

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY

INFORMATIONAL REPORT DECISION ON AWARD OF CONTRACT ASSESSING FACILITY UTILIZATION AND BALANCING SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

August 10, 2020

Background Information:

Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) has recently seen an increase in enrollment after multiple years of relatively flat enrollment. Much of this growth has been seen in schools located in the Bel Air area; however, it is also expanding into other areas of the County's growth envelope. Harford County has an Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance (APFO); if a school is at or is projected to reach 110% of the state rated capacity in the next three years, preliminary plans for subdivisions with more than five lots cannot be approved. Presently, four elementary schools and one middle school are at, or above, the threshold to trigger APFO restrictions on new development.

The Build to Learn Act, passed in the 2020 legislative session, requires each local school board to conduct a capacity study identifying the current capacity of each school and the demographics of students in the school compared to the overall student demographics for the school system by July 1, 2022. The capacity study must be submitted to the IAC and the General Assembly by December 1, 2022.

In June 2020, the Board of Education approved the Educational Facilities Master Plan, listing Homestead/Wakefield Elementary School as the next major capital project. The BOE approved a scope study in September 2009 to construct an addition and renovate the Wakefield building to accommodate the entire student population in one facility. Local planning was approved by the State in FY2012 CIP. However, due to fiscal constraints the project was deferred; the State planning approval for the project was rescinded April 2016. An updated scope study is needed to ensure the resulting project addresses the school system and community needs.

Discussion:

A Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for consulting services to create a facility plan to optimize facility utilization, address current program requirements, plan for new programs, balance student enrollment, evaluate and recommend an optimal site location for the John Archer replacement facility and update the scope study for Homestead/Wakefield Elementary School was issued by HCPS' Planning and Construction Department. In response to this RFQ, five (5) teams submitted responses that were evaluated by a selection committee that considered team qualifications, experience, workload, and references. Four (4) firms were "shortlisted," interviewed and ranked.

As the result of this process, the committee has selected the consulting team FLO Analytics to provide the services outlined in the RFQ. FLO Analytics has extensive experience assisting other school systems with similar tasks developing long term plans. Relative qualifications include experience with community engagement, estimating future residential growth, and analyzing impacts of multiple boundary adjustment scenarios on students, staff, transportation, feeder patterns and programs.

Additionally, FLO Analytics has partnered with Banta Campbell Architects, Inc. to update the scope study for Homestead/Wakefield Elementary School. Banta Campbell Architects, Inc. has a history of successful school projects with HCPS including the current Limited Renovation Project at Joppatowne High School.

Superintendent's Recommendation:

The Superintendent of Schools recommends that the Board of Education approve a contract for the above described professional consulting services to FLO Analytics in the amount of \$648,425.00.