

Item 7 - Correspondence

From: [Morris, Julie A](#)
To: [MCP-Chair](#)
Cc: [Hill, Veronica](#); [Adams, Seth P](#); [Sanchez, Michael R](#); [Sean Lindaman](#); [Daley, Eleesha](#); [Neam, Dominique](#); [King, Celeste D](#)
Subject: Written testimony for 7/23 item #7 South Lake Elementary School
Date: Wednesday, July 22, 2020 10:24:33 AM
Attachments: [MR_SouthLake_testimony_signed.pdf](#)

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Good morning,

Please see my written testimony for Mandatory Referral item 7.0, South Lake Elementary School parking lot, for tomorrow's meeting.

Thank you,
Julie Morris

Julie Morris, AICP
Facilities Manager, Special Projects
Montgomery County Public Schools
Division of Construction
45 W Gude Dr. Suite 4300
Rockville, MD 20850

July 22, 2020

Members of the Montgomery County Planning Board
Mr. Casey Anderson, Chair,
Montgomery County Planning Department
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Re: South Lake Elementary School
Temporary Parking Lot
Item 7.0 July 23, 2020

Chair Anderson and Members of the Planning Board:

We are here before you to address the needs of South Lake Elementary School. Built-in 1972, the school has greatly exceeded both its core capacity and its ability to house all 900 plus students who currently attend. There are currently nine relocatable classrooms on-site, including a Linkages to Learning. To address staffing needs and additional Community School positions, South Lake ES was approved for four additional relocatable classrooms for the 2020-2021 school year, bringing the total to 13.

We had looked at placing these relocatable classrooms on the lower field, where we now propose the parking lot; however, ADA access from the lower field to the school would be quite difficult to achieve. The school's footprint and the slope of the site were not favorable for a placement on the lower field behind the Linkages portable due in part to the lack of convenient exterior doors for student access back and forth to into the building.

During planning this spring, our team did try to avoid placement of these relocatable classrooms on the already constrained parking lot, as staff parking for the 100+ staff members was already insufficient, and visitor parking is nonexistent. As you can see in Figure 2, the existing parking lot is located in the northwest corner of the site, far from both the school's main entrance and the Linkages to Learning.

Our team participated in a pre-Mandatory Referral meeting to discuss the plans to provide a new parking lot with Nkosi Yearwood and other planning staff. The nature of the parking lot is intended to serve the school's interim needs for the next two and a half years until a Major Capital Project will largely rebuild and reimagine this facility and rework the site to accommodate a multistory building with needed program space.

This May, the County Council approved an FY21 appropriation for planning for the South Lake Elementary School Major Capital Project and delayed construction by one year, from September 2023 to September 2024. The plan is for South Lake Elementary School to move out to Emory Grove Holding Center in January 2023, at which point construction is anticipated to commence and last 18 months, with the school reopening in September 2024.

MCPS, along with the Planning Board and community at large, have a shared interest in the optimal redevelopment of the site as we plan for the new elementary school facility and look forward to bringing that proposal back before you. Safe routes to school, sustainability, and other best practices will be thoughtfully planned, and input will be gathered from the community for the new facility.

On behalf of the students and staff of South Lake Elementary School, along with Ms. Celeste King, principal, we thank you for your support of this project.

Sincerely,

Julie A. Morris

Julie Morris, AICP, Facilities Manager
Division of Construction

JM:knm

Copy to:

Mr. Adams
Ms. Daley
Ms. Hill
Ms. King
Mr. Lindaman
Mr. Sanchez

From: [King, Celeste D](#)
To: [Morris, Julie A](#); [MCP-Chair](#)
Cc: [Hill, Veronica](#); [Adams, Seth P](#); [Sanchez, Michael R](#); [Sean Lindaman](#); [Daley, Eleesha](#); [Neam, Dominique](#)
Subject: RE: Written testimony for 7/23 item #7 South Lake Elementary School
Date: Wednesday, July 22, 2020 11:29:30 AM

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Thank you for sharing this information. As a point of correction, we have 10 portables in the back field and 4 portables on the parking lot for a total of 14 portables. We also have an additional portable which houses Linkages to Learning staff.

Thanks,
Celeste

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: "Morris, Julie A" <Julie_A_Morris@mcpsmd.org>
Date: 7/22/20 10:24 AM (GMT-05:00)
To: MCP-Chair@mncppc-mc.org
Cc: "Hill, Veronica" <Veronica_Hill@mcpsmd.org>, "Adams, Seth P" <Seth_P_Adams@mcpsmd.org>, "Sanchez, Michael R" <Michael_R_Sanchez@mcpsmd.org>, Sean Lindaman <SLindaman@clarkazar.com>, "Daley, Eleesha" <Eleesha_Daley@mcpsmd.org>, "Neam, Dominique" <Dominique.Neam@mncppc-mc.org>, "King, Celeste D" <Celeste_King@mcpsmd.org>
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