

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

October 24, 2018

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education

From: Jack R. Smith, Superintendent of Schools

Subject: Policy FAA, Educational Facilities Planning, and Schools in the Agricultural Reserve (09-24-18-02-B)

During the discussion of Board Policy FAA, *Educational Facilities Planning*, Board members requested the following information:

**Question B**

Mrs. O'Neill suggested that schools in the Agricultural Reserve (Ag Reserve) need special consideration when the regulations are being reviewed regarding ranges.

**Response**

MCPS Regulation FAA-RA, *Long-range Facilities Planning*, is in the process of being reviewed and revised to align with Board Policy FAA, *Educational Facilities Planning*, which was amended by the Board on September 24, 2018. Existing language in Regulation FAA-RA sets forth preferred ranges of enrollment, but those ranges are not mandated:

*The preferred range of enrollment is considered when planning new schools or when changes are made to existing schools. **Departures from the preferred ranges may occur if circumstances warrant.***

The language "if circumstances warrant" was revised in the June 6, 2015, revision to provide flexibility for departures from preferred ranges, and is currently interpreted to address the concerns about the perceived viability of the schools in the Agricultural Reserve due to their small enrollment sizes. I have directed staff to review the existing language in Regulation FAA-RA to determine whether further revisions are needed to address the concerns of communities in the Agricultural Reserve.

If you have questions, please contact Dr. Andrew M. Zuckerman, chief operating officer, at 240-740-3050, or Mr. James Song, director, Department of Facilities Management, at 240-314-1064.

JRS:JIC:sd

Copy to:

Dr. Statham

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