



HOWARD COUNTY OFFICE OF COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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April 9, 2018

Mr. Fred D. Mason III
MSDE School Facilities Branch Chief
Designee to the IAC
200 West Baltimore Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Dear Mr. Mason:

I am writing to respectfully request that you reconsider the December 8, 2017 decision of the Designees to the IAC regarding the Talbott Springs Elementary School – Replacement. I fully support the Howard County Public School System’s detailed rationale for reconsideration in their February 8, 2018 letter.

The Talbott Springs Elementary School serves a wonderful community in Howard County who deserve a replacement school to ensure the future delivery of educational programs along with many additional support services and necessary resources. At 40 years old, this building’s systems can no longer be maintained and need to be replaced. Student enrollment is expected to grow and the replacement option will increase capacity to accommodate 620 students, including 85 immersion students.

Talbott Springs Elementary is centrally located in Howard County, which allows flexibility in meeting continued anticipated student population growth and community support needs. This school currently provides many services and resources outside of the regular school program, such as food and clothing collections and social and professional community liaison services. Existing spaces in the building are used to meet the service needs, using teacher planning areas and storage closets as no other spaces are available.

A replacement building will be more cost effective to operate and maintain. Our plan to build a new building while students continue their education uninterrupted in the existing building, as we did with Wilde Lake Middle School, will minimize disruption and service delivery for this Title I school.

For these reasons, and those detailed by the HCPSS, I would appreciate your reconsideration and support for a replacement school for Talbott Springs Elementary.

Please let me know if you have any questions. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Allan H. Kittleman
County Executive

cc: Michael J. Martirano, Superintendent
Board of Education Members
B. Diane Wilson
Lonnie Robbins