

MCPS Planning Efforts Related to Capital Projects That Impact Rockville

A number of feasibility studies examining options for adding capacity in the Richard Montgomery Cluster took place during the 2010-2011 school year. The following information provides a status update.

Richard Montgomery Elementary School #5 Feasibility Study

MCPS convened an advisory committee to study the feasibility of locating the new RMES #5 at the former Hungerford Park Elementary site. The Committee met five times between February 28 and May 12, 2011. The Feasibility Study Advisory Committee and community members voted in strong support for the "school only" option, and did not support options that include the co-location of programs associated with the County's Children's Resource Center (CRC).

During the summer, MCPS staff and their architectural consultant developed a draft feasibility study report for the Superintendent that provides an analysis of all options considered, and includes the Committee's recommendation. MCPS staff expects to release the final feasibility study report in September 2011. The Superintendent and his staff will use the report to develop design and construction cost estimates for the FY13-18 CIP. Staff will share the final feasibility study report with the Mayor and Council as soon as it is available.

In February 2011, the first meeting of the Cross-Agency Resource Sharing (CARS) Committee was held, and included the directors of the Montgomery County Government agencies, MNCPPC, Montgomery College, WSSC and MCPS. The charge of the committee is to collaborate across agencies to address long term budget issues, reduce cost, increase efficiency, and provide better services to County residents. It is through the CARS effort that the co-location designs were incorporated into two of the options for the school site.

In late July 2011, City staff attended a meeting with Montgomery County Department of General Services, MCPS and PTA representatives to discuss concerns with the RMES#5 options that involve the co-location of the school with the Children's Resource Center. County staff asked questions and considered how they might alleviate concerns. The meeting concluded with the PTA representative agreeing to pole the other PTA leaders about their interest in meeting with the County and MCPS again to reconsider the co-location option. On September 1, the PTA Cluster Coordinators reported that the current and former PTA officers remain opposed to co-loction of the elementary school and CRC and do not feel that another meeting is necessary. City staff contacted the County Director of General Services to ascertain how he plans to proceed. A possible site that was mentioned for the relocation of the CRC services is the Lone Oak site on Grandin Avenue in Silver Rock.

Other Richard Montgomery Cluster Feasibility Studies

MCPS has also conducted feasibility studies at Ritchie Park ES, Beall ES, Twinbrook ES, and Julius West MS. According to the most recent MCPS Capital Projects Status Report (dated July 22, 2011) the feasibility study reports for Beall, Twinbrook, and Julius West are under review and should be completed in the fall 2011. The report for the Ritchie Park ES school addition was completed in the 2010-2011 school year.