

MEMORANDUM

February 7, 2022

TO: Health and Human Services Committee
Education & Culture Committee

FROM: Vivian Yao, Legislative Analyst

SUBJECT: **Worksession – Recommended FY23-28 Capital Improvements Program (CIP) and FY23 Capital Budget, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)**

PURPOSE: Review and make recommendations on the FY23-28 DHHS CIP for education related projects.

Those expected to participate in the worksession include:

Department of Health and Human Services

Jason Rundell, HHS Budget Team Leader
Dira Treadvance, Chief, Children, Youth,
and Family Services
Monica Martin, Administrator, Child/
Adolescent School and Community-Based
Services
Mark Hodge, Administrator, School Health
Services
Barbara Andrews, Administrator, Early
Childhood Services
Luis Cardona, Administrator, Positive Youth
Development

Office of Management and Budget

Lindsay Lucas, Fiscal and Policy Analyst

Department of General Services

David Dise, Director
Greg Ossont, Deputy Director

Montgomery County Public Schools

Adrienne Karamihas, Director, Division of
Capital Planning
Seth Adams, Director, Department of
Facilities Management

The Joint Health and Human Services (HHS) and Education & Culture Committee will review two education-related projects recommended by the Executive for the FY23-28 Capital Improvements Program (CIP) and the FY23 Capital Budget for the Department of Health and Human Services: Child Care Renovations and School Based Health and Linkages to Learning Centers. In addition, the Joint Committee will have the opportunity to discuss the High School Wellness Center and Child Care in Schools projects, which are active projects but do not have any funding programmed in the FY23-28 period. These umbrella projects support health and human service-related programs integrated within County buildings and schools.

CHILD CARE RENOVATIONS (©1-2)

(\$000)	Total	6 Year Total	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27	FY28	Beyond 6 years
CE recommended	49,923	40,732	6,309	7,418	6,770	5,169	6,648	6,845	6,845

Recommended funding source: \$49.067 million, \$594,000 PAYGO, and \$262,000 Recordation Tax Premiums

Requested FY23 appropriation: \$2.185 million

Estimated FY24 appropriation: \$7.418 million

Project Description: This level of effort project provides for the renovation of childcare facilities in 22 County buildings to ensure compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and safety concerns. The project remedies ADA non-compliant features, provides for the design and construction of ADA compliant playgrounds, and provides for the replacement of modular facilities.

Projects

A list of 36 projects at 22 sites is attached at ©3. The list provides a rough estimated cost and the fiscal years when the project will be active. The following list shows the projects that will be scheduled for work in FY23 and/or FY24:

Site	Project Type	Initial Estimated Cost	Proposed Timeline
Galway Elementary School	Playground	\$258,586	FY22-23
Colesville HC	ADA Remediation	\$1,994,462	FY22-23
Upcounty Regional Center	ADA Remediation	\$1,284,619	FY22-23
Woodlin Elementary School	Modular	\$3,674,841	FY22-24
MLK Jr. Recreation Park	Modular	\$2,521,190	FY23-24
MLK Jr. Recreation Park	Playground	\$435,258	FY23-24
Weller Road Elementary School	Playground	\$311,824	FY23-24
Lawton Community Center	Playground	\$358,064	FY24
Thurgood Marshall Elementary School	Playground	\$402,535	FY24-25
Shady Grove Metro	ADA Remediation	\$2,079,442	FY24-25
Shady Grove Metro	Playground	\$602,656	FY24-25
Waring Station Road	Modular	\$3,269,715	FY24-25
Waring Station Road	Playground	\$607,667	FY24-25

Specific details about the work to be completed at each site are not known at this time. DGS reports that it is in the process of procuring design build contractors for each of the three categories of work: playground, ADA remediation, and facility replacement (referred to as modular in the table above). Council staff understands that:

- Information about the scope of work and cost for each project will not be available until the design process has begun.
- The Project Description Form (PDF) indicates that the cost increase is due to updated cost estimates based on escalation and inflation increases and the addition of FY27 and FY28 expenditures.
- This umbrella project supports the ongoing efforts to expand early care and education options in the County. DHHS efforts in identifying childcare supply and demand in different areas of the County will inform the room configuration of the modular facilities that will be built.

Council staff recommendation:

- **Approve the expenditure schedule and appropriations recommended by the Executive subject to availability of funds at reconciliation.** The work under the project is needed and supports the Council’s priorities regarding early care and education. However, the amounts programmed in the PDF at this time are rough estimates and may change after design work is completed.

I. SCHOOL BASED HEALTH & LINKAGES TO LEARNING CENTERS (©4-5)

The umbrella project provides for two major types of facilities at public school sites: Linkages to Learning centers (LTL or Linkages) and School Based Health Centers (SBHC). The programs provide accessible health, mental health, social and educational support services to at-risk children and their families. School-based health centers operate as part of the Linkages to Learning program and provide primary healthcare to students and their siblings and for children enrolled in Care for Kids (CFK) who live within the zip code served by the school. Host schools are selected based on criteria recommended by the School Based Health and Wellness Center Advisory Group and the Linkages to Learning Advisory Group.

For FY23-28, the County Executive is recommending \$2,974,000 over the six-year period to construct Linkages to Learning projects at Odessa Shannon Middle School, Silver Spring International Middle School, Gaithersburg Elementary School #8, and Neelsville Middle School, and School-based Health Centers at South Lake and JoAnn Leleck Elementary Schools. The JoAnn Leleck SBHC project is new to the FY23-28 CIP.

(\$000)	Total	6 Year Total	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27	FY28
Odessa Shannon MS LTL	636	60	60	0	0	0	0	0
Silver Spring International MS LTL	871	307	0	271	36	0	0	0
Gaithersburg ES #8 LTL	687	66	66	0	0	0	0	0
Neelsville MS LTL	695	649	170	170	309	0	0	0
South Lake ES SBHC	824	753	363	390	0	0	0	0
JoAnn Leleck ES SBHC	1,139	1,139	0	264	350	525	0	0
Total	4,852	2,974	659	1,095	695	525	0	0

Recommended funding source for the 6-year period is GO Bonds.

Requested FY23 appropriation: \$659,000

Estimated FY24 appropriation: \$1.095 million

Schedule

The following table shows the completion dates for the projects as described in the PDF.

MCPS Project	Completion Date
Odessa Shannon MS LTL	FY23
Gaithersburg ES #8 LTL	FY23
Silver Spring International MS LTL	FY24
Neelsville MS LTL	FY25
South Lake ES SBHC	FY24
JoAnn Leleck ES SBHC	FY26

Council staff notes that the expenditure schedule in the PDF (©6) reflects Silver Spring International MS project completion in FY25 instead of the FY24 timeline referenced in the PDF narrative - **the Joint Committee should seek clarification and recommend a revision in the PDF language, as appropriate.**

LTL Strategic Plan status

The Linkages to Learning FY15-FY20 Strategic Plan ended two years ago, and implementation of the plan's recommendations was limited due to fiscal constraints and competing budget priorities during that time period. A new strategic plan has not been completed, though Executive staff reports that a final draft of the Linkages to Learning Strategic Plan is under review by DHHS leadership and will be updated and confirmed by the Bi-Agency Planning Group in the next couple of months. The currently drafted Linkages priorities have not

been superseded by the Reimagining School Safety and Student Well-Being (RSSSW) Committee efforts.

