

Greenbelt City Council Work Session

**With Prince George's County School
Board Member Lupi Grady**

Wednesday, May 31, 2017 at 7:30 p.m.

**Room 201
Greenbelt Community Center**

- **Welcome and Introductions**
- **Comments by Ms. Grady**
- **Milestone Cell Tower Proposal**
 - **Eleanor Roosevelt High School - Thanks!**
 - **Other Schools**
- **Greenbelt Concerns**
 - **Greenbelt Children Attending Greenbelt Schools**
 - **Springhill Lake Elementary**
 - **Condition of School**
 - **Replacement of School**
 - **Other Capital Projects for Greenbelt Schools?**
 - **Artificial Turf and Lights at ERHS**
 - **School Enrollment and Funding**
 - **Greenbelt Middle School Concerns**
 - **Update on Relocation of Greenbelt Road Bus Lot**
- **Other Items**



Kevin M. Maxwell, Ph.D.
Chief Executive Officer

October 28, 2014

The Honorable Emmett V. Jordan
Mayor of Greenbelt
25 Crescent Road
Greenbelt, MD 20770

Dear Mayor Jordan:

Thank you for your October 14th letter expressing the City of Greenbelt's preference that children residing in Greenbelt attend schools located in Greenbelt. By policy, the Board of Education has expressed its commitment to making the most economical and practical use of its physical resources in the implementation of its educational programs. We share your interest in building upon neighborhood and community boundaries to strengthen our schools. As acknowledged in your letter, that objective is sometimes constrained by other considerations such as building capacity.

In making school assignments for new residential developments, a balance must be struck among multiple factors typically none of which are treated as absolute constraints. In addition to existing assignment patterns, distance to schools and school capacity, physical barriers, municipal boundaries and the potential for further residential growth are additional considerations which influence decisions.

Where a development occurs wholly within an existing school attendance area, the new development is most heavily influenced by the existing assignment pattern. Where the development is adjacent to the attendance area for two or more schools, school capacity, physical barriers and growth potential become significant considerations. As you noted in your letter, enrollment at Eleanor Roosevelt High has declined somewhat in recent years but enrollment still exceeds the State Rated Capacity of the facility by more than three hundred students and the school uses more temporary classrooms than any other school in the district. We cannot in good conscience assign additional residential areas to the school if a practical alternative exists. We remain mindful of the City's preferences in such matters but cannot accommodate your request to re-assigning Greenbelt Station Development to Eleanor Roosevelt High.

Regarding the online boundary map display, the shapes of the boundaries have been updated to reflect the assignments for Greenbelt Station. The shapes generally represent the areas of assignment but those covering undeveloped land on the edge of two assignment areas can shift once actual school assignments are made.

We remain your partners in meeting the educational needs of City of Greenbelt residents.

Respectfully,

Kevin M. Maxwell, Ph.D.
Chief Executive Officer

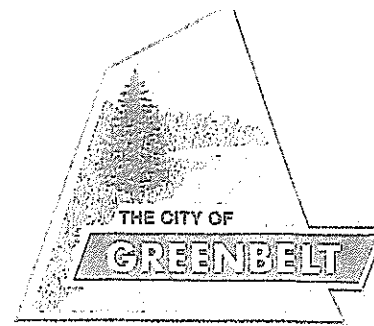
KMM:JJB:kjp

- cc: Greenbelt City Council
- Honorable Ingrid M. Turner, County Council Member
- Peggy Higgins, School Board Member
- Monica Goldson, Chief Operating Officer
- Michael McLaughlin, City Manager
- Johndel Jones-Brown, Director of Pupil Accounting and School Boundaries
- Celia Craze, Director of Planning & Community Development
- Liz Park, Direct of Greenbelt CARES
- Rosalind Ceasar, ACE Liaison

OCT 31 2014

CITY OF GREENBELT

25 CRESCENT ROAD, GREENBELT, MD. 20770-1886



October 14, 2014

CITY COUNCIL

Emmett V. Jordan, Mayor
Judith F. Davis, Mayor Pro Tem
Konrad E. Herling
Leta M. Mach
Silke I. Pope
Edward V.J. Putens
Rodney M. Roberts

Dr. Kevin M. Maxwell, CEO
Prince George's County Public Schools
14201 School Lane
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

Dear Dr. Maxwell:

The Greenbelt City Council recently received an update on the progress of the new development at Greenbelt Station in Greenbelt. The Council was advised that 60 homes have been sold in the first eight months. Twenty-four (24) units have already been settled/occupied. In total, 503 townhomes/condominiums will be built along with 302 apartments. Attached to this letter is a site plan of the area which includes a table showing the number of homes to be built.

