


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

May 12, 2010

CONFIDENTIAL
MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education

From: Jerry D. Weast, Superintendent of Schools 

Subject: Future Brickyard Middle School Site—Proposed Use by Montgomery County

In November 2009, County Executive Isiah Leggett notified Mrs. Patricia O'Neill, president of the Board of Education, of an interest in leasing the future Brickyard middle school site for recreational use to provide additional ballfields for the County's youth teams. Mrs. O'Neill provided an interim response on December 23, 2009, indicating that a meeting had been scheduled between Montgomery County and Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) staffs and a more detailed response would follow.

The 20-acre site, located on Brickyard Road in Potomac, was acquired in 1973 and currently is leased for organic farming purposes with the current lease term to expire on March 22, 2011. The tenant participates in the Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program, one of several sites in Montgomery County that allows consumers to buy local, seasonal food directly from a farmer. Attached is a copy of a tax map showing the location of the site.

Subsequently, staff has met twice with representatives of Mr. Leggett's office and the Department of General Services. The County proposes to prepare and distribute a Request for Expression of Interest to coordinate a public/private partnership to operate soccer fields on the site. County staff has met with staff from the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission to discuss issues involved in the developing and operating of soccer fields on the site.

Should the Board agree to enter into a Lease Agreement with the County, it would be the County's responsibility to provide community notice and obtain applicable permits, including Mandatory Referral review. The lease term is proposed to be ten to twenty years and a reclamation clause would be included in the document should the site be needed for future school construction purposes. County staff has suggested requesting assistance from the Department of Economic Development to work with the tenant to identify an alternative site for his organic farming operation. The County has agreed to pay MCPS rent equal to what the current tenant now pays, which is \$1,300 per year, and will allow the tenant to complete his lease term.

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Staff will proceed with drafting a Lease Agreement with Montgomery County that includes the requirement that the County obtain all necessary permits, notify the community, and pay an annual rent of \$1,300. Terms of the lease would include reclamation should the site be needed for school purposes in the future. Subsequently, staff is scheduled to discuss this matter during the Board of Education meeting on June 8, 2010, in closed session.

JDW:jlc

Attachment

Copy to:

Mr. Bowers

Mr. Lavorgna

Dr. Liebes

Ms. Turpin