The Joint Committee should request that the Department and Bi-Agency Planning Group complete the review and finalize the strategic plan recommendations before the Joint Committee begins its FY23 operating budget review. As the Council considers ways to increase support to students, expanding school-based services through the Linkages program should be considered.

Council staff recommendation: Approve as recommended by the Executive with updated completion dates reflected in the PDF, as appropriate.

II. HIGH SCHOOL WELLNESS CENTER

Background

The County Executive is not recommending funding in the FY23-28 CIP for the High School Wellness Center project.

The project places High School Wellness Centers (HSWC) at public high schools. The centers provide health, mental health, social services, and family support/youth development services. Host schools have been recommended by the School Based Health and Wellness Center Advisory Group based on criteria demonstrating need in areas of physical health, mental health, social services, and youth development.

The first wellness center opened at Northwood High School in January 2010, and there are currently four additional centers in operation at Gaithersburg, Watkins Mill, Wheaton, and Seneca Valley. The Kennedy High School Wellness Center is scheduled to be completed and opened, assuming operating budget funding availability, in the 2022-2023 school year.

Student Support Needs and Interest in Expansion

Throughout the pandemic, Councilmembers have expressed concern about challenges that youth have faced as a result of the pandemic and appropriated resources to address some of these challenges. Recent incidents of youth violence and suicide has underscored the urgency of providing support services. In her January 31 memorandum to the members of the County Council, Councilmember Navarro proposed “a well-staffed and resourced wellness center in each high school that would provide the necessary safe and welcoming space for our students.” (See ©7-8, 17-22) She envisioned setting up wellness centers as soon as possible “using existing spaces and/or relocatable classrooms for instance, as we stand up the physical structures.” At the February 7 Joint Committee meeting on newly arriving migrant and asylum-seeking children

and families, Councilmember Navarro requested feedback on rolling out HSWCs in each high school and noted that these resources could be used to support newcomers. In addition, the expansion of HSWCs at every high school was raised at the February 8 Council meeting and later in the day at the Board of Education meeting.

Considerations in Expanding HSWC Services

- Is there a need for a full complement of HSWC services in every high school?

Council staff notes that a full complement of High School Wellness Center Services is not likely needed at every high school. A major consideration in siting a school-based health or wellness center with somatic health services at a school is if there are significant numbers of students who lack health insurance or are underinsured. A concentration of students who lack adequate health insurance coverage is not likely to exist in some of the County high schools, and thus, it would be inefficient to invest significant capital and operating resources for services that would be underused. There may be other lower-cost options to provide health care to students in schools without a HSWC.

The Joint Committee should seek information from DHHS about the level of need that would justify a full HSWC with somatic health services. For example, in the 2020-2021 School Year there were seven high schools with an existing or planned wellness center with EverFARMS rates over 50% (Springbrook, Paint Branch, Einstein, Blake, Magruder, Blair, Rockville) and seven schools with over 1,000 students who have ever qualified for FARMS (Blair, Paint Branch, Springbrook, Einstein, Clarksburg, Northwest, Blake).

- Is there existing space in each high school to accommodate the expansion mental health services or other support services without needing to add space through a CIP project?

Expanding school-based mental health and support services for youth expediently, without waiting for a capital project to be planned and built, requires access to school space for service delivery. Council staff requested information about space availability in each high school to support any of the wellness center services. MCPS provided enrollment and capacity information for each high school (see ©16).

The capacity information shows that the following high schools without a current or planned wellness center have unused capacity of over 100 seats: Bethesda Chevy Chase, Damascus, Magruder, Rockville, Sherwood, Springbrook, Whitman, and Wootton. It may be that these schools can dedicate some level of space to accommodate mental health and youth development services, though the Joint Committee should seek clarification from MCPS.

Council staff notes that even though there are a number of high schools whose enrollment is over capacity, there may be ways for MCPS to make space available for wellness services by

rearranging how space is currently used. The Joint Committee may want to approach the Superintendent and Board of Education to explore whether space can be made available for student support services at these schools.

Options for moving forward

Council staff provides the following options for the Joint Committee's consideration:

1. Building Full HSWCs: These projects would include a full complement of services including somatic health services.
 - a. Identify the level of need that would trigger building a full HSWC. The Joint Committee should seek input from DHHS and the School-Based Health and Wellness Center Advisory Committee if a timely response before consideration of the FY23 operating budget can be made.
 - b. After schools have been identified, the Joint Committee should seek input from MCPS about any potential site constraints and include funding in the HSWC CIP project to perform feasibility studies for stand-alone projects at these sites.
2. Expansion of Mental Health Services and other Non-Somatic Health Services
 - a. Determine for all high schools that do not have a current or planned HSWC, what existing space is available to accommodate services. Send a request to the Superintendent and BOE President that MCPS dedicate at least one room in every high school without a current or planned HSWC to the delivery of mental health and other support services.
 - b. If no space can be made available in a particular school, then the Joint Committee can explore the feasibility of building space (e.g., relocatable, addition, etc.) and add funding for a feasibility study in the HSWC CIP.
 - c. The Joint Committee should make a decision about building a dedicated space for wellness services at the new Crown High School. MCPS staff indicates that in order take advantage of the MCPS school construction project, a decision on this needs to be made immediately. Programming funding would ensure that space is available for service delivery when the school opens. The Joint Committee should seek input from DHHS about requirements for this space.

- d. Request from DHHS the cost of a full-time mental health contractual therapist, that could be brought on through existing contracts, and any associated operating costs.

III. CHILD CARE IN SCHOOLS UPDATE

The County Executive is not recommending any spending under this umbrella project during the 6-year period. This project has provided for the placement of a large childcare classroom in public schools where MCPS is undertaking major construction. In the past, DHHS has considered factors like FARMS, mobility, ESOL rates, and the availability of high-quality childcare before recommending the addition of childcare space in schools undergoing major school construction.

