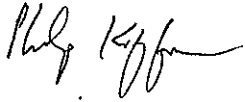


MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Rockville, Maryland

April 8, 2016

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education

From: Philip Kauffman, Member of the Board of Education 

Subject: Interim Solution for the Shady Grove Transportation Depot

In the past several weeks, the Board of Education has received correspondence from several community members who are concerned about the impact of the proposed parking of one hundred buses at the Carver Educational Services Center (CESC) on Route 355 and Manatee Street as a result of the need to vacate the Shady Grove Transportation Depot. As Board members know, the decision to vacate the existing Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) Shady Grove Transportation Depot was made by the county government. Although the developer of the Shady Grove site was required to identify a site for MCPS use, this did not occur. At this time, MCPS must be off that site by January 2017, unless the County Council delays the action. Our staff has been working diligently to identify interim solutions to comply with the January 2017 deadline imposed on us by the county government to accommodate development of the Shady Grove site. On February 9, 2016, the County Council approved the Board's request of \$1,725,000 for a supplemental appropriation to the Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 capital budget and amendments to the FY 2015–2020 capital improvements program for the parking lot modification work at CESC to accommodate bus parking. The Board will be acting in the future on an Award of Contract for the parking lot modifications, as Board of Education approval is required prior to proceeding with construction activities. MCPS staff will work with the City of Rockville to evaluate and engineer designs for stormwater management, traffic flow, and other construction related work to the parking lot before the Board will vote on final approval awarding the contract for construction to begin.

The community members who have written to us have shared legitimate concerns, and it is appropriate for us to pause and consider the input we have received. Board Policy ABA, *Community Involvement*, reflects our commitment to consider community comments regarding the development of MCPS decisions. Even though the short term plan appears to be on track, I believe Board members still have discomfort about the absence of a long-term viable solution for the replacement of the Shady Grove Transportation Depot, which is necessitating the use of the CESC lot for temporary bus parking. Indeed at the December 8, 2015, Board meeting, we had several questions about the interim plan. I expressly questioned whether MCPS was coordinating with the City of Rockville because I was concerned about the impact of putting 100 buses at that site. And, given the concerns expressed by the community, it is important that the Board,

working with the interim superintendent of schools, reach out to the community with detailed communications and information on the implications for the use of the CESC property and structural efforts to ameliorate cosmetic, structural, environmental and traffic impacts of utilizing the front parking lot for buses. We also need to reassure them that if the school district decides to use the CESC parking lot for the buses, it will be for only a defined short term, pending the final solution to the relocation of the entire Shady Grove Transportation Depot.

It is equally as important that we work with the county executive and the County Council to further explore all interim and final options in consultation with our community and the City of Rockville. The Board should urge the county executive and the County Council that until an interim and final solution is agreed upon, the current Shady Grove Transportation Depot should not be released for its new intended use. I realize that the Board voted to use the CESC parking lot on an interim basis for limited bus parking, but it is only fair that we take into consideration the community's concerns. At our next Board meeting on April 19, 2016, I will be bringing up this issue as a new business item which will recommend that the Board write a letter to the county executive and the County Council requesting that the Council delay their Declaration of No Further Need on the Shady Grove Transportation Depot until all concerns identified in this memorandum are clarified and resolved. This would include the identification of both the interim and final solutions to our transportation depot situation, with a timeline and associated Capital Improvements Program funding identified for the permanent solution. Under our procedures, given the urgency of the situation, it is my hope that if all Board members are present and with a unanimous vote, we can act on the new business item at the same meeting it is introduced.

PK:IRI:lsh

Copy to:

Mr. Leggett
Members of the Montgomery County Council
Mr. Bowers
Dr. Navarro
Dr. Statham
Dr. Zuckerman
Ms. Ferrell
Mr. Song
Mr. Ikheloa