



April 5, 2018

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education

From: Michael J. Martirano, Ed.D.
Interim Superintendent

Subject: Talbott Springs Elementary School Project Planning Timeline

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform you of the timeline associated with the Talbott Springs Elementary School (TSES) project. On August 17, 2017, staff presented the TSES Feasibility Study to the Board of Education. The Board approved the project and directed staff to begin the planning process. The TSES project is listed as a replacement school in the FY18 Board Approved Capital Budget. The State requires that for replacement schools or schools involving major demolition, a feasibility study must be submitted and approved by the Designee's of the Interagency Committee (IAC).

Once a project (e.g., replacement, renovation or renovation/addition) receives initial approval by the Board in the capital budget, direction is given to staff to initiate the planning of the project. Staff continues to plan for the TSES replacement and advocate for State local planning approval and state funding at the replacement rate, until an alternative direction is approved by the Board.

For the TSES project, the following timeline occurred:

- **February 23, 2017** – FY 2018 Board of Education Requested Capital Budget listed TSES as a renovation project. A feasibility study is not required to be submitted to the State for a renovation project.
- **May 25, 2017** – FY 2018 Board of Education Approved Capital Budget shows TSES as a replacement project. As a replacement project, the State requires a feasibility study be submitted for review and approval. The change in project scope was the result of discussions between County Council and the Board of Education during the FY 2018 Operating and Capital Budget process.
- **August 17, 2017** – TSES Feasibility Study was presented to the Board of Education. At that time, staff advised the Board that the budget is subject to the State review of the TSES Feasibility Study.

- **September 13, 2017** – TSES Feasibility Study submitted for State review.
- **October 4, 2017** – HCPSS staff submitted the FY 2019 State Capital Budget request, which included a request for State Local Planning for the TSES replacement project. Construction funding was not requested in FY 2019 due to the lack of design progress. State Local Planning can be requested prior to or in the same year as a Construction Funding, depending on the design progress.
- **November 9, 2017** – Mr. Scott Washington, Director of School Construction, received the Capital Improvement Plan Issues Letter from Joan Schaefer, Deputy Director, Maryland Public School Construction Program (CIP). This letter is the result of the CIP review meeting with the State and identifies issues with the FY 2019 State Capital Improvement Program submittal. Staff was asked to provide additional information for multiple projects, including the TSES project and Feasibility Study.
- **November 27, 2017** – HCPSS staff submitted a response to the issues letter, which stated we will continue to coordinate with our state contact, Ms. Jillian Storms, regarding any concerns with the TSES Feasibility Study.
- **December 7, 2017** – Dr. Martirano presented testimony at the IAC Appeals on the TSES Replacement as well as other projects and concerns.
- **December 8, 2017** – The Designee’s for the IAC issued a letter stating they feel the Board’s decision of a replacement school for TSES is not justified and will not support funding the project at the replacement rate. (HCPSS received it via email on December 18, 2017)
- **December 20, 2017** – The December 20, 2017, IAC meeting agenda was posted on the IAC’s website with FY 2019 Designee funding recommendations. TSES Replacement received a “C” status, which meant that the project is “deferred, and not currently eligible for planning or funding approval based on unresolved issues.”
- **January 11, 2018** – HCPSS received communication from the Board of Public Works (BPW) that their annual appeal meeting was by invitation only. HCPSS and the Board did not appeal to the BPW at that time regarding TSES receiving a “C” status as this opportunity was not afforded to us.
- **January 26, 2018** – The BPW letter indicating approval of 75% of the proposed FY 2019 Capital Budget for public school construction was issued.
- **February 8, 2018** – HCPSS staff sent a letter requesting that the IAC Designees reconsider support for TSES replacement.

- **February 8, 2018** – Staff presented schematic design to the Board. The Board approved the schematic design as submitted.
- **February 8, 2018** – Staff presented a capital budget amendment to the Board. The revisions included an updated timeline and cash flow for the Hammond HS renovation/addition. Staff indicated we were working through the State’s issues on its lack of support for the TSES replacement.
- **February 28, 2018** – IAC recommendation of 90% of the proposed capital budget for public school construction was issued. TSES remained a “C” status.
- **March 2, 2018** – HCPSS staff sent a memorandum to the Board regarding the final decisions on the State Local Planning for the FY 2019 Capital Budget, including the lack of support for a TSES replacement.
- **March 29, 2018** – County Executive Proposed Capital Budget lists TSES as a renovation/addition.

Although the State will not support funding TSES at the replacement rate, they have indicated they may fund TSES at the renovation rate. State funding allocations for a renovation/addition at TSES can be applied toward a replacement. The Board may still choose to move forward with a replacement school, should local funding be available to cover the difference in cost.

In addition, there have been questions pertaining to the reconsideration (a.k.a. as appeal) letter. The letter that was sent to the Board on Wednesday, April 4 that was addressed to Fred Mason is the reconsideration letter. We have not received a response from Mr. Mason at this time.

HCPSS staff has verified with Public School Construction staff today that there is a Designees work session on April 11, 2018, and that the TSES reconsideration letter has been placed on the agenda for discussion. Please note, the Designee meetings are not public meetings. As a result, HCPSS was unaware that the April 11, 2018 meeting was scheduled.

The next steps include the following

- Staff will continue to follow-up with the Designees on the issues identified in their letter, dated December 8, 2017.
- HCPSS staff will follow-up with the Public School Construction Program staff on April 12 to discuss results of the Designees meeting.
- HCPSS is able to request both State Local Planning and Construction funding (should planning have progressed sufficiently) in the FY 2020 State Capital Budget. This process starts July 1, 2018.

We have been asked what the community can do in support of TSES and what talking points can be shared. The community may advocate to the state for the reconsideration of

the replacement school by using the points from the HCPSS letter dated February 8, 2018.
(See Attachment.)

If you have any questions regarding this information, please contact Anissa Brown
Dennis, Chief Operating Officer.

Copy to: Executive Staff
Board of Education Office