As mentioned above, DHHS will be performing a childcare supply and demand study and will use the analysis to assess commercial space and public space opportunities. The information gleaned from the study will inform where there is a need for subsidized child space and where to build additional public childcare space in conjunction with major school construction projects. **The Joint Committee should request a status update on the supply and demand study.**

The packet contains the following attachments:

	<u>Circle #</u>
CE Recommended Childcare Renovation PDF and Project List	©1-3
CE Recommended Childcare Renovation Linkages to Learning and School-Based Health Centers PDF and Expenditure Schedule	©4-6
1/31/22 Memorandum from Councilmember Navarro to County Council	©7-8
High School Wellness Center Project Expenditure Schedule	©9
DHHS and MCPS responses to Council staff’s questions	©10-12
Board Education FY23-28 CIP Summary Table	©13-15
High School Enrollment and Capacity	©16
2/5/21 Memorandum from Councilmember Navarro to the County Executive	©17-18
3/3/21 Memorandum from Councilmember Navarro to the Public Safety and Education & Culture Chairs	©19-23



Child Care Renovations

(P601901)

Category	Health and Human Services	Date Last Modified	01/11/22
SubCategory	Health and Human Services	Administering Agency	General Services
Planning Area	Countywide	Status	Final Design Stage

EXPENDITURE SCHEDULE (\$000s)

Cost Elements	Total	Thru FY21	Est FY22	Total 6 Years	FY 23	FY 24	FY 25	FY 26	FY 27	FY 28	Beyond 6 Years
Planning, Design and Supervision	11,110	905	585	8,450	1,418	1,518	1,440	1,119	1,604	1,351	1,170
Construction	37,443	-	823	31,128	4,695	5,662	5,150	3,870	4,864	6,887	5,492
Other	1,370	-	33	1,154	196	238	180	180	180	180	183
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	49,923	905	1,441	40,732	6,309	7,418	6,770	5,169	6,648	8,418	6,845

FUNDING SCHEDULE (\$000s)

Funding Source	Total	Thru FY21	Est FY22	Total 6 Years	FY 23	FY 24	FY 25	FY 26	FY 27	FY 28	Beyond 6 Years
G.O. Bonds	49,067	49	1,441	40,732	6,309	7,418	6,770	5,169	6,648	8,418	6,845
PAYGO	594	594	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Recordation Tax Premium (MCG)	262	262	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL FUNDING SOURCES	49,923	905	1,441	40,732	6,309	7,418	6,770	5,169	6,648	8,418	6,845

APPROPRIATION AND EXPENDITURE DATA (\$000s)

Appropriation FY 23 Request	2,185	Year First Appropriation	FY19
Appropriation FY 24 Request	7,418	Last FY's Cost Estimate	27,994
Cumulative Appropriation	6,470		
Expenditure / Encumbrances	1,256		
Unencumbered Balance	5,214		

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project provides for renovation or replacement of childcare facilities to ensure compliance with new laws pertaining to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and safety concerns.

The project addresses three major components:

1. Remedies ADA non-compliant features at childcare centers located in County buildings.
2. Provides for the design and construction of ADA compliant playgrounds at existing child care facilities while also incorporating other playground requirements included in COMAR 13A.16.01, National Association for the Education of Young Children Early Learning Standards and Accreditation Criteria, and the Maryland Program Accreditation Standards for Implementing Quality Childhood Programs.
3. Provides for replacement of modular facilities.

LOCATION

Twenty-two locations throughout the County.

ESTIMATED SCHEDULE

Project planning to take place in FY20-21. Design and construction will take place sequentially from FY21 through FY29.

COST CHANGE

Cost increase due to updated cost estimates based on escalation and inflation increases and the addition of FY27 and FY28 expenditures.

PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

This project is designed to bring childcare facilities and playgrounds into compliance with Federal ADA requirements and child care accreditation standards.

FISCAL NOTE

The Department is required to provide notice and information to Council in writing 60 days before construction funding is obligated or spent. The notice must identify each project programmed for construction with the anticipated scope of work, cost estimates, and an expenditure schedule.

COORDINATION

Health and Human Services, Montgomery County Public Schools, Department of General Services, Office of Management and Budget, Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission, and childcare center service providers.

Child Care Renovations No. 601901

PROJECT TASKS	Estimated Cost	Proposed Project Timeline
Galway ES-Playground	\$ 258,586	FY22-23
Colesville HC-ADA Remediation	\$ 1,994,462	FY22-23
Upcounty RSC-ADA Remediation	\$ 1,284,619	FY22-23
Woodlin ES-Modular	\$ 3,674,841	FY22-FY24
Woodlin ES-Playground	\$ 763,533	FY23
MLK Jr. Recreation Park-Modular	\$ 2,521,190	FY23-FY24
MLK Jr. Recreation Park-Playground	\$ 435,258	FY23-FY24
Weller Road ES-Playground	\$ 311,824	FY23-FY24
Lawton CC-ADA Remediation	\$ 1,230,824	FY23-FY24
Upcounty RSC-Playground	\$ 460,891	FY23-FY24
Lawton CC-Playground	\$ 358,064	FY24
Thurgood Marshall ES-Playground	\$ 402,535	FY24-25
Shady Grove Metro-ADA Remediation	\$ 2,079,442	FY24-25
Shady Grove Metro-Playground	\$ 602,656	FY24-25
Waring Station Rd-Modular	\$ 3,269,715	FY24-FY25
Waring Station Rd-Playground	\$ 607,667	FY24-FY25
Colesville HC-Playground	\$ 609,958	FY25
Stone Mill ES-Modular	\$ 2,465,470	FY25-26
Stone Mill ES-Playground	\$ 447,006	FY25-26
Viers Mill ES-Playground	\$ 421,977	FY25-26
Potomac CC-ADA Remediation	\$ 1,280,976	FY25-26
Potomac CC-Playground	\$ 512,800	FY25-26
West Diamond Ave-Modular	\$ 2,514,431	FY26-27
West Diamond Ave-Playground	\$ 456,036	FY26-27
Damascus Senior Center-Playground	\$ 523,005	FY26-27
Clara Barton CC-ADA Remediation	\$ 1,306,052	FY26-27
Clara Barton CC-Playground	\$ 592,533	FY26-27
Judith Resnik ES-Modular	\$ 5,188,630	FY27-28
Judith Resnik ES-Playground	\$ 847,468	FY27-28
Bethesda Regional SC-Playground	\$ 533,209	FY27-28
Lone Oak Park-ADA Remediation	\$ 2,164,422	FY27-28
Lone Oak Park-Playground	\$ 777,940	FY27-28
SG Life Sciences Center-Playground	\$ 474,094	FY28
SG Life Sciences Center-Modular	\$ 3,488,136	FY28-29
Brooke Grove ES-Modular	\$ 3,293,282	FY29
Brooke Grove ES-Playground	\$ 864,255	FY29
Through FY21	\$ 905,000	
Total Estimated Cost	\$ 49,922,787	



School Based Health & Linkages to Learning Centers

(P640400)

Category	Health and Human Services	Date Last Modified	01/10/22
SubCategory	Health and Human Services	Administering Agency	General Services
Planning Area	Countywide	Status	Ongoing

EXPENDITURE SCHEDULE (\$000s)

Cost Elements	Total	Thru FY21	Est FY22	Total 6 Years	FY 23	FY 24	FY 25	FY 26	FY 27	FY 28	Beyond 6 Years
Planning, Design and Supervision	1,664	1,372	228	64	-	64	-	-	-	-	-
Construction	12,077	7,451	1,823	2,803	643	1,006	654	500	-	-	-
Other	1,741	1,477	157	107	16	25	41	25	-	-	-
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	15,482	10,300	2,208	2,974	659	1,095	695	525	-	-	-

