



**MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
MARYLAND  
www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org

April 3, 2019



Mr. Tony Tomasello  
City Manager  
City of Gaithersburg  
31 South Summit Avenue  
Gaithersburg, Maryland 20877

Dear Mr. Tomasello:

I am writing to provide an update on our work to move forward planning and design for the new Gaithersburg Elementary School #8 project and to outline the next steps in our work together on this project. The Board of Education approved Kelley Park as the site for the next Gaithersburg elementary school; this site also was recommended by the Site Selection Advisory Committee as the preferred location. At the same time, both the Board of Education and the City of Gaithersburg have requested that we examine the feasibility of both the Kelley Park site and an adjacent site, Victory Farm Park. Both of these properties are owned by the City of Gaithersburg. Given the overall scarcity of available property in Montgomery County, we appreciate the City of Gaithersburg's support for this important public school capacity project.

To begin our feasibility analysis of the Victory Farm Park site, we procured the services of an environmental and land design consultant to review and assess environmental features of the property. The contractor's report and a staff summary analysis are enclosed. The site was determined to have environmentally sensitive areas, including streams, floodplains and associated buffers, and forested areas. Given these features and the overall topography of the site, we believe that approximately 3.5 acres of the property would be developable. This area is heavily wooded, and the development would be restricted and regulated according to the environmental features of the site.

Our next step is to conduct a more specific feasibility study of the possible construction options on both the Kelley Park and Victory Farm Park sites. We appreciated the participation of your staff in the March 2019, architectural selection process. The architectural appointment for this project is scheduled for Board of Education approval on April 9, 2019, which will initiate the next stage of developing feasible scenarios for construction of the new elementary school at both sites. We concurrently will contract for an environmental analysis of the Kelley Park site. We anticipate beginning our public discussions later this spring with you and the Gaithersburg community around the options generated through the feasibility studies.

This process will meet the intent of several of the requests identified in your November 5, 2018, letter regarding developing multiple options for design review by the City of Gaithersburg and the larger community. We certainly support the intent of many of the other items related to appropriate

**Office of the Chief Operating Officer**

---

850 Hungerford Drive, Room 149 ♦ Rockville, Maryland 20850 ♦ 240-740-3050

staging of construction to minimize impact on the community, and we are open to further discussion around the park improvements and operational aspects raised in your letter that this project also could bring to the area. Conversations around these more specific aspects of the future project will be facilitated once the comparative feasibility of the sites is completed.

We appreciate the partnership between Montgomery County Public Schools and the City of Gaithersburg to benefit the students and families of the Gaithersburg community. I look forward to our continued work together on the Gaithersburg Elementary School #8 project.

Sincerely,



Andrew M. Zuckerman, Ed.D.  
Chief Operating Officer

AMZ:em

Enclosure

Copy to:

Mr. Elrich  
Members of the Montgomery County Council  
Members of the Board of Education  
Dr. Smith  
Mr. Adams  
Mr. Song  
Ms. Webb