

Poolesville – Monocacy Roundtable Discussion Group

Approaches Developed March 15, 2010

Also posted on the web at:

www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/planning/CommunityInfo_Roundtable.shtml

Approaches That Serve Existing Poolesville Cluster Enrollment	Additional Information & MCPS Examples
<p><u>Approach #1</u></p> <p><u>“Status Quo”</u> Maintain existing schools, including current ability of students from Poolesville ES service area to attend Monocacy ES with transportation provided.</p>	<p>Two subdivisions are becoming active in the Town of Poolesville; Brightwell Crossing with 175 single-family detached homes, and Stoney Springs with 98 single-family detached homes. Currently the housing market is very weak. When the housing market improves these developments will bring additional students to Poolesville cluster schools.</p>
<p><u>Approach #2</u></p> <p><u>Pair Monocacy ES and Poolesville ES</u> Combine two school service areas and serve Grades K-2 at Monocacy ES and Grades 3-5 at Poolesville ES.</p>	<p><u>Paired MCPS schools:</u> Takoma Park ES/Piney Branch ES Montgomery Knolls ES/Piney Branch ES New Hampshire Estates ES/Oakview ES Bel Pre ES/Strathmore ES Nix ES/Cresthaven ES Rosemary Hills ES/ Bethesda ES, Chevy Chase ES & North Chevy Chase ES</p> <p>School “pairings” in MCPS are a measure to promote diversity so that the isolation of racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic groups is avoided and the full benefits of integration are achieved.</p> <p>To access information on MCPS paired schools: www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/</p>
<p><u>Approach #3</u></p> <p><u>Create a Virtual/Hybrid School at Monocacy ES</u> Use technology to engage students beyond the service area of Monocacy ES through online courses that could serve home schooled students and other MCPS students in the county.</p>	<p>No comparable virtual or hybrid school is currently in operation in MCPS. A number of home-schooling resources are currently available online from a range of providers.</p> <p>Google “homeschooling” to view sample of resources.</p>

Approaches That Draw Additional Enrollment to the Poolesville Cluster

Additional Information & MCPS Examples

<p><u>Approach #4</u></p> <p><u>Add a Prekindergarten Program at Monocacy ES</u> This program would raise enrollment at the school and potentially capture more elementary school students who may be attending non-public schools.</p>	<p>Prekindergarten programs in MCPS are available to income eligible children in order to prepare them with the foundational knowledge and skills necessary for success in kindergarten and beyond. In 2009-10 there are 47 schools offering prekindergarten classes.</p> <p>For more on MCPS Prekindergarten programs:</p> <p>www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/earlychi/prekhsprograminformation.shtm</p>
<p><u>Approach #5</u></p> <p><u>Add an Autism Program at Monocacy ES</u> This program would raise enrollment at the school.</p>	<p>Autism programs are located to serve students as close to their home school as possible. Typically three classes are located at a school. One to serve Grades K-1, another for Grades 2-3, and a third for Grades 4-5 students. Facility modifications are frequently needed to provide observation areas, bathrooms and other support areas.</p>
<p><u>Approach #6</u></p> <p><u>Add an ESOL Support Center at Monocacy ES for Surrounding Clusters</u> This program would raise enrollment at the school.</p>	<p>The English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) program provides services at all elementary and middle schools, depending on need. At the high school level, ESOL services are provided in ESOL Centers. In some cases high school ESOL Centers serve more than one cluster.</p> <p>For more information on the ESOL program:</p> <p>www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/esol/</p>
<p><u>Approach #7</u></p> <p><u>Provide Choice for Elementary and Middle School Students to Enroll in Poolesville Cluster Schools From Other Areas of the County.</u> Loosen student transfer policy to enable students from adjacent clusters and wider area to enroll. Permit transfers for those who have requested them in the past and been refused.</p>	<p>MCPS has a Change of School Assignment process that requires that students demonstrate a “unique hardship” in order to have a transfer approved to a school other than their home school. If a transfer is approved, these students are responsible for their own transportation.</p> <p>For more information on the Change of School Assignment process:</p> <p>www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/transfers/</p>