FUNDING SCHEDULE (\$000s)

Funding Source	Total	Thru FY21	Est FY22	Total 6 Years	FY 23	FY 24	FY 25	FY 26	FY 27	FY 28	Beyond 6 Years
Current Revenue: General	286	140	146	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Federal Aid	494	494	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
G.O. Bonds	14,637	9,601	2,062	2,974	659	1,095	695	525	-	-	-
Recordation Tax Premium (MCG)	65	65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL FUNDING SOURCES	15,482	10,300	2,208	2,974	659	1,095	695	525	-	-	-

OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (\$000s)

Impact Type	Total 6 Years	FY 23	FY 24	FY 25	FY 26	FY 27	FY 28
Program-Staff	8,420	656	1,111	1,667	1,662	1,662	1,662
Program-Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
NET IMPACT	8,420	656	1,111	1,667	1,662	1,662	1,662
FULL TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE)		1	2.88	4.75	4.75	4.75	4.75

APPROPRIATION AND EXPENDITURE DATA (\$000s)

Appropriation FY 23 Request	659	Year First Appropriation	FY04
Appropriation FY 24 Request	1,095	Last FY's Cost Estimate	14,356
Cumulative Appropriation	12,508		
Expenditure / Encumbrances	10,300		
Unencumbered Balance	2,208		

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project provides for the placement of Linkages to Learning (LTL) sites and School Based Health Centers (SBHC) at public schools. LTL sites provide accessible services to at-risk children and their families to improve adjustment to and performance in school, home, and community. Services include mental health, social services, and related community school programming. SBHCs are expanded models of LTL sites that include comprehensive primary health services. Host schools are selected based on criteria recommended by the SBHC Interagency Planning Group and the LTL Advisory Group. Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) will oversee the construction of SBHC and LTL sites. The County will occupy the space with School Health Services and LTL personnel and contractors.

ESTIMATED SCHEDULE

Construction for the Odessa Shannon MS LTL facility is scheduled to be completed in FY23. Maryvale LTL was completed in FY21. Construction is scheduled to begin in FY22 for Silver Spring International Middle School LTL facility, with completion in FY24. Construction is scheduled to begin in FY22 for Gaithersburg Elementary School #8 LTL facility, with completion in FY23. Construction is scheduled to begin in FY22 for Neelsville Middle School LTL facility, with completion in FY25. Construction is scheduled to begin in FY22 for an LTL and SBHC at South Lake Elementary School, with completion in FY24. The scope was increased to add funding for planning and construction for an LTL and SBHC at JoAnn Leleck Elementary School, with completion in FY26."

COST CHANGE

Funds have been added in FY24 for construction of a LTL and SBHC at JoAnn Leleck Elementary School. Costs have also increased for the Odessa Shannon Middle School, Silver Spring International Middle School, Gaithersburg Elementary School #8, and Neelsville Middle School projects.

PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

This project is part of the recommendations of the Department of Health and Human Services and MCPS.

OTHER

Cost estimates are based on per square foot costs for school construction, adjusted by additional health care facility requirements such as examination rooms, a laboratory, and medical equipment. MCPS will provide maintenance and utilities by a Memorandum of Understanding. Site specific factors are to be determined, and will be provided during construction.

FISCAL NOTE

Reflects FY15 transfer of \$65,000 in GO Bonds from the High School Wellness Center (P640902) project and a subsequent funding switch from GO Bonds to Recordation Tax Premium.

COORDINATION

Department of Health and Human Services, Department of General Services, Montgomery County Public Schools

Cost Breakout by School for FY23-28 School Base Health & Linkage to Learning CIP													
		TOTAL	Thru FY21	Est FY22	Total 6 Years	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27	FY28	Beyond 6 Y	COMMENTS
Total for PDF	PDS	1,664	1,372	228	64	0	64	0	0	0	0	0	
	Site Imp	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Constr	12,077	7,451	1,823	2,803	643	1,006	654	500	0	0	0	
	Other	1,741	1,477	157	107	16	25	41	25	0	0	0	
	TOTAL	15,482	10,300	2,208	2,974	659	1,095	695	525	0	0	0	
Prior Years	PDS		1,372	0		0	0	0	0	0	0		
	Site Imp		-			0	0	0	0	0	0		
	Constr		7,451	0		0	0	0	0	0	0		
	Other		1,477	0									
TOTAL			10,300	0			0						
Linkage to Learning Centers Sites													
Maryvale ES	PDS	30		30	0								
	Site Imp				0								
	Constr	405		405	0								
	Other	16		16	0								
	TOTAL	451	0	451	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Odessa Shannon formerly Lee MS	PDS	35		35	0								
	Site Imp				0								
	Constr	504		444	60	60							
	Other	97		97	0								
	TOTAL	636	0	576	60	60	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Silver Spring International MS	PDS	35		35	0								
	Site Imp				0								
	Constr	820		529	291		271	20					
	Other	16			16			16					
	TOTAL	871	0	564	307		271	36	0				
Gaithersburg ES #8	PDS	44		44	0								
	Site Imp				0								
	Constr	627		577	50	50							
	Other	16			16	16							
	TOTAL	687	0	621	66		0	0	0	0	0	0	
Cresthaven & Roscoe Nix ES	PDS				0								
	Site Imp				0								
	Constr	0		0	0								
	Other				0								
	TOTAL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Neelsville Middle School	PDS	46		46	0								
	Site Imp				0								
	Constr	624			624	170	170	284					
	Other	25			25			25					
	TOTAL	695	0	46	649	170	170	309	0	0	0	0	
Southlake Elementary	PDS	71		71	0								
	Site Imp				0								
	Constr	728			728	363	365						
	Other	25			25		25						
	TOTAL	824	0	71	753	363	390	0	0	0	0	0	
Leleck Elementary	PDS	64			64		64						
	Site Imp				0								
	Constr	1,050			1,050		200	350	500				
	Other	25			25				25				
	TOTAL	1,139	0	0	1,139	0	264	350	525	0	0	0	



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

COUNCILMEMBER NANCY NAVARRO
DISTRICT 4

CHAIR, GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS AND
FISCAL POLICY COMMITTEE

EDUCATION AND CULTURE COMMITTEE

MEMORANDUM

January 31, 2022

TO: Members of the County Council

FROM: Nancy Navarro, Chair, Government Operations & Fiscal Policy Committee

SUBJECT: Proposed initiative to expand wellness centers to all high schools

Recent events have again emphasized the need for us as a team to collaborate with Montgomery County Public Schools, the County executive, and his departments to craft a truly comprehensive set of resources and processes to safeguard the safety, security, and emotional well-being of our students. On February 9, 2022, the Education and Culture and the Public Safety committees are scheduled to review the ongoing work of Montgomery County Public Schools in re-evaluating the Community Engagement Officers program, the related Memorandum of Understanding and mental health supports. I welcome such a review, and look forward to its alignment with my prior proposal on a holistic approach that focuses on our students' mental and emotional well-being without compromising their physical safety as our parents and students expect, and as mandated by state law (see my memoranda of February 5, and March 3, 2021, attached).

