

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY

INFORMATIONAL REPORT

**DECISION ON SURPLUS OF BOARD PROPERTY
KNOW AND DESIGNATED AS SCHUCK'S ROAD PROPERTY
HARFORD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TAX MAP 42, PARCEL 454 & 43
BEL AIR, HARFORD COUNTY, MARYLAND**

MARCH 23, 2026

Background Information:

The Board of Education owns approximately 31.15 acres of land where the proposed Campus Hills Elementary School site was originally planned and where the Harford Academy replacement school was later considered.

The Campus Hills site is located just outside the Maryland Priority Funding Area (PFA). Under the Regulations for the Administration of the Public School Construction Program (COMAR 23.03.02), school construction projects must be located within a Priority Funding Area in order to receive State approval and funding. A waiver may be requested when a proposed school site is located outside of a Priority Funding Area. Because the Campus Hills site is located just outside the PFA boundary, Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) submitted a waiver request for the Harford Academy replacement school. However, the Maryland Department of Planning (MDP) informed HCPS that the site could not be approved for use as a school site unless one of the following actions occurred:

- The local government extends the Priority Funding Area to include the site and commits to updating the County Master Plan to extend public water and sewer service to the property within ten years.
- HCPS works with the local planning department to identify a school site located within the Priority Funding Area.

Harford County determined that it did not want to extend the Priority Funding Area or commit to updating the Master Plan to extend public water and sewer to the site. As a result, the County identified an alternative site located within the Priority Funding Area.

At the Board of Education business meeting on February 26, 2024, the Board approved the site located on N. Fountain Green Road, Bel Air, Maryland 21015 as the new location for the Harford Academy replacement school. The County government purchased the property and transferred it to the Board of Education on May 29, 2024.

Section 4-115 of the Education Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, along with related Maryland State Board of Education regulations and Maryland State Department of

Education procedures, requires that before a local board of education may transfer ownership of real property, the board must determine that the property is no longer needed for school purposes. The statute further requires that any such transfer of real property be conveyed to the local county government.

Discussion:

The Superintendent, in consultation with the Assistant Superintendent for Operations, has determined that the Campus Hills property is no longer needed for school purposes. In accordance with Section 4-115 of the Education Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, the Superintendent recommends that the Board of Education declare the property surplus and authorize its conveyance to Harford County Government.

If the Board of Education approves this recommendation, Harford County Public Schools will submit the request to the Maryland State Department of Education and the Interagency Commission on School Construction (IAC) for approval of the disposal and transfer of the subject parcel to Harford County Government.

Superintendent's Recommendation:

The Superintendent of Schools recommends that, for the reasons explained above, the Board declare the Subject Property surplus pursuant to Section 4-115 of the Education Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland and authorize the Superintendent to execute, on behalf of the Board, any deed or other documents necessary to convey the Subject Property to Harford County, Maryland, in fee simple.

Attachments:

1. Consolidation Plat (Formerly Land of Blevins and Land of Schucks Corner, LLC) dated January 31, 2011.