



August 30, 2016

**Board of Education
of Howard County**

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The Honorable Allan H. Kittleman
County Executive
Howard County Government
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

**SUBJECT: MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR PURCHASE
OF GOULD PROPERTY/MISSION ROAD**

Dear County Executive Kittleman:

In accordance with Section 3-305(b)(3) of the General Provisions Article, the Board of Education of Howard County recently met in closed session to consider the Gould property on Mission Road and the County Executive's Memorandum of Understanding to obtain this site. The Board's consideration included locating two schools on this site for future Elementary School #43 and Middle School #21. Members acknowledged that this site could potentially relieve overcrowded conditions in the southeast and northeast HCPSS planning regions.

The Board is prepared to move forward with the expectation that this property will eventually be acquired and utilized for the two (2) schools identified above. However, there are a number of requirements necessary for the acquisition to proceed. One such requirement is a formal recommendation to the Board as to the suitability of the site. That recommendation is being made, and will be formally addressed at the Board's next open session, which is scheduled for September 8, 2016.

We are also obligated, in accordance with Section 6-116 of the Education Article of the *Annotated Code of Maryland* and Board Policy 6000 Site Selection and Acquisition, to take certain steps before giving preliminary approval of a specific school site. Those steps include a public hearing conducted by the Board. The Board hopes to promptly schedule such a hearing, and it is the Board's hope and expectation that the site will be on track at that point for state review as described below.

Thereafter, in accordance with Board of Education Policy 6000 Site Selection and Acquisition, Section IV.E, the Howard County Public School System must have any necessary review and approval from the Maryland State Clearinghouse for Intergovernmental Assistance (Clearinghouse), Maryland Department of Planning, and the Interagency Committee on Public School Construction (IAC) regarding the site's suitability to construct schools. Please be advised the state process may take approximately six (6) months, but we will make every effort to expedite that process.

We look forward to working with you on this endeavor. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Bruce Gist, Executive Director of Capital Planning and Operations at 410-313-6798.

Sincerely,



Christine E. O'Connor
Chairman
Board of Education of Howard County



Renee A. Foose, Ed.D.
Superintendent
Howard County Public School System

cc: Board of Education Members
Linda T. Wise, Deputy Superintendent
Bruce Gist, Executive Director
Leslie Stellman, Esq., Pessin Katz Law, P.A.