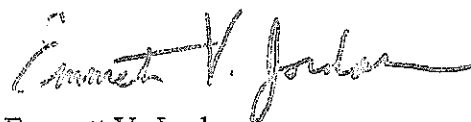
As you heard when you met with the City Council on August 4, 2014, the City Council wants any school children who reside in Greenbelt Station to attend schools located in Greenbelt, especially Eleanor Roosevelt High School. The City also sent a letter to this point on January 30, 2014. According to the Street Finder on the Prince George's County Public Schools website, the currently assigned schools are Berwyn Heights Elementary, Greenbelt Middle School and Parkdale High School. However, the neighborhood boundary map of the website indicates that Greenbelt Station will be served by Springhill Lake Elementary, Greenbelt Middle and Eleanor Roosevelt High Schools. The City understands that overcrowding at a school is a key consideration. While Roosevelt is overcrowded, the total population there has been decreasing. It should also be noted that Parkdale High School is overcrowded as well.

Having Greenbelt children attend Greenbelt schools is very important to the City's residents and City Council. The City and its Advisory Committee on Education have done a great deal to support Greenbelt schools, including offering grants for teachers, awarding outstanding educators and students and funding after-school Science and Reading clubs. Also, Greenbelt pioneered and continues to strongly support the School Resource Officer program at Eleanor Roosevelt High School. The Greenbelt City Council once more urges you to take immediate action to ensure that children residing in Greenbelt Station attend Greenbelt Schools.



Dr. Kevin M. Maxwell, CEO
Prince George's County Public Schools
October 14, 2014
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Emmett V. Jordan".

Emmett V. Jordan
Mayor

/amb

cc: City Council
Honorable Peggy Higgins, School Board Member
Honorable Ingrid M. Turner, County Council Member
Michael McLaughlin, City Manager
Celia Craze, Director of Planning & Community Development
Liz Park, Director of Greenbelt CARES
Rosalind Ceasar, ACE Liaison

FUTURE PROJECT REQUEST

LEA: Prince George's County Public Schools FISCAL YEAR: 2018
 DATE: 10/5/2016

PROJECT TYPE:	NEW	ADDITION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	RENOVATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	REPLACEMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	STATE-OWNED RELOCATABLES: _____						
SCHOOL NAME:	SYSTEMIC RENOVATIONS: <u>Springhill Lake Elementary School</u>						
SCHOOL ADDRESS:	<u>6060 Springhill Drive, Greenbelt, MD 20770</u>						
DESCRIPTION:							
<p>The current SRC is 561 with a projected 2023 enrollment of 761. The adopted Educational Facilities Master Plan (EFMP) recommends reducing the special education concentration at the school to increase capacity needs. Using the Board-adopted prototypical educational specifications, the EFMP recommends 40,000 additional SF for a maximum capacity of 800. Local planning funds will be requested in the FY23 CIP to develop a school specific educational specification, conduct a feasibility study, finalize design capacity, contract for environmental studies, and, to the extent possible, begin the design process.</p>							
PROPOSED RATED CAPACITY:		800		GRADES:		K-5	
REQUEST APPROVAL FOR PLANNING: FY		2023		FUNDING:		FY 2024 and Beyond	
ESTIMATED COST TO STATE:		\$15,347,635		LEA:		\$28,741,272	
PROJECT JUSTIFICATION:							
<p>A full renovation/replacement and addition is recommended for Springhill Lake Elementary School (Planning Area 5) driven by educational adequacy deficiencies, poor condition of the building systems, and overutilization. The project is aligned with the Prince George's county Public Schools FY2017 EFMP, Section 5 Facilities Need Analysis. Also, the school is within the Priority Funding Areas.</p>							

WORK SESSION OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held Wednesday, February 17, 2016, for the purpose of meeting with Prince George's County School Board Member Lupi Grady and Chief Executive Officer Dr. Kevin Maxwell.

Mayor Jordan started the meeting at 8:01 p.m. The meeting was held in Room 201 of the Community Center.

