

October 20, 2020

Commissioners of Charles County  
200 Baltimore Street  
La Plata, MD 20646

**Re: School Allocation Policy Changes  
Comments from Latina Wilson, CCBOE**

Dear Commissioners,

The Board of Education of Charles County would like to communicate our concerns regarding the proposed changes to the current APF manual and the impact on Charles County Public Schools. The statements below were shared by Latina Wilson, CCBOE Vice Chairman at the October 20, 2020 Public Hearing.

Additional funding will be required to address the capacity demands generated by Priority Development Project exemptions and additional housing units allowed to move forward through the sunset provisions.

- ❖ The funding will need to be separate and apart from the State/Local CIP process as the Board has a program to address aging facilities while adding capacity. Keep in mind, the CIP process can take up to seven years before the school is built.
- ❖ The funding may need to be 100% local funding to address capacity as the State has not been fulfilling the needs of Charles County Public Schools, i.e. FY2021 CIP requests totaled \$32,807,000 and the State approved \$9,752,962.00.
- ❖ We cannot keep up. This is without the added pressure of growth and capacity projects.
- ❖ The average age of a CCPS facility is around 27 years of age so funding is needed for renovations and major systemic upgrades or replacements.
- ❖ Portable classrooms are not the answer to capacity issues and funding for additions or new schools needs to be prioritized by the county while still allowing funding for renovations of older facilities.
- ❖ Operational funding will be necessary to deal with the additional classroom/teacher supports that go along with overcrowding; such as additional staff members for increased class sizes, floating teachers, displaced programs, portable classrooms, additional lunch shifts.

- ❖ Charles County Public Schools supports revenue streams that are dedicated to schools and public education so that funding is continuous and reliable.
- ❖ Consider an additional fee or tax on properties exempted from the allocation policy to support additional operating funds for teacher staffing and student support needs.
- ❖ There isn't enough time given to us today to address the many issues presented today.
- ❖ There is a complete omission and analysis of the operational funding requirements associated with the proposed changes.
- ❖ Keep the record open for 30 days.
- ❖ Form a task force immediately. It should mirror the Rural Planning & Zoning Task Force and given a minimum of 6 month to develop findings.

Sincerely,



Latina Wilson  
Vice Chairman, Charles County Board of Education