MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Rockville, Maryland

January 8, 2013

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education

From: Patricia B. O’Neill, Member

Subject: Access Control Systems in Elementary Schools

Montgomery County Public Schools has security plans in place for all schools and facilities in case of an emergency in or around the site. We also have a districtwide emergency plan that is activated if there is an emergency situation that involves several schools or is needed because of an emergency that involves a large geographical area. School and central services staff have received training on what is expected of them during an emergency, and emergency drills are conducted throughout the year.

The Fiscal Year (FY) 2009–2014 Capital Improvements Program included a School Securities System Project that provides new and replacement Closed Caption Television (CCTV) systems for all secondary schools, Visitor Management Systems for all schools, and Access Control Systems (ACS) for elementary schools. There are 47 elementary schools, including holding schools, which do not currently have ACS installed. Twenty-one of these schools were funded in FY 2013, and these systems will be installed within the next six weeks. Funds for ACSs in the remaining 26 schools are included in the FY 2014 funding.

The ACS is installed on two doors of each elementary school. It consists of exterior cameras located near the entrances, a computer monitor in the main office, an intercom system, and a remote strike release. When a visitor(s) comes to a school, there is a sign directing the individual to push the button on the intercom. This activates the camera so that the main office staff can see the visitor. The secretary then asks the visitor to identify himself or herself and to state the purpose of the visit. The secretary then can push the remote strike release to open the door and instructs the visitor to report directly to the main office to sign in. If the secretary is not sure of the identity of the visitor or the reason for the visit, someone must go to the door to meet the visitor and verify the reason for the visit before admitting or turning the visitor away. Schools instruct staff and students on not opening doors or allowing visitors to follow them into the building.

WHEREAS, In 2008, the Board of Education approved a School Securities System Project in the Fiscal Year 2009–2014 Capital Improvements Program; and

WHEREAS, This School Securities System Project included funding to install Access Control Systems in all elementary schools over the six-year period; and

WHEREAS, There is funding in Fiscal Year 2014 to install Access Control Systems in 26 schools, which will complete installation in all elementary schools; and

WHEREAS, There is an interest in moving this Fiscal Year 2014 funding forward so that Access Control Systems installation can be completed by June 30, 2013; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board of Education requests the Montgomery County Council move $364,000 of funding from Fiscal Year 2014 to Fiscal Year 2013 in the School Securities System Project in the Capital Improvements Program to complete installation of Access Control Systems in elementary schools by June 30, 2013; and be it further

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

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