PRESENT WERE: Councilmembers Judith F. Davis, Konrad E. Herling, Leta M. Mach, Silke I. Pope, Edward V. J. Putens, Rodney M. Roberts and Mayor Emmett V. Jordan.

STAFF PRESENT WERE: Michael McLaughlin, City Manager, and Cindy Murray, City Clerk.

ALSO PRESENT WERE: Lupi Grady, Prince George's County School Board Member; Dr. Kevin Maxwell, Prince George's County Schools Chief Executive Officer; Mary Moien, Greenbelt News Review; Genevieve Kelly, Bill Orleans, and others.

Ms. Grady provided an update from the Prince George's County Public School (PGCPS) Board. She reported that financial literacy training for students began this school year for eighth grade students and mentioned this was the first program of its type in the State. Ms. Grady also reported on the "Terrapin Teacher" project that involved students from the University of Maryland assisting school students in science and other activities and the upcoming Youth Summit Day on Leadership involving approximately 60 ninth and tenth grade students from Eleanor Roosevelt, Northwestern and Parkdale High Schools. She said she will have another listening session scheduled soon.

Dr. Maxwell said he had been in his position as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for PGCPS for over two years (on a four year contract) and plans to seek a four year contract renewal. He spoke about his good working relationship with the School Board. Dr. Maxwell said the current funding levels for PGCPS are not adequate to achieve all that he would like to accomplish, but added that lack of adequate funding is the same in all school districts.

Dr. Maxwell reported that the graduation rate rose 2.47% in his first year as CEO and another 2.16% in his second year. He said PGCPS graduation rate is now at 78% compared to the national rate of 82%.

Mayor Jordan and Ms. Davis mentioned Senator Rosapepe's session in Laurel regarding the success of the Monarch School which is a private public partnership serving students in Anne Arundel County. Dr. Maxwell said the Monarch School was a great school and a very good model of a private public partnership. He reported that schools such as Monarch, that receive private funding, are not held to the same construction standards as public schools.

Dr. Maxwell mentioned the need to find viable options to lower class sizes, especially in pre-kindergarten programs. He said Delegate Washington is working on a legislative bill to provide additional resources in this effort. Mayor Jordan suggested Dr. Maxwell notify Council if he would like City support of any legislative bills. Dr. Maxwell said he would provide contact information about the PGCPS legislative agenda.

Dr. Maxwell reported the proposed PGCPS FY 2017 Budget is available on the PGCPS website. He said the proposed budget includes an increase of \$182 million (9.9% over the FY 2016 budget).

Dr. Maxwell said PGCPS is continuing to look for a new site to relocate the Greenbelt bus lot. He said an alternative site they had been working on acquiring last year did not work out during contract negotiations.

In response to a question from Ms. Davis, Dr. Maxwell said PGCPS is still leasing out school property for placement of cell phone towers. He said he wasn't aware of any schools in the Greenbelt area under consideration for cell phone tower placement at this time.

Mr. Roberts said he thought all student suspensions should be eliminated and more efforts should be taken to address whatever problems students may have. Dr. Maxwell said a task force dealing with student conduct and behavior, recovery programs to keep students on task, etc. has been established and there is a statewide effort looking into alternative educational programs. He said it would be great not to have to suspend or discipline any students, but there are situations, such as weapon or drug matters, that warrant a student's removal in order to keep schools safe. Mr. Roberts requested Dr. Maxwell provide Council information regarding student suspensions and their graduation rates.

Ms. Mach, Ms. Pope and Ms. Davis stressed the need to have all Greenbelt children attend their neighborhood schools. Ms. Mach reported that children living in Greenbelt Station are currently assigned to Berwyn Heights Elementary, Greenbelt Middle School and Parkdale High School. She acknowledged that the schools in Greenbelt are overcrowded but noted that both Berwyn Heights Elementary and Parkdale High School are overcrowded also. Ms. Davis said there is still time to work this boundary problem out since there are no school age children residing in Greenbelt Station at this point.

Dr. Maxwell explained the PGCPS operates as a county district and it is not possible to place children in each municipality in schools within its municipality. He offered to arrange a meeting with Council and representatives from the office of PGCPS Boundaries and Zoning to explain how boundaries are established.

Ms. Davis stated that the City and its Advisory Committee on Education does a great deal to support Greenbelt schools, including offering grants for teachers, awarding outstanding educators and students, funding after-school