

Elementary School Update: March 2010

Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) continues to study approaches to relieve overcrowding in the elementary schools in the Bethesda-Chevy Chase (B-CC) cluster and has taken a number of actions.

The MCPS Board of Education (BOE) approved the MCPS superintendent's recommendation to reassign the western portion of Bethesda Elementary School (ES), those who articulate to Pyle /Whitman, to Bradley Hills ES effective August 2013.

Capacity studies to determine the feasibility of additions at: Bethesda, North Chevy Chase, Chevy Chase and Rosemary Hills Elementary Schools are underway and will be completed in time to inform B-CC Roundtable discussions.

The B-CC Roundtable Discussion Group will begin this spring and will submit a report to the MCPS superintendent before the end of the school year in June. The Group will develop approaches to address space deficits at the four elementary schools. Members include representatives from the B-CC Cluster Coordinators, Westland Middle School, and Bethesda, North Chevy Chase, Chevy Chase and Rosemary Hills Elementary Schools. Community members will be invited to comment on facility issues and to provide feedback on approaches. EBCA will present the results of our elementary school survey during public comment sessions. MCPS will provide information on meeting times in the near term.

After reviewing input from the B-CC Roundtable process, the MCPS superintendent will prepare a recommendation for the BOE for inclusion in the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) that is released in late October. The BOE will conduct public hearings and take action in late November.

Reminder: Student Transfer Application Season ends April 1, 2010. MCPS has re-confirmed that the paired schools transfer policy will be applied for our community for Bethesda Elementary. Paired elementary schools are considered one school for change of school assignment purposes. The Rosemary Hills Elementary School (K-2) and Bethesda Elementary School (3-5) pairing is unique. Approval of any requests to attend Bethesda Elementary School for grades K-2 will be based on the documentation of a unique hardship or an older sibling in Grades 1 or 2.

Links to MCPS information on B-CC planning activities and the MCPS transfer process can be found on the ebca.org Local Education webpage.

Questions? An Education Update will be provided at the March 17 General membership meeting and you can contact EBCA Education Committee Chair Monica Hayes at education@ebca.org