

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

November 27, 2017

BOE RES #

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MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education

From: Jack R. Smith, Superintendent of Schools

Subject: Superintendent's Recommended FY 2019 Capital Budget and the
FY 2019–2024 Capital Improvements Program

WHEREAS, In accordance with §5-306 of the Annotated Code of Maryland, the superintendent of schools released the *Superintendent's Recommended FY 2019 Capital Budget and the FY 2019–2024 Capital Improvements Program* on October 23, 2017; and

WHEREAS, In accordance with the Montgomery County charter and the biennial Capital Improvements Program process, in odd-numbered fiscal years, such as Fiscal Year 2019, all capital improvement projects will be reviewed and considered by the county executive and the County Council; and

WHEREAS, The County Council adopted the Spending Affordability Guidelines for the General Obligation bonds used to fund a significant portion of the county's Capital Improvements Program, and the adopted Spending Affordability Guidelines reduced General Obligation bonds during the six-year period by \$180 million, which will have a significant impact on the level of General Obligation bonds available to Montgomery County Public Schools; and

WHEREAS, In the context of being both fiscally prudent and attentive to the significant capacity and infrastructure needs that Montgomery County Public Schools is experiencing, the *Superintendent's Recommended FY 2019 Capital Budget and the FY 2019–2024 Capital Improvements Program* totals \$1.818 billion, an increase of \$74 million more than the approved Capital Improvements Program and addresses many critical capacity and aging infrastructure needs; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Education received a presentation on the superintendent's recommendations for all capital and noncapital items for the *FY 2019 Capital Budget and the FY 2019–2024 Capital Improvements Program* on October 23, 2017, and these recommendations include a total of 30 capacity projects during the next six-year planning period:

- Eleven previously approved elementary school addition projects and four new elementary school addition projects;
- Three new elementary schools—two in the Clarksburg Cluster and one in the Richard Montgomery Cluster;

- Four previously approved middle school addition projects and two new middle school addition projects;
- Two previously approved and two new high school addition projects; and
- The opening and reopening of two new high schools;

and

WHEREAS, In order to address the overutilization in the Downcounty Consortium and the Walter Johnson Cluster, the recommended Fiscal Year 2017–2024 Capital Improvements Program includes an expansion of Northwood High School to accommodate a 2,700 student capacity, as well as reconfiguration and upgrade of existing spaces and building systems; and

WHEREAS, The overutilization in the Downcounty Consortium and the Walter Johnson Cluster will require more than one major high school project; the recommended Fiscal Year 2019–2024 Capital Improvements Program includes the reopening of the former Charles W. Woodward High School to accommodate a proposed 2,700 student capacity; and

WHEREAS, To ensure sufficient high school capacity in the Downcounty Consortium and the Walter Johnson Cluster areas, the recommended Fiscal Year 2019–2024 Capital Improvements Program includes an addition at John F. Kennedy High School; and

WHEREAS, To address the overutilization at multiple mid-county high schools, the recommended Fiscal Year 2019–2024 Capital Improvements Program includes a new high school on the Crown Farm site in the City of Gaithersburg; and

WHEREAS, An expanded scope for the approved addition at Col. E. Brooke Lee Middle School is recommended to address infrastructure and system upgrades while construction is on-site to make better use of fiscal resources; and

WHEREAS, The recommended Fiscal Year 2019–2024 Capital Improvements Program includes an addition and facility upgrades to DuFief Elementary School to accommodate the students from Rachel Carson Elementary School and will require an expansion of the building, as well as reconfiguration of existing spaces and upgrades to building systems; and

WHEREAS, The recommended Fiscal Year 2019–2024 Capital Improvements Program includes increases in systemic projects such as Roof Replacement; Planned Life-cycle Asset Replacement; and Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning Replacement to address the backlog of our aging infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, Efforts to reposition the Capital Improvements Program and facility planning processes within the context of the changing student enrollment, land use, and population dynamics are under way to align with the “new normal” in Montgomery County; and