In addition, as I mentioned at our Council session of January 25, 2022, I wish to reiterate my call for the establishment of a well-staffed and resourced wellness center in each high school that would provide the necessary safe and welcoming space for our students. I have had productive conversations with Gabe Albornoz, Council President and Chair of Health and Human Services and he is supportive of the need for a bold initiative like this. I envision a bold initiative that would set up the wellness centers as soon as possible using existing spaces and/or relocatable classrooms for instance, as we stand up the physical structures. These wellness centers would also house supports from culturally and linguistically proficient

resources like the Street Outreach Network, and others identified by Montgomery County Public Schools and the Department of Health and Human Services, as well as community stakeholders.

The timing is auspicious as we are approaching the budget season. As a first step, I am asking staff as a matter of urgency to provide the operating and capital cost of standing up a wellness center in each high school and alternative center. I understand that the operating cost of a wellness center is approximately \$1.1 million, while \$2.5 million is budgeted to build one stand-alone center. There are currently five high school wellness centers: Northwood, Gaithersburg, Watkins Mill, Wheaton, and Seneca Valley. Kennedy High School is currently under construction with a wellness center. The plan is to introduce the budget items for adoption by the full Council during this budget season. I would very much appreciate the support of my colleagues in this endeavor. Please let me know if you would like to be part of this effort.

Attachments

Copy to:

County Executive, Marc Elrich
Members of the Board of Education
Dr. Monifa McKnight
Dr. Raymond Crowel
Ms. Dira Treadvance
Ms. Sonia Mora
Ms. Marlene Michaelson
Ms. Vivian Yao
Ms. Essie McGuire

Cost Breakout by School for FY23-28 CIP for High School Wellness Center

		TOTAL	Thru FY21	Estimate FY22	Total 6 Years	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27	FY28	Beyond 6 Y	COMMENTS
Total for PDF	PDS	391	56	335	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	Site Imp	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	Constr	6,119	3,837	2,282	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	Other	487	380	107	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
		6,997	4,273	2,724	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Prior Years	PDS		56			0	0	0	0	0	0		
	Site Imp		-			0	0	0	0	0	0		
	Constr		3,838			0	0	0	0	0	0		
	Other		345										
	TOTAL			4,239	0		0	0	0				
Kennedy HS	PDS	100		100	0								Scheduled to open fall of 2022
	Site Imp				0								
	Constr	1200		1200	0	0	0						
	Other	85		85	0								
	TOTAL			0	1,385	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Seneca Valley HS	PDS	100		100	0								Waiting on final invoices from MCPS
	Site Imp				0								
	Constr	891		891	0	0							
	Other	85		85	0	0							
	TOTAL			0	1,076	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

DHHS CIP Questions

Child Care Renovations

- Please provide the schedule and cost breakout for each individual project by fiscal year and expenditure category (e.g., PDS, Site Improvement, Construction, Other, DGS staff costs, etc.) along with a description of the anticipated scope of work, and projected dates for design start, construction start, and completion for each. What the status of design and constructions of the Colesville Center ADA Remediation and the Woodlin ES Child Care Center replacement?
 - The Colesville Center project is more involved than the ADA at the child care and requires a holistic approach and full building renovation. The larger project is pending further planning and analysis.
 - The Woodlin temporary site has been established and MCPS is constructing the future permanent location as part of school construction.
 - Please see attached spreadsheet for cost breakdown.
- Is there a standard POR for individual projects under this umbrella project? If so, please provide.
 - There is no standard POR for these projects. Each project presents a combination of ADA playground work, ADA building modifications and/or complete modular building replacement. As such, each project is unique although each obviously meets State childcare requirements for space and ADA requirements.

Child Care in Schools

- What is the status of this project? What is the Department's strategic vision for building child care facilities in schools or in the community? When does the Executive anticipate moving forward with the construction of additional child care facilities in public schools or other public space?
 - The current focus at this time is on the modular replacements in order to continue to have childcare in these locations. The currently slated modular replacements will increase capacity in childcare as there will be an increase in ages served (adding infants to all programs) as well as adding square footage to currently served ages which in turn can increase the number of children the state will allow in the classroom. Expansion of childcare in to future facilities will be considered by the Early Childhood Education Initiative.
- Were any schools considered and evaluated for inclusion in this project for the FY23-28 CIP? If so, which ones? Was a child care facility considered for inclusion in the Burtonsville Elementary School construction project (it was programmed in this project prior to the FY19-25 CIP due to school construction delays)?

- The decision was made to prioritize the modular replacements at this time, so did not include any new schools for this project.

High School Wellness Center

- Please provide the total final cost for the Seneca Valley HS project?
 - The final MCPS design and construction cost for Seneca Valley HS Wellness Center \$1,041,942.
- What is the latest cost estimate (bid) for the Kennedy HS project? Is it on schedule to open in September 2022?
 - The final MCPS design and construction cost for the John F. Kennedy HS Wellness Center is \$1,210,000.
- When did the school Based Wellness Center Planning Group last meet? When was the priority list for High School Wellness Centers last updated? Please provide an updated priority list using the most up-to-date data available at this time. Is there existing space that can be used for services at the schools with the highest priority stats? Is there space on site that can accommodate a building expansion? Are there other options for providing space, e.g., modular construction, etc.?
 - The internal DHHS working group that typically prepares for the larger School-Based Health/Wellness Center Planning Group (SBWCPG) last met in March 2019. No formal recommendations have been submitted by the SBWCPG.

School Based Health & Linkages to Learning Centers

- Please provide the schedule and cost breakout by school/project for each individual project by fiscal year and expenditure category (e.g., PDS, Site Improvement, Construction, Other, DGS staff costs, etc.)
 - Please see attached spreadsheet.
- What is the final cost for the Maryvale Linkages to Learning project?
 - The final MCPS design and construction cost for Maryvale ES is \$424,392.
- What is the most recent cost estimate for the Lee Middle School and Silver Spring International Middle School projects? What were the bid costs?
 - The final MCPS design and construction cost for Odessa Shannon MS (formerly Lee MS) is \$527,402.
 - The current MCPS estimate for Silver Spring International MS is \$26,500 for design and \$899,100 for construction, totaling \$925,600.

- What is the current status of the Linkages to Learning Strategic Plan and recommendations for expansion of school services by the DHHS/MCPS biagency planning group? To what extent are recommendations coordinated or superseded by the RSSSW effort? The Council anticipated receiving recommendations from the bi-agency planning group last spring; do you know when the Council can expect specific recommendations about targeted expansion of Linkages to Learning and School-based Health Centers?
 - The final draft of the Linkages to Learning Strategic Plan is under review by DHHS leadership. The Bi-Agency Planning Group will reconvene in the next couple of months to update and confirm recommendations, given consideration of pandemic, RSSSW, and other related priorities. Currently drafted Linkages priorities have not been superseded by the RSSSW effort due to RSSSW's focus to date. Behavioral health resources available in a school, such as Linkages to Learning, have been considered in RSSSW Mental Health subcommittee recommendations; but RSSSW has focused on broader system-wide recommendations that do not impact specific Linkages recommendations at this time.

