



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND 20850

Isiah Leggett
County Executive

April 28, 2011

Mr. Christopher S. Barclay
President, Board of Education
Montgomery County Public Schools
Carver Educational Services Center
850 Hungerford Drive, Room 123
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Re: B-CC cluster middle school site selection

Dear Mr. Barclay:

As the Board of Education undertakes the daunting task of locating a new middle school site to serve the B-CC cluster in a highly built-out area of the County, I urge the Board of Education to take a close look at the important needs served by some of the sites under consideration. While I would prefer that parcels used for park and recreation purposes be avoided, I also recognize that given the stage of development that we are at, there are only a few suitably sized parcels remaining in the cluster area.

I understand that one of the sites under consideration is the former Kensington Junior High School site which is now Rock Creek Hills Local Park. Given that this site was acquired for use as a school, served the community as a junior high school, and has a reclaim right in the documents transferring it, I urge the Board of Education to look more closely at this site. The Transfer Agreement for the Kensington Junior High School site provides an unambiguous right for the site to be returned to the County if MCPS determines that it is again needed for construction of a school. The repurchase provisions address reimbursements, if any are required.

The Kensington Junior High School site consists of approximately 13.38 acres and is currently being used for local recreation uses with among other things two soccer fields, tennis courts, a basketball court and playground equipment. A middle school will provide recreation fields which would continue to be available to the local community during non-school hours, thus minimizing the impacts on the local community. In fact, if this site is selected, I encourage MCPS and MNCPPC to consider a co-location arrangement where the fields are part of a local park, as was done when the Lakelands Middle School site was reclaimed by MCPS.

I know that the selection of a new school site is challenging. Given the original use of the site, the reclaim right of MCPS and the fact that the school would have fields that would continue to serve the local community, I think that Rock Creek Hills is a reasonable option for a

Mr. Christopher S. Barclay
April 28, 2011
Page 2

new middle school; however, I also urge the Board of Education to undertake an aggressive community and public input process to ensure that resident concerns are discussed and addressed before action is taken.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Isiah Leggett", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Isiah Leggett
County Executive

Cc: Dr. Jerry Weast, Superintendent
Roland Ikheloa, Chief of Staff
Francoise Carrier, Chair