

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

February 15, 2023

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education

From: Monifa B. McKnight, Superintendent of Schools

Subject: Silver Spring International Middle School Building Issues (1-24-2023-01)

During the Operating Budget Work Session, Board members requested the following information:

Question

Ms. Wolff asked staff to visit Silver Spring International Middle School and assess the real issues on the inside of the building.

Response

The Office of District Operations coordinated additional support to Silver Spring International Middle School (SSIMS) to address many of the concerns articulated by the Board of Education and community members.

During the last three weeks, Mrs. Dana E. Edwards, chief of district operations, and staff in the departments of Facilities Management, Systemwide Safety and Emergency Management, Materials Management, and Transportation, along with Dr. Peter O. Moran, area associate superintendent of school support and well-being visited SSIMS several times. A strategic long-term operational plan has been developed which increases transparency and ongoing support with school administration.

To support creating smoother operations and attending to immediate facility concerns, the following steps were/are being taken:

- an additional security assistant was allocated for the remainder of the school year;
- security assistants actively are supporting class transition and have identified post stations in the hallway;
- extensive cleaning is occurring in common areas and will continue into next week;
- materials were organized and stored properly;
- new signage will be created and installed throughout the campus;

- additional support for coordinating the breakfast program; and
- analyzed arrival and dismissal times to make recommendations to increase safety including placement of crossing guards.

Lastly, this summer, construction will begin on the new gymnasium, the security vestibule, and widening the doorway for identified stairwells. The gymnasium will be an 18-month project. We continue to advocate on behalf of our students to ensure the Purple Line is as minimally disruptive as possible to this school community. Mrs. Edwards and Dr. Moran will continue to provide additional support and monitor upcoming projects throughout the remainder of the year.

If you have questions, please contact Mrs. Edwards via email.

MBM:MBH:DEE:lh

Copy to:

Executive Staff

Mr. Adams

Mr. Clarke

Ms. Dubois

Mr. Salois

Ms. Webb