

## Thoughts on Advocacy:

### Information below includes:

- 1) When to Advocate
- 2) Contact Information
- 3) East Bethesda Talking Points

### 1) When to Advocate:

You can advocate to officials at anytime, but it is usually best to do so about a month before they are making a decision on your area of interest.

The link below is to the **Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) planning calendar for the FY 2011–2016 Capital Improvements Program (CIP)**.

[http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/planning/PDF/CIP11\\_PlanningCalendar.pdf](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/planning/PDF/CIP11_PlanningCalendar.pdf)

Final decisions for issues discussed at the Bethesda-Chevy Chase (B-CC) Roundtable will likely be made in the FY 2012 CIP or FY 2013 CIP- MCPS has not posted the FY 2012 planning calendar yet - the dates will be similar - just add a year (or two).

There are many decision points associated with the Roundtable issues – I've highlighted some below along with contact information and some talking points for East Bethesda.

#### 1) **Public Information Meeting Thursday, May 27, 2010:**

The B-CC Roundtable approaches and report will be posted at the web site below before May 27, 2010.

[http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/planning/CommunityInfo\\_Roundtable.shtml](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/planning/CommunityInfo_Roundtable.shtml)

The Roundtable representatives are charged with bringing their schools parent's position to MCPS, so contact the representatives for the school that your child attends to provide input to be considered in the report.

If you don't have children at school , you can attend the May 27th meeting and provide input, or you can send something directly to the MCPS Superintendent, or the Board of Education (BOE).

I would encourage East Bethesda residents to attend the May 27th meeting to hear the Roundtable report, and to let MCPS know this is an issue of importance to our community.

Public Information Meeting  
Bethesda-Chevy Chase Cluster Roundtable Discussion Group  
7600 Arlington Road, Bethesda MD

Multipurpose Room  
Thursday, May 27, 2010  
7:30–9:00 pm

## 2) MCPS Superintendent's Roundtable and CIP Recommendations (October 2010):

The superintendent's recommendation on the Roundtable approaches to the BOE will be released in mid-October 2010 and will be posted on the Roundtable web site.

The superintendent will publish recommendations for the FY 2012 CIP and capital budget to the BOE in late October 2010. Recommendation will likely focus on:

- a) Whether to move 6<sup>th</sup> grades at North Chevy Chase (NCC) and/or Chevy Chase Elementary Schools to Westland Middle School. This would not require a boundary study and could be implemented as soon as August 2011.
- b) Establishing a boundary study for East Bethesda (and Paddington Square) to examine elementary schools assignments.
- c) Which B-CC cluster Elementary schools might get additions. The superintendent may defer this recommendation until after the elementary boundary study.
- d) Whether to open a new elementary and/or middle school in the B-CC Cluster.

## 3) MCPS Board of Education (BOE) CIP Decisions and Boundary Changes (November 2010 – March 2011):

The superintendent makes recommendations on the issues; the BOE makes decisions concerning school assignments, additions and opening new schools; the County Council makes final decisions on the MCPS budget. Likely Roundtable issue timeframes are listed below,

- a) The BOE is likely to make a decision on **whether to move 6<sup>th</sup> graders at NCC and CC to Westland MS** in the FY 2012 CIP action at the end of November 2010. This does not require a boundary change.
- b) **The reassignment of East Bethesda for elementary school** requires a boundary change. The BOE is likely to recommend a boundary study for East Bethesda (and Paddington Square) in the FY 2012 CIP action at the end of November 2010. The BOE will likely recommend a winter boundary study.
  - A winter Boundary Study would occur between December 2010 and February 2011.
  - The Superintendent makes his recommendation on winter boundary changes in mid-February 2011, and
  - BOE decisions in March 2011.
- c) **B-CC cluster elementary schools additions and new schools.** If the BOE decides to open a new middle school or elementary school, a boundary study will be necessary. The boundary study could be conducted in winter 2010 for the FY 2012 CIP, or Fall 2011 for the FY 2013 CIP.

4) The implementation of reassignments may need to wait until **additions** (earliest completion August 2014) or **new schools** (earliest completion August 2016). Funding will also need to be in the Capital budget. The BOE sends their recommended capital budget to County Executive who then proposes the budget to the County Council. The County Council approves the CIP and the corresponding MCPS Budget. The State also contributes funding to Montgomery County for capital projects.

Opening a new school and building additions requires capital funding for schools in the budget. You can advocate to for funding for additions and new schools in the Capital Budget to:

- MCPS superintendent (October),
- BOE (November),
- County Executive (January),
- State Legislators (State budget - April), and
- County Council (May)

Advocating for capital funding for schools in any year will improve the chance that our cluster will receive needed funding.

## **2) Contact Information:**

### **MCPS Superintendent of Schools:**

Dr. Jerry D Weast  
Superintendent of Schools  
Carver Educational Services Center  
850 Hungerford Drive, Room 122  
Rockville, MD 20850  
Fax: 301-279-3205  
E-mail: [Suzanne\\_Peang-Meth@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Suzanne_Peang-Meth@mcpsmd.org)

### **Board of Education (BOE):**

MCPS Board Of Education President Patricia O'Neill  
Carver Educational Services Center  
850 Hungerford Drive, Room 123, Rockville, Maryland 20850;  
Phone: 301-320-7600; Fax: 301-279-3860;  
E-mail: [boe@mcpsmd.org](mailto:boe@mcpsmd.org) (E-mail sent to this address will be automatically copied to all Board members).

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/boe/>

### **County Executive:**

Montgomery County Executive Ike Leggett  
Executive Office Building  
101 Monroe Street, 2nd Floor  
Rockville, MD 20850

(240) 777-2500 FAX: (240) 777-2517  
Email: <mailto:ocemail@montgomerycountymd.gov>

<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/govtml.asp?url=/content/exec/welcome.asp>

### **County Council:**

Montgomery County Council  
Stella B. Werner Council Office Building  
100 Maryland Avenue  
Rockville, MD 20850  
(240) 777-7900 FAX: (240) 777-7989  
Email: [county.council@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:county.council@montgomerycountymd.gov)  
Current County Council President: Nancy Floreen

<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cshtml.asp?url=/content/council/index.asp>

### **State Legislators: State Legislators:**

Website <http://mlis.state.md.us/>

The link below is to Montgomery College's Office of Government Relations web site. It includes contact information for state legislators. Advocate to state legislators for funding for MCPS capital projects. In addition, the " Advocacy Tips" webpage is a great resource with tips for writing letters and making phone calls to elected officials.

Montgomery College Advocacy Resource:  
<http://cms.montgomerycollege.edu/EDU/Department2.aspx?id=7166>

## **3) East Bethesda Talking Points:**

Below I have included advocacy points focused on reassignment of East Bethesda for Elementary School.

East Bethesda has lived with a fractured elementary school situation for almost 30 years. We strongly believe that this situation is unfair to our children and to the entire community. We hope and encourage you to support us in our effort to get an equitable, consistent articulation pattern to Westland Middle School for our children.

We look forward to working with the Board, MCPS and the B-CC Cluster to expeditiously develop a long-term solution for growing cluster elementary enrollment, and to deal with our community's inconsistent articulation pattern, during these difficult fiscal times.

East Bethesda Community Elementary School Preferences Survey:

- Less than 3% of our community prefers our assigned school track of Rosemary Hills K-2 then Bethesda ES 3-5
- About 67%, prefer Bethesda ES from kindergarten to 5th grade as the assigned school track for our community

- We ask that you take these community preferences into account when making policy decisions and elementary school assignment concerning our community.

We respectfully ask the Board to accelerate the plan of action to review student assignments, address shortfalls in classroom space at these schools, and to ease our community's transition while we wait for what we hope will be a change in our assigned elementary schools. Specifically we ask:

1) The BOE direct MCPS to review of student assignments for Easy Bethesda and programming for additions in FY2010. If that is not feasible, we request the Board ask MCPS to provide a report on options to accelerate the boundary review to occur as soon as possible to include phasing in of assignment changes and additions.

2) The BOE direct MCPS to reinstate the option to request transfers to Bethesda ES in kindergarten for students who are assigned to Bethesda Es for grades 3 to 5 while we await the boundary review. The BOE has allowed the flexible transfer option above for 2nd graders at Rosemary Hills in paired schools, it seems reasonable that you would allow kindergarten transfers for those assigned to Bethesda for grades 3 to 5 as a paired school.

3) The BOE and MCPS work with East Bethesda and the B-CC Cluster, to ease the transition to new assignments and to deal with our current awkward articulation pattern, with the goal of keeping families together and developing options to mitigate issues such as the differing bus schedules at Rosemary Hills and Bethesda ES.

Thank you, we appreciate your attention to the concerns we have raised this evening, we hope you will act on our requests, and we look forward to working with MCPS and the Board of Education to implement these projects to meet the educational needs of our children.