

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 McKnight, Interim Superintendent of Schools

Subject: Supplement A—Interim Superintendent’s Recommendation for the Gaithersburg Cluster Elementary School #8 Boundary Study

On November 26, 2019, the Board of Education authorized a boundary study to determine the service area for Gaithersburg Cluster Elementary School #8 (Kelley Park site) (Resolution No. 583-19). All of the elementary schools in the Gaithersburg Cluster—Gaithersburg, Goshen, Laytonsville, Rosemont, Strawberry Knoll, Summit Hall, and Washington Grove elementary schools—were included in the boundary study. To evaluate the middle school articulation patterns, the scope of the boundary study also included Forest Oak and Gaithersburg middle schools. No high school boundary changes were included in the study as all of the elementary and middle schools articulate to Gaithersburg High School.

During discussions regarding the new Gaithersburg Cluster Elementary School #8, the community and several Board of Education members expressed a strong interest that the boundary study be initiated and completed earlier than usual, in advance of the school opening. Based on this input, the Board of Education approved that the boundary study occurs approximately 30 months prior to the opening of the new school (Resolution No. 583-19). A report was to be issued in fall 2020, with the Board of Education action on the superintendent’s recommendation in March 2021.

Based on this action, the boundary study began as scheduled in February 2020; however, as a result of the COVID-19 health pandemic, the study was paused in March 2020. The process resumed in early October 2020, with virtual meetings. The COVID-19 health pandemic affected the student enrollment for the 2020–2021 school year, particularly at the elementary school level. Although the recommendation for this boundary study was scheduled to have been released in January 2021, based on the impact on student enrollment, the Board of Education approved a delay to the boundary study action until November 2021 (Resolution No. 516-20).

As part of this delay, staff in the Division of Capital Planning and Real Estate were asked to present the boundary study report on March 9, 2021. The additional time allowed for a review of preliminary student enrollment for the 2021–2022 school year, as well as other relevant student enrollment and capacity information.

WHEREAS, In November 26, 2019, the Board of Education authorized Montgomery County Public Schools staff to conduct a boundary study to create the new service are for Gaithersburg Cluster Elementary School #8 (Resolution No. 583-19); and

WHEREAS, All of the elementary schools in the Gaithersburg Cluster—Gaithersburg, Goshen, Laytonsville, Strawberry Knolls, Summit Hall, Rosemont, and Washington Grove—were included in the boundary study; and

WHEREAS, To evaluate the middle school articulation patterns, the scope of the boundary study also included Forest Oak and Gaithersburg middle schools; and

WHEREAS, The community and several Board of Education members expressed a strong interest that the boundary study be initiated and completed earlier than usual; therefore, the Board of Education approved that the boundary study occur approximately 30 months prior to the opening of the new school, with a report issued in fall 2020, and Board of Education action on the superintendent's recommendation in March 2021; and

WHEREAS, The boundary study began as scheduled in February 2020; however, as a result of the COVID-19 health pandemic, the study was paused in March 2020 after two meetings and resumed with virtual meetings in early October 2020, and concluded in December 2020; and

WHEREAS, The COVID-19 health pandemic affected the student enrollment for the 2020–2021 school year, particularly at the elementary school level, and although the recommendation for this boundary study was to have been released in January 2021, based on the impact on student enrollment, the Board of Education approved a delay to the boundary study action until November 2021 (Resolution No. 516-20); and

WHEREAS, The report of the Gaithersburg Cluster Elementary School #8 Boundary Study was released in January 2021, followed by a presentation of the report to the Board of Education in March 2021; and

WHEREAS, On October 15, 2021, the interim superintendent of schools released the recommendation for the Gaithersburg Cluster Elementary School #8 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 Gaithersburg Cluster Elementary School #8 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:

To Gaithersburg Cluster Elementary School #8

- Reassign Zones GA1b, GA2, GA3, GA4, and GA5 from Gaithersburg Elementary School
- Reassign Zones R3, R5, R6, and R7 from Rosemont Elementary School
- Reassign Zone W2 from Washington Grove Elementary School

To Gaithersburg Elementary School

- Reassign Zones SK2 and SK3 from Strawberry Knoll Elementary School

To Rosemont Elementary School

- Reassign SU2, SU3, SU4, and SU5 from Summit Hall Elementary School

To Washington Grove Elementary School

- Reassign Zones R2, R4, and R9 from Rosemont Elementary School

To Forest Oak Middle School

- Assign Gaithersburg Cluster Elementary School #8

To Gaithersburg Middle School

- Reassign Washington Grove Elementary School from Forest Oak Middle School;

and be it further

Resolved, that the boundaries be implemented starting with Prekindergarten through Grade 4 beginning in the 2022–2023 school year, and that students in Grade 5 remain in their current elementary schools, followed by full implementation for grades Prekindergarten through Grade 5 in the 2023–2024 school year for the following zones:

- Zones GA1b, GA2, GA3, GA4, and GA5 from Gaithersburg Elementary School to Gaithersburg Cluster Elementary School #8
- Zones R3, R5, R6, and R7 from Rosemont Elementary School to Gaithersburg Cluster Elementary School #8
- Zones SK2 and SK3 from Strawberry Knoll Elementary School to Gaithersburg Elementary School
- Zones SU2, SU3, SU4, and SU5 from Summit Hall Elementary School to Rosemont Elementary School;

and be it further

Resolved, That Zone W2 students be reassigned from Washington Grove Elementary School to Gaithersburg Cluster Elementary School #8 beginning with Grades Prekindergarten and Kindergarten in the 2022–2023 school year, and that students in Grades 1 through 5 remain at Washington Grove Elementary School to finish the Two-way Language Immersion program, with full implementation to be completed in the 2026–2027 school year; and be it further

Resolved, That Zones R2, R4, and R9 students be reassigned from Rosemont Elementary School to Washington Grove Elementary School beginning with Grades Prekindergarten and Kindergarten in the 2022–2023 school year, with full implementation to be completed in the 2027–2028 school year; and be it further

Resolved, That for Grades 1–5 students from Rosemont Elementary School in Zones R2, R4, and R9 in the 2022–2023 school year, if they meet the language requirements for the Two-way Language Immersion program, students be reassigned to Washington Grove Elementary School; otherwise, these students remain at Rosemont Elementary School to finish at Rosemont Elementary School; and be it further

Resolved, That for students in Zones R2, R4, and R9 only that are reassigned to Washington Grove Elementary School, but do not meet the language requirement for the Two-way Language Immersion program, and therefore, remain at Rosemont Elementary School, will be given the choice of either Forest Oak Middle School or Gaithersburg Middle School when articulating to Grade 6; and be it further

Resolved, That for the middle schools, the boundary reassignments be implemented, beginning with Grade 6 and Grade 7 in the 2022–2023 school year and that students in Grade 8 remain in their current middle schools, followed by full implementation of Grades 6–8 in the 2023–2024 school year.

MBM:ESD:SPA:ALK:lmtSr

Attachments