WHEREAS, A primary focus of this work is to ensure that the Capital Improvements Program is both a robust plan for the immediate future and sufficiently flexible to respond appropriately when conditions change; and

WHEREAS, The recommended Fiscal Year 2019–2024 Capital Improvements Program reflects the initial result of this work and represents a transition period in some of the facility planning efforts; and

WHEREAS, Student enrollment forecasting is a key element of the facility planning process and an evaluation is under way to review the current student enrollment forecasting methodology and to identify best practices that can inform the approach to student enrollment projections going forward; and

WHEREAS, A result of this evaluation may lead to the issuance of updated student enrollment projections later this year as part of the spring amendments, but is not anticipated to significantly affect the recommended Capital Improvements Program project schedules; and

WHEREAS, Efforts also are under way to review the revitalization/expansion program to develop a multi-variable approach to determine the prioritization of large-scale renovations, to create flexibility with respect to these major capital projects, and to include consideration of instructional program priorities and the impact of overutilization; and

WHEREAS, The Montgomery County Public Schools' Materials Management Warehouse serves the critical mission of storing and delivering necessary educational materials to all schools and offices and is in need of replacement of building system and infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, With the aging conditions of the Materials Management Warehouse building and storage the surrounding neighborhood community has expressed concerns and requested Montgomery County Public Schools to consider relocation; and

WHEREAS, The City of Gaithersburg has approved or is in the process of approving significant development and has expressed interest in working with Montgomery County Public Schools to meet student enrollment needs; and

WHEREAS, the Walter Johnson Cluster has experienced significant student enrollment increases during the past ten years, driven by the turnover of existing homes to new families as well as new housing development; and

WHEREAS, Projections indicate that student enrollment at the elementary school level will continue to increase in the future, requiring another elementary school in the Walter Johnson Cluster area; and

WHEREAS, Technical adjustments to the FY 2019 Capital Budget appropriation were required to align with construction schedules and were incorporated in Attachment A; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Education received a presentation on the superintendent's recommendations for all capital and noncapital items for the *FY 2019 Capital Budget and the FY 2019–2024 Capital Improvements Program* on October 23, 2017; conducted two work sessions on November 2 and 14, 2017; and held three public hearings on November 6, 8, and 16, 2017; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board of Education amend the superintendent of schools' recommendation and approve a Fiscal Year 2019 Capital Budget appropriation request totaling \$385,685,000 and a Fiscal Year 2019–2024 Capital Improvements Program request totaling \$1.830 billion, as indicated in Attachment A; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board of Education approve the revised Fiscal Year 2019 State Capital Improvements Program request in the amount of \$118,201,000, as indicated in Attachment B; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board of Education approve the individual capital and noncapital items included in the *Superintendent's Recommended FY 2019 Capital Budget and the FY 2019–2024 Capital Improvements Program*; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board of Education approve an amendment in the amount of \$12 million to initiate site selection and acquisition as well as planning for options to relocate the Materials Management Warehouse, and that the superintendent of schools be authorized to begin negotiations contingent on Montgomery County Council approval of this funding; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board of Education approve an amendment that Montgomery County Public Schools' staff incorporate the Quince Orchard Cluster into the Growth Management Plan process being developed for other regions of the school district, and collaborate with the City of Gaithersburg to identify future elementary school sites through the development planning process within the City of Gaithersburg; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board of Education approve an amendment to convene a roundtable to begin planning for the new high school on the Crown Farm site in the City of Gaithersburg to include, but not be limited to, the following clusters: Gaithersburg, Richard Montgomery, Quince Orchard, and Thomas S. Wootton; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board of Education approve an amendment to conduct a site selection process to identify the location for a new elementary school in the Walter Johnson Cluster, and that this site selection process be conducted in accordance with Montgomery County Public Schools Regulation FAA-RA, *Long-Range Educational Facilities Planning*; and be it further

Resolved, That a site selection study convene in spring 2018 to identify the location for a new elementary school in the Walter Johnson Cluster; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the county executive and the County Council.

JRS:AMZ:JS:ak

Attachments