

October 20, 2020

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

**Re: School Allocation Policy Changes
Comments from Michael Lukas, 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 Michael Lukas, CCBOE Board Member at the October 20, 2020 Public Hearing.

Charles County Public Schools always appreciates the opportunity to work collaboratively with local government in order to meet the needs of all stakeholders in our county. Last year, members of your economic development team came to the Board of Education with information concerning Waldorf Station. The board appreciated this gesture and subsequently agreed that Waldorf station should proceed despite the fact that it was not in alignment with the current APFO guidelines.

On the 2nd of June this year, the commissioners were given a presentation by Planning and Growth Management which included proposed changes to the APFO and more specifically changes that directly affect Charles County Public Schools.

The elected Board was afforded the opportunity to see the presentation by Mr. Groth and Mr. Yeckley during our September meeting, and at this time learned of the VAST amount of proposed changes to the APFO. These changes greatly exceeded what was presented to us last year by your economic development team.

The elected Board of Education stipulated to proposed changes to the APFO allowing development in opportunity zones even when sufficient school allocations do not exist. We have codified this stance in a letter to the commissioners.

Proposed changes to the APFO as delivered by your Planning and Growth Management Department would allow similar development in PFA's or Priority Funding Areas. This has the potential to cause an even greater impact to the school system than the development of the opportunity Zone.

In the interest of the school system and all stakeholders in the county, collaboration to discuss the PFA's is appropriate and the school system cannot, at this time, support the proposed development of the PFA's without further dialogue.

We look forward to working together to do what's best for the citizens of Charles County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Lukas', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Michael Lukas
Board Member, Charles County Board of Education