Somerset and Westbrook Elementary Schools Boundary Study

Process Overview
Division of Capital Planning
January 6, 2019
Agenda

• Board Resolution
• Projections and Seats Available
• Policy FAA
• Boundary Process
• Decision Making Process
• Adopted November 26, 2019
• Somerset ES overcrowded and enrollment projected to increase
• Capital project at Westbrook ES to increase capacity
  • build out of existing class shell
  • anticipated completion September 2021

• https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/planning/SomersetWestbrookBoundaryStudy.aspx
Board of Education Resolution

• To include Somerset and Westbrook elementary schools to relieve the overutilization at Somerset ES

• To be conducted in winter 2020 with the superintendent’s report submitted to the Board of Education by the end of the 2019–2020 school year

• Action by the Board of Education on the superintendent’s recommendation in November 2020
Map of Study Area
# Projections and Available Seats

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*Source: Office of Shared Accountability, Official Report of Enrollment by Grade and School; As of September 30, 2019*
Policy FAA
Educational Facilities Planning

A. PURPOSE
To affirm the Montgomery County Board of Education’s commitment to continuing to provide high-quality facilities that support the educational programming needed to ensure that every Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) student is well-prepared for success consistent with the Board’s core values of Learning, Relationships, Respect, Excellence, and Equity.

To establish an educational facilities planning process that effectively anticipates MCPS educational facility needs and establishes a framework for making equitable and fiscally responsible facility decisions in an uncertain future, while considering instructional program priorities, physical condition of the schools, and the impact of under- or overutilized facilities on the educational program.

To promote public understanding of MCPS educational facilities planning processes and provide opportunities for stakeholders to engage in, inform, and respond to those processes.

To coordinate MCPS facilities planning processes with those of other units of local government agencies and municipalities in Montgomery County.

B. BACKGROUND
Educational facilities planning is essential to identify the infrastructure needed to ensure success for every student. The Board has primary responsibility to plan for educational facilities that sustain high-quality MCPS educational programs while effectively responding to changes in student enrollment, educational programming, and physical plant infrastructure.

Stakeholder Input (Section E)

• Use multiple strategies to obtain community input which may vary according to the nature, size, and scope of project.

• Strategies may include, but not be limited to:
  • Focus groups
  • Task forces
  • Work groups
  • Roundtable discussion groups
  • Surveys
  • And other types of planning sessions
Stakeholder Input (Section E)

• Superintendent directs staff to develop options to change school boundaries

• Staff develops options for community input to reflect a range of approaches to advance factors and provide rational

• Seek input from multiple stakeholders to advise superintendent on staff-developed options
Policy Factors (Section G)

- Demographic Characteristics of Student Population
  - Analyses of options take into account the overall populations of affected schools
  - Options should especially strive to create a diverse student body

- Geography
  - Options should take into account the geographic proximity of communities to schools, as well as articulation, traffic, and transportation patterns, and topography
Policy Factors (Section G)

• Stability of School Assignment Over Time
  • Options should result in stable assignments for as long a period as possible and consider recent assignments

• Facility Utilization
  • Plans should result in facility utilization in 80-100% range over the long term, whenever possible.
  • Shared used of a facility by more than cluster may be the most feasible plan in some cases
  • Plans should be fiscally responsible
Policy Factors (Section G)

• Superintendent will provide a rationale for each recommendation that demonstrates extent to which each factor is advanced.

• While each factor will be considered, it may not be feasible to reconcile each and every recommendation with each and every factor.
Boundary Process
## Process

- Broad outreach using multiple strategies for obtaining community input which may vary according to the nature, size, and scope of the project
- Policy factors used by staff to create options
- Online surveys
- Community meetings to gather input
- Video of meeting/questions
- Letters to superintendent
- Staff evaluation of online surveys
Boundary Process

Public Information Meeting #1
- Conduct meeting at Westland MS
- Share process and answer questions

Present 1st Round of Options/Input Gathering
- Present options at multiple meetings
- Online survey to gather feedback
- Staff evaluates input to determine if additional options are necessary

Present feedback on 1st round of options/2nd round of options (if needed) at multiple meetings
- Staff evaluates input
- Online survey to gather input if there is a 2nd round of options

Presentation of Feedback on 1st Round of Options (if needed)
- Present feedback on 2nd round of options at Westland MS (if needed)
- Share next steps in process

Final Public Information Meeting
Next Steps

- Boundary Report Released
- Superintendent reviews report and other input received
- Superintendent releases recommendation
- Board of Education review, public hearing and decision
## Schedule of Meetings

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Action</th>
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<tr>
<td>January 6th</td>
<td>Public Information Meeting #1</td>
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<td>January 30&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Presentation of 1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; Round of Options</td>
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All meetings are 7:00–8:30 pm at Westland MS Cafeteria
Questions
Websites

• [https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/planning/SomersetWestbrookBoundaryStudy.aspx](https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/planning/SomersetWestbrookBoundaryStudy.aspx)

• [https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/boe/](https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/boe/)