

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

April 19, 2023

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education

From: Monifa B. McKnight, Superintendent of School

Subject: Conditions at Silver Spring International Middle School (02-23-2023-01-B)

Question

During the *Public Comments* discussion, Board members requested the following information regarding the conditions at Silver Spring International Middle School (SSIMS) and remediation efforts.

Response

The offices of District Operations and School Support and Well-Being are working collaboratively to address many of the concerns articulated by the members of the Board of Education and community members about Silver Spring International Middle School (SSIMS).

During the last five weeks, Mrs. Dana E. Edwards, chief of district operations, and staff in the departments of Facilities Management (DFM), Systemwide Safety and Emergency Management, Materials Management, and Transportation, along with Dr. Peter O. Moran, area associate superintendent of school support and well-being, visited SSIMS several times. A strategic long-term operational plan has been developed to increase transparency and ongoing support for the SSIMS administration.

On February 14, 2023, Mrs. Edwards, Dr. Moran, Mr. Adams, and Mr. Clarke attended the SSIMS Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA) meeting to have an open discussion about the progress and the summer construction project, which includes interior renovations, anticipated to be completed by winter 2024.

To support creating smoother operations and attending to the immediate concerns, the following steps have been taken:

Topic	Actions
Facility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Added 1.0 security assistant for the duration of the year to support the complexity of the school’s footprint • Purchased 12 additional cameras to be installed within the next three weeks • Installation of first floor water fountain • Completed strategic and deep cleaning • Established daily and weekly cleaning protocols to maintain upkeep and cleanliness of the building • Tested the chorus and band room for air quality concerns and changed the ceiling tiles • Fulfillment of work orders
Daily Operations and Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the school and county to discontinue community use of the field during a school day • Support in ordering materials for maintenance of the basketball court and field • Reiteration of expectations to students and staff • Order walkies that allow seamless communication between the SSIMS and Sligo Creek Elementary School • Working with Montgomery County Police to identify support for one crosswalk that has been impacted by the Purple Line • Continued support with the placement of staff to support arrival and dismissal • Stored materials that were misplaced • Assessed daily operations and building management to support with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Increased staff presence in the hallway ○ Single directional staircases ○ Streamlining breakfast distribution ○ Expanding staff duties during arrival and dismissal • Creating consistent signage throughout the building
Community Engagement	<p>Continuous updates and deeper conversations about the needs and progress:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly message sent by the principal to the staff and school community with updates • Mrs. Edwards, Dr. Moran, and DFM and security staff attended the February 14 PTSA meeting to provide current efforts and discussed the continued focus and future need • Establishment of the Well-being and Safety Advisory Group

As noted, an MOU is being developed with Montgomery County to discontinue community use of the field during school days, reiterating student expectations, standardizing communication between SSIMS and Sligo Creek Elementary School, and create additional support for crosswalk areas impacted by the construction of the Metro Purple Line.

This summer, construction will begin on the new gymnasium, the security vestibule, and widening the doorway for identified stairwells. The gymnasium will be an 18-month project. We continue to advocate on behalf of our students to ensure the Metro Purple Line is as minimally disruptive as possible to this school community.

Mrs. Edwards and Dr. Moran will continue to provide additional support and monitor upcoming projects throughout the remainder of the year.

If you have questions, please contact Mrs. Dana E. Edwards, chief of district operations, Office of the Chief Operating Officer, via email.

MBM:MBH:DEE:lh

Copy to:

Executive Staff

Mr. Adams

Mr. Clarke

Ms. Webb