



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

ROGER BERLINER
COUNCILMEMBER
DISTRICT 1

CHAIRMAN
TRANSPORTATION, INFRASTRUCTURE
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

May 5, 2015

Montgomery County Public Schools
c/o Mr. Larry Bowers
850 Hungerford Drive
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear Superintendent Bowers,

As you can appreciate, my office has received a great deal of correspondence regarding the proposed plans for Tilden Middle School and its collocation with Rock Terrace. While I understand and respect the Board of Education's programmatic authority over the matter of collocation, the community has voiced several concerns about the process by which decisions have been made to date.

As such, I feel it would be of service to the community if you could clarify certain key issues associated with this proposed project. What follows below is a list of questions that have been raised by residents in the Tilden Lane area. If you or your staff could kindly provide responses that I could then pass along to the concerned residents and citizen associations, I would be most appreciative.

1. When was the decision made to relocate Tilden Middle School to its original location on Tilden Lane and why?
2. What opportunities have there been for the community to weigh in on this decision to relocate the middle school?
3. What decisions have already been made with the new Tilden Middle School regarding square footage and enrollment capacity? If in fact these decision points have occurred, what parameters were used to guide the determination? For example, is the acreage of the Tilden Lane site large enough to programmatically accommodate the proposed new middle school?
4. At what stage in the planning process for a new school does a feasibility study occur and what does that entail?
5. At what stage in the planning process for a new school does a traffic study occur and what does that entail?
6. What are the plans for the existing building on Old Georgetown Road which currently houses Tilden Middle School?
7. How was the decision to collocate Rock Terrace with Tilden Middle School made and what process was followed, including outreach efforts?
8. Was a feasibility study done to determine if the collocation is programmatically appropriate for Tilden Middle School and to ascertain if the Tilden Lane site is adequate for the physical structure that will be needed to accommodate both programs?

9. If the collocation is approved by the Board of Education, what opportunities will there be for community input moving forward and specifically, what will the community be able to weigh in on during the facility planning process?

Thank you for your time and attention to the Luxmanor/Old Farm communities. I am grateful for your willingness to provide greater clarity regarding this important school project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Berliner', written in a cursive style.

Roger Berliner
Councilmember, District 1

cc: Pat O'Neill, President, Board of Education
Members of the Board of Education
Andrew Zuckerman