**Board of Education Requested 2023 Capital Budget
and the FY 2023–2028 Capital Improvements Program
Summary Table¹**

Individual Projects	County Council Action May 2021	Board of Education Request	Anticipated Completion Date
Bethesda-Chevy Chase Cluster			
Bethesda-Chevy Chase/Walter Johnson Cluster ES			TBD
Westbrook ES Addition	Approved FY 2022 appropriation for planning and construction funds.	Request FY 2023 appropriation for balance of funding.	8/22
Winston Churchill			
Clarksburg Cluster			
Clarksburg Cluster ES #9 (New)	Approved FY 2022 appropriation for construction funds.	Request FY 2023 appropriation for construction cost increases and balance of funding.	8/23
Damascus Cluster			
Damascus HS—Major Capital Project		Request FY 2023 appropriation for planning funds.	8/26
Downcounty Consortium			
John F. Kennedy HS Addition			8/22
Northwood HS Addition/Facility Upgrade	Approved FY 2022 appropriation for construction funds.	Request FY 2023 appropriation for construction cost increases and construction funds.	8/25
Charles W. Woodward High School Reopening	Approved FY 2022 appropriation for construction funds.	Request FY 2023 appropriation for construction cost increases and construction funds.	8/23 8/25
Eastern MS - Major Capital Project		Request FY 2023 appropriation for planning funds in the Major Capital Project.	TBD
Parkland MS Addition	Approved FY 2022 appropriation for construction funds.	Request FY 2023 appropriation for balance of funding.	8/23
Odessa Shannon MS Replacement	Approved FY 2022 appropriation for balance of funding.		8/22
Silver Spring International MS	Approved reduction of scope and reduction and reallocation of expenditures.		8/24
Highland View ES Addition	Approved the reallocation of construction expenditures in the out-years of the CIP.		8/25
Piney Branch ES - Major Capital Project		Request FY 2023 appropriation for planning funds in the Major Capital Project.	TBD
Woodlin ES— Major Capital Project	Approved an acceleration of construction expenditures and an FY 2022 appropriation for construction funds.	Request FY 2023 appropriation for construction cost increases and balance of funding.	8/23
Gaithersburg Cluster			
Crown HS (New)		Request FY 2023 appropriation for construction cost increases and construction funds.	8/26
Gaithersburg Cluster ES #8	Approved and FY 2022 appropriation for balance of funding.		8/22
Walter Johnson Cluster			
Charles W. Woodward High School Reopening	Approved an FY 2022 appropriation for construction funds.	Request FY 2023 appropriation for construction cost increases and construction funds.	8/23 8/25
Bethesda-Chevy Chase/Walter Johnson Cluster ES			TBD

¹ Bold indicates a new project to the adopted CIP. Blank indicates no change from the approved project.

Individual Projects	County Council Action May 2021	Board of Education Request	Anticipated Completion Date
Col. Zadok Magruder Cluster			
Col. Zadok Magruder HS—Major Capital Project			8/27
Richard Montgomery Cluster			
Crown HS (New)		Request FY 2023 appropriation for construction cost increases and construction funds.	8/26
Northeast Consortium			
Burnt Mills ES—Major Capital Project	Approved FY 2022 appropriation for construction funds.	Request FY 2023 appropriation for construction cost increases and balance of funding.	8/23
Burtonsville ES Addition		Request FY 2023 appropriation for planning funds.	8/25
Greencastle ES Addition		Request FY 2023 appropriation for planning funds.	8/25
JoAnn Leleck ES at Broad Acres ES (Grades 3-5 school)	Approved the reallocation of planning and construction appropriation and expenditures.	Request FY 2023 appropriation for construction cost increases and balance of funding.	8/25
William Tyler Page ES Addition	Approved FY 2022 appropriation for construction funds.	Request FY 2023 appropriation for balance of funding.	8/23
Stonegate ES—Major Capital Project	Approved acceleration of construction funds and an FY 2022 appropriation for construction funds.	Request FY 2023 appropriation for construction cost increases and balance of funding.	8/23
Northwest Cluster			
Crown HS (New)		Request FY 2023 appropriation for construction cost increases and construction funds.	8/26
Ronald McNair ES Addition	Approved FY 2022 appropriation for construction funds.	Request FY 2023 appropriation for balance of funding.	8/23
Poolesville Cluster			
Poolesville HS—Major Capital Project	Approved FY 2022 appropriation for construction funds.	Request FY 2023 appropriation for construction cost increases and balance of funding.	8/24
Quince Orchard Cluster			
Crown HS (New)		Request FY 2023 appropriation for construction cost increases and balance of funding.	8/26
Rockville Cluster			
Seneca Valley Cluster			
Neelsville MS—Major Capital Project	Approved FY 2022 appropriation for construction funds.	Request FY 2023 appropriation for construction cost increases and balance of funding.	8/24
Clarksburg Cluster ES #8 (New)	Approved FY 2022 appropriation for construction funds.	Request FY 2023 appropriation for construction cost increases and balance of funding.	8/23
Sherwood Cluster			
Watkins Mill Cluster			
Neelsville MS—Major Capital Project	Approved FY 2022 appropriation for construction funds.	Request FY 2023 appropriation for construction cost increases and balance of funding.	8/24
South Lake ES—Major Capital Project	Approved acceleration of construction funds and an FY 2022 appropriation for construction funds.	Request FY 2023 appropriation for construction cost increases.	8/23

¹ Bold indicates a new project to the adopted CIP. Blank indicates no change from the approved project.

Individual Projects	County Council Action May 2021	Board of Education Request	Anticipated Completion Date
Walt Whitman Cluster			
Whitman HS Addition	Approved FY 2021 appropriation for balance of funding.		8/21
Thomas S. Wootton Cluster			
Crown HS (New)		Request FY 2023 appropriation for construction cost increases and construction funds.	8/26
Thomas S. Wootton HS—Major Capital Projects		Request FY 2023 appropriation to accelerate site and design funds.	8/27
Other Educational Facilities			

¹Bold indicates a new project to the adopted CIP. Blank indicates no change from the approved project.