<p><u>Approach #8</u></p> <p><u>Create a Consortium of Elementary Schools in Clarksburg, Northwest, and Poolesville Clusters</u> Enable elementary school students to enroll in an elementary school other than their assigned school based on program offerings at the schools.</p>	<p>MCPS operates a middle school consortium and two high school consortiums where students can make a school choice based on program offerings at the schools. Transportation is provided for students to attend the school where they are admitted. There is currently no elementary school consortium.</p> <p>For more information on MCPS consortia:</p> <p>www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/schoolchoice/</p>
<p><u>Approach #9</u></p> <p><u>Create Special Programs at Poolesville Cluster Elementary and Middle Schools Related to Agricultural Sciences and Global Ecology</u> Enable elementary and middle school students to enroll from outside the Poolesville cluster in programs developed by the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) and the Council for Agricultural Science Education (CASE.) An example of a school with this type of program is in Intervale, VT.</p>	<p>MCPS offers the Global Ecology program at Poolesville High School. Students from the Poolesville Cluster and other high school clusters may apply.</p> <p>For more information on the Global Ecology program:</p> <p>www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/schoolchoice/</p>
<p><u>Approach #10</u></p> <p><u>Create a Math/Science Magnet at Poolesville Cluster Elementary Schools and the Middle School</u> Enable elementary and middle school students to enroll from outside the Poolesville cluster.</p>	<p>MCPS has programs for the highly gifted at the elementary, middle, and high school levels. There are 8 centers for highly gifted students, each one serving three or four cluster areas. Humanities and mathematics, science, and computer science programs are at Eastern, Takoma Park, and Clemente middle schools. Richard Montgomery, Poolesville, and Montgomery Blair high schools house these programs at the high school level. There also are special programs at many MCPS schools.</p> <p>For more information on MCPS Elementary School special programs: www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/specialprograms/elementary/index.shtm</p> <p>For more information on MCPS Middle School special programs: www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/specialprograms/middle/index.shtm</p> <p>For more information on MCPS High School special programs: www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/specialprograms/high/index.shtm</p>

<p><u>Approach #11</u></p> <p><u>Create a Performing and Visual Arts Magnet at Poolesville Cluster Elementary Schools and the Middle School</u></p> <p>Enable elementary and middle school students to enroll from outside the Poolesville cluster.</p>	<p>Einstein HS offers the Visual Arts Center and in the Northeast Consortium Blake HS offers the Fine Arts and Humanities signature program. In the Middle Schools Magnet Consortium, Loiederman MS offers the Creative and Performing Arts program.</p> <p>For more information on MCPS Middle School special programs: www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/specialprograms/middle/index.shtm</p> <p>For more information on MCPS High School special programs: www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/specialprograms/high/index.shtm</p>
<p><u>Approach #12</u></p> <p><u>Create a Language Immersion Program at Poolesville Cluster Elementary Schools and the Middle School</u></p> <p>Enable elementary and middle school students to enroll from outside the Poolesville cluster.</p>	<p>At the middle school level partial language immersion programs are offered at five sites; Gaithersburg, Hoover, Key, Silver Spring International and Westland middle schools.</p> <p>At the elementary school level partial language immersion classes are offered at Burnt Mills ES (Spanish), College Gardens ES (Chinese), Potomac ES (Chinese), and Rolling Terrace ES (Spanish.) Total language immersion classes are offered at Maryvale ES (French), Rock Creek Forest ES (Spanish), and Sligo Creek ES (French.)</p> <p>For more information on MCPS Elementary School special programs: www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/specialprograms/elementary/index.shtm</p> <p>For more information on MCPS Middle School special programs: www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/specialprograms/middle/index.shtm</p>
<p><u>Approach #13</u></p> <p><u>Reduce Tuition for Frederick County Students to Enroll in Monocacy ES</u></p> <p>Enable elementary school students to enroll from Frederick County by offering the incentive of reduced tuition.</p>	<p>In the current school year tuition for out of county students to enroll in MCPS is \$14,431 for elementary students and \$14,131 for middle and high school students.</p>

Approach #14

Use the Monocacy ES Facility to House a Charter School

Close Monocacy ES and lease it to an approved charter school applicant. Reassign public school students currently enrolled at Monocacy ES to Poolesville ES.

MCPS does not have a charter school operating in the county. However, there are currently two applications pending to create charter schools in the county. Charter school applicants submit an application to the Board of Education to demonstrate preparedness. See MCPS Board of Education policy on charters:

www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/policy/pdf/cfb.pdf