



8305 Kentucky Avenue
Bethesda, Maryland 20814

June 23, 2010

Jerry D. Weast, Superintendent
Montgomery County Public Schools
Carver Educational Services Center
850 Hungerford Drive
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Subject: Bethesda-Chevy Chase (B-CC) Roundtable Discussion Group

Dear Dr. Weast:

The East Bethesda Citizens Association (EBCA), established in 1931, represents over 1200 household in Bethesda east of Wisconsin Avenue, north of East-West Highway, west of Columbia Country Club, and south of Jones Bridge Road (a portion of service area 3B in the B-CC Roundtable). We appreciate the steps that you, Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS), and the Board have taken 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.

The purpose of this letter is to respectfully request you consider the following as you develop your recommendation to the Board of Education (BOE) concerning the B-CC Roundtable Discussion Group.

- Due to the awkward elementary school policies we have endured for almost 30 years, students in our community currently attend four elementary schools: Bethesda, Rosemary Hills, North Chevy Chase and Chevy Chase. We strongly believe that this situation has led to the fracturing of our community and is unfair to our children and to the entire community.
- 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. This preference is robust throughout all areas of our community. A more complete description of our survey was included in our November 2009 testimony to the BOE and can be found on www.ebca.org/localeducation.htm.

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- East Bethesda, a longstanding community with well-defined boundaries, should be considered as one service zone in a boundary study. If East Bethesda must be broken into sub-sections for a boundary study, then to ensure equity and that MCPS does not continue policies that have “unduly impacted some communities”, all other communities attending the schools involved in the boundary study should be broken into similar size zones and considered for possible reassignment.
- A Boundary study and reassignment decision for our community should be conducted and made as soon as possible (winter 2010-2011 at the latest).
- The Boundary study should be completed first, and then studies for additions should be conducted to address capacities that result from the boundary study.
- Boundary reassignments, with consideration for grandfathering to keep families together, should be implemented the next school year using portable classrooms as we wait for additions to be built.
- The option to request transfers to Bethesda ES in kindergarten for students who are assigned to Bethesda ES for grades 3 to 5 should be reinstated while we await the boundary review and implementation.
- The BOE and MCPS continue to 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.

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

Sincerely,



Ms. Monica F. Hayes
Chair, EBCA Education Committee

cc:
MCPS Board of Education
Mr. Bruce Crispell, MCPS
Ms. Deborah Szyfer, MCPS
Mr. Sean Bulson, MCPS