021, 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 Recommended FY 2023 Capital Budget and FY 2023–2028 Capital Improvements Program* and related boundary studies; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the following reassignments be made as indicated on the attached map:

- Zones B3 and B8 from Bethesda Elementary School to Somerset Elementary School
- Zones S2, S3, S4, and S5 from Somerset Elementary School to Westbrook Elementary School;

and be it further

Resolved, That the boundary reassignments be phased beginning with Grades Kindergarten–4 students in the 2022–2023 school year, and Grades Kindergarten–5 students in the 2023–2024 school year.

MBM:ESD:SPA:AK:lmt:sr

Attachment

