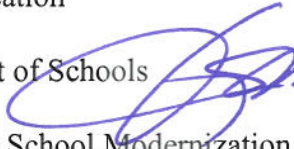


Office of the Superintendent of Schools
MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Rockville, Maryland

July 1, 2008

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education

From: Jerry D. Weast, Superintendent of Schools 

Subject: Carderock Springs Elementary School Modernization

This is follow up to my previous memorandum, dated June 13, 2008, regarding advancing the relocation of Carderock Springs Elementary School to Radnor Center from the scheduled winter break to this summer. Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) staff met with the school community on June 24, 2008, to discuss the summer relocation option to Radnor Center.

While many parents and teachers were supportive of the summer move, a few parents had concerns related to transportation; the approximately four-month longer stay at Radnor Center; and inconveniences related to schedule adjustments, daycare arrangements, and after-school activities. Even though these concerns and inconveniences are valid for some families, the benefits for the majority of students and staff are substantial. For example, relocation during the summer:

- Avoids losing two instructional days for packing and unpacking classroom materials by the teachers that would occur with a winter break move.
- Requires less disruption during the first four months of school, and avoids lost time due to making adjustments after the move in January.
- Allows staff and students to focus on the educational program for the entire year.
- Allows staff to plan the master schedule, transportation, and technology modernization activities only once.
- Allows an early start on construction, ensuring timely completion of the modernization project. Starting construction in the winter months is a challenge due to uncertain weather conditions.
- Avoids Radnor Center being vacant for approximately six months.

To address parents' concerns related to transportation, staff has evaluated several options and recommends that the school hours be set to start at 9:05 a.m. and dismiss at 3:20 p.m. This schedule constitutes a 15-minute delay from the school's current operating times. In most cases a greater shift in school hours is required when a school moves to a holding facility. However, with the Radnor facility in the same cluster as Carderock Springs Elementary School this minor shift in school operating hours is possible and preferred by parents.

For the above reasons, I support advancing the relocation of Carderock Springs Elementary School to Radnor Center during this summer, and I am directing staff to proceed immediately with the relocation as follows:

- Minor repair work at Radnor Center is proceeding immediately and will be completed by August 8, 2008.
- A set of bus routes and pick up times with the adjusted schedule will be distributed to parents.
- Teachers will be paid for up to two days to return to Carderock Springs Elementary School to pack their classroom materials between July 1 and July 21, 2008.
- The Radnor Center will be cleaned and ready for move-in by August 15, 2008.
- Teachers will return on August 18, 2008, one day ahead of the professional days, to unpack their classroom materials.

If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Frank Stetson, community superintendent, Office of School Performance, at 301-315-7379 or Mr. Joseph Lavorgna, acting director, Department of Facilities Management, at 240-314-1060.

JDW:jlc

Copy to:

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