	School	2021–2022 School Year			2027–2028 School Year		
		Enrollment	Capacity	Utilization	Enrollment	Capacity*	Utilization
Middle Schools							
1	Argyle	969	897	(72)	968	897	(71)
2	John T Baker	834	746	(88)	826	746	(80)
3	Benjamin Banneker	856	786	(70)	875	786	(89)
4	Briggs Chaney	964	926	(38)	908	926	18
5	Cabin John	1,030	1,125	95	1,136	1,125	(11)
6	Roberto Clemente	947	1,218	271	861	1,218	357
7	Eastern	903	1,012	109	982	1,012	30
8	William H. Farquhar	650	800	150	691	800	109
9	Forest Oak	919	955	36	798	955	157
10	Robert Frost	974	1,035	61	1,061	1,035	(26)
11	Gaithersburg	877	1,009	132	1,052	1,009	(43)
12	Herbert Hoover	1,002	1,139	137	1,030	1,139	109
13	Francis Scott Key	996	960	(36)	995	960	(35)
14	Martin Luther King, Jr	906	914	8	853	914	61
15	Kingsview	995	1,041	46	993	1,041	48
16	Lakelands Park	1,078	1,147	69	1,139	1,147	8
17	A. Mario Loiederman	937	1,003	66	964	1,003	39
18	Montgomery Village	757	844	87	755	844	89
19	Neelsville	809	956	147	816	1,062	246
20	Newport Mill	655	824	169	656	824	168
21	North Bethesda	1,154	1,233	79	1,170	1,233	63
22	Parkland	1,168	982	(186)	1,065	1,216	151
23	Rosa Parks	834	945	111	847	945	98
24	John Poole	427	478	51	388	478	90
25	Thomas W. Pyle	1,313	1,502	189	1,504	1,502	(2)
26	Redland	611	765	154	590	765	175
27	Ridgeview	773	955	182	781	955	174
28	Rocky Hill	1,003	1,020	17	1,001	1,020	19
29	Shady Grove	524	854	330	585	854	269
30	Odessa Shannon	763	727	(36)	735	881	146
31	Silver Creek	796	935	139	853	935	82
32	Silver Spring International	1,161	1,107	(54)	1,108	1,170	62
33	Sligo	722	941	219	726	941	215
34	Takoma Park	1,131	1,322	191	1,102	1,322	220
35	Tilden	1,023	1,216	193	968	1,216	248
36	Hallie Wells	971	982	11	957	982	25
37	Julius West	1,352	1,432	80	1,358	1,432	74
38	Westland	803	1,105	302	778	1,105	327
39	White Oak	813	992	179	813	992	179
40	Earle B. Wood	1,037	944	(93)	969	944	(25)
High Schools							
1	Bethesda-Chevy Chase	2,295	2,457	162	2,375	2,457	82
2	Montgomery Blair	3,164	2,866	(298)	3,541	2,866	(675)
3	James Blake	1,747	1,743	(4)	1,900	1,743	(157)
4	Winston Churchill	2,215	1,948	(267)	2,091	1,948	(143)
5	Clarksburg	2,322	2,034	(288)	2,631	2,034	(597)
6	Damascus	1,381	1,560	179	1,475	2,007	532
7	Albert Einstein	1,899	1,633	(266)	1,995	1,633	(362)
8	Gaithersburg	2,299	2,443	144	2,693	2,443	(250)
9	Walter Johnson	2,882	2,321	(561)	2,923	2,321	(602)
10	John F. Kennedy	1,791	1,794	3	1,905	2,221	316
11	Col. Zadok Magruder	1,613	1,907	294	1,876	2,020	144
12	Richard Montgomery	2,336	2,241	(95)	2,732	2,241	(491)
13	Northwest	2,507	2,286	(221)	2,614	2,286	(328)
14	Northwood	1,804	1,508	(296)	1,863	2,498	635
15	Paint Branch	2,063	2,020	(43)	2,186	2,020	(166)
16	Poolesville	1,274	1,170	(104)	1,325	1,508	183
17	Quince Orchard	2,075	1,791	(284)	2,289	1,791	(498)
18	Rockville	1,400	1,518	118	1,451	1,518	67
19	Seneca Valley	2,044	2,551	507	2,549	2,551	2
20	Sherwood	1,768	2,147	379	2,102	2,147	45
21	Springbrook	1,675	2,121	446	1,945	2,121	176
22	Watkins Mill	1,598	1,789	191	1,658	1,789	131
23	Wheaton	2,365	2,234	(131)	2,360	2,234	(126)
24	Walt Whitman	2,051	2,262	211	2,258	2,262	4
25	Thomas S. Wootton	1,943	2,142	199	2,074	2,210	136

*Includes capacity from approved capital projects.



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL

ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

**COUNCILMEMBER NANCY NAVARRO
DISTRICT 4**

**CHAIR, GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS AND
FISCAL POLICY COMMITTEE**

EDUCATION AND CULTURE COMMITTEE

MEMORANDUM

February 5, 2021

TO: Marc Elrich, County Executive

FROM: Nancy Navarro, Chair, Government Operations & Fiscal Policy Committee

SUBJECT: On School Resource Officers: A way forward

It was great speaking to you about an alternative approach to the current School Resources Officer (SRO) model. The model I envision would be consistent with state law, by assigning police officers to different geographic beats or clusters and creating teams that include mental health professionals and counselors. We would create a memorandum of understanding that would clearly define which type of issues would qualify for calls for assistance, thus eliminating the practice of calling law enforcement personnel for what should be disciplinary issues.

Like you and my colleagues on the Council, I am committed to a re-imagining of our county's public safety resources that dismantles racial inequities, is holistic and humanizes both our residents and members of our police force. I am eager to adopt a program for our children that incorporates positive youth development principles (counselors, nurses, parent community coordinators, youth outreach workers, pupil personnel workers, etc.), while prioritizing safety in our schools. We need resources for the emotional and social well-being of our students that are comprehensive and culturally appropriate.

The Montgomery County Board of Education is currently reviewing the issue of School Resource Officers (SROs) in school facilities and I had hoped they would have recommendations this past January. As a

former member of the Board of Education, I was willing to respect the process and weigh in after hearing from the school board. They have since postponed their decision and at this point, I believe we need to move ahead and craft an alternative approach to the current School Resources Officer (SRO) model.

Listening to the community, studying the bills on SROs before the council and the state legislature, and the preliminary reports of the reimagining safety workgroup and the school system's workgroup on SROs, I am struck by how everyone seems genuinely focused on change in how Public Safety and the wellbeing of our students should be prioritized. Out of respect for all the work that has been done, I believe that in your administrative capacity, you can take all the input into consideration to design and propose a brand new model that de-emphasizes a law enforcement focus within our schools and instead focuses on the mentoring and mental health needs of our students. Our County has invested in Positive Youth Development Initiatives (PYD) that should be incorporated, and we can strengthen these with nationally recognized programs like CAHOOTS and The SANTE group models. This new approach would come with appropriate staffing and resources. The timing is perfect, now that the budget cycle is upon us.

Since school will be virtual for a while, we have the time we need as a team to work together and come up with the ideal model. I look forward to hearing from you on my proposal.

CC: Members of the County Council

Members of the Montgomery County Board of Education

Dr. Jack Smith, Superintendent of Schools

Chiefs of Staff

Rich Madaleno, Chief Administrative Officer (Acting)

Marlene Michaelson, Executive Director, County Council

Caroline Sturgis, Assistant Chief Administrative Officer



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL

ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

**COUNCILMEMBER NANCY NAVARRO
DISTRICT 4**

**CHAIR, GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS AND
FISCAL POLICY COMMITTEE**

EDUCATION AND CULTURE COMMITTEE

MEMORANDUM

March 3, 2021

TO: Sidney Katz, Chair, Public Safety Committee
Craig Rice, Chair, Education and Culture Committee

FROM: Nancy Navarro, Chair, Government Operations & Fiscal Policy Committee

SUBJECT: Proposed amendment to bills on School Resource Officers

The Public Safety (PS) Committee and the Education (E&S) Committee will be holding a joint session on two bills that address the future of School Resource Officers (SROs) in Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS). [Bill 46-20](#), *School Resources Officers – Prohibited* (introduced by lead sponsors Will Jawando and Hans Riemer on November 17, 2020, with a public hearing held on February 4, 2021), would prohibit the Montgomery County Police Department from deploying school resource officers in schools. [Bill 7-21](#), *Police – School Resource Officer – Building Positive Law Enforcement Relationships Within Schools* (introduced by lead sponsors Craig Rice and Sidney Katz on February 2, 2021, with public hearing scheduled for March 4, 2021), would authorize the Chief of Police to assign a law enforcement officer to work as a school resource officer in a County school upon the request of the Superintendent of Schools, with a requirement for enhanced training for a school resource officer.

It is appropriate that the PS/EC joint committee session is taking up both bills at the same time. This approach allows the Council ultimately to take a holistic approach. It affirms the fact that we all have a shared interest – how to focus on our students’ mental and emotional well-being without compromising their physical safety as our parents and students expect, and as mandated by state law.

After listening to the community, especially our youth, studying both bills and related proposals in the General Assembly, the reports of the Reimagining Safety Task Force workgroup as well as the school system’s workgroup, I am proposing a model that eliminates the current SRO model, de-emphasizes a law enforcement focus within our schools and instead focuses on the mentoring and mental health needs

of students. However, it includes a Public Safety cluster model comprised of Police Officers, mental health professionals and Positive Youth Development staff. This approach Patterned after the Kennedy Cluster model which I worked on and helped implement in 2007 when I was President of the Board of Education, this model would incorporate multi-agency and interdepartmental collaboration, Positive Youth Development (PYD) initiatives, and mental health support that our County has previously invested in, and that can be strengthened with nationally recognized programs.

On February 5th, I sent a memorandum to County Executive Marc Elrich, outlining my alternative option to the physical presence of SROs in schools (attached). I have since met with the County Executive, the Police Chief, the leadership of the department of Health and Human Services, and MCPS to make sure that this approach can be implemented. I am pleased with their feedback and their proactive work in this space. The County Executive has shared his proposed cluster model with me, and I look forward to us working with him as a team to stand up a policy and an instrument that have the teeth and compassion to support and protect our students.

My amendment to the proposed bills is attached. For purposes of the joint committee's work, I have chosen to amend Bill 46-20 with this team model and incorporate training for the team members with the requirements in Bill 7-21. The result is a new structure that addresses all the concerns I have heard, and that is also consistent with the research findings and recommendations of the Office of Legislative Oversight. In summary, under the umbrella of Racial Equity and Social Justice, my proposed amendment:

- Creates a team that resides outside the schools and moves SROs out of school facilities and into a “cluster” model.
- Includes PYD initiatives and mental health supports in the “cluster” model with appropriate training for team members.
- Defines and restricts the offenses for which school personnel can call the law enforcement team.
- Enhances school-based services and student-centered supports (pupil personnel workers, counselors, Parent Community Coordinators, Street Outreach Network, Wellness centers, Linkages to Learning, and other student-centered programs). In addition, there should be an awareness program for school personnel to make sure they are informed of the availability of student support services, so they may promote prevention.

In closing I would like to sincerely thank Councilmembers Jawando, Rice, Riemer, Katz and County Executive Elrich for all their work on this issue. I appreciate their commitment to racial equity and social justice, and a truly re-imagined public safety structure. We have an opportunity here to provide the appropriate leadership as a team and rally behind the joint committee as it puts forward a recommendation to the full council.

Copy to:

Members of the County Council
Marc Elrich, County Executive
Brenda Wolff, President, Montgomery County Board of Education
Jack Smith, Superintendent of Schools
Raymond Crowel, Director, Health and Human Services
Marcus Jones, Chief of Police

Attachment

Bill 46-20 - Navarro Amendment 1

Amend lines 23-30 as follows:

- (8) Montgomery County Public Schools fall well short of the student to mental health and counseling staff ratios recommended by the National Association of School Psychologists and the American School Counselor Association; [[and]]
- (9) students of color would benefit from more opportunity to speak with therapists, nurses, and school psychologists with diverse backgrounds who can speak to the challenges they are facing; and
- (10) Montgomery County Public Schools must enhance mental health and counseling support for students.

Add the following after line 40:

- (d) Local law enforcement coverage program for public schools. The Executive must establish a local law enforcement coverage program for each public school that incorporates positive youth development principles while prioritizing safety through the use of multidisciplinary school teams that are not based in a school. The Chief of Police must assign police officers to different geographic areas to work on a school team with mental health professionals and counselors assigned by the Director of Health and Human Services. Each member of the school team must receive training on:
 - (1) de-escalation techniques;
 - (2) mediation and conflict resolution;
 - (3) childhood and adolescent development;
 - (4) alcohol/drug response;
 - (5) gang prevention and response;
 - (6) truancy prevention;
 - (7) child abuse and neglect;

- (8) culturally competent community engagement and outreach;
 - (9) emergency preparedness and response to critical incidents;
 - (10) threat assessment;
 - (11) mental health triage and crisis intervention;
 - (12) trauma-informed response practices;
 - (13) restorative justice;
 - (14) physical and developmental disability awareness; and
 - (16) mentoring.
- (e) Memorandum of Understanding. The Executive must negotiate a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Superintendent of Schools establishing guidelines for the operation of the school teams established under subsection (d). The MOU must:
- (1) include a comprehensive data sharing agreement between the Police Department and the Montgomery County Public Schools; and
 - (2) define the type of issues that:
 - (A) should result in a call for law enforcement assistance; and
 - (B) should be handled as a school discipline matter instead of a call for law enforcement assistance.
- (f) Reporting. The Chief of Police, after consulting with the Superintendent of Schools, must submit an annual written report to the Executive and the Council on or about July 15 of each year that includes:
- (1) the number and discipline of personnel assigned to each school team during the school year;
 - (2) the number of calls for law enforcement assistance for each school during the school year;
 - (3) the number of arrests of a student at each school broken down by race, gender, ethnicity, and disability during the school year;
 - (4) a description of each incident that resulted in an arrest of a student;

- (5) recommendations for improvements in the program; and
- (6) any other metrics that can be used to measure success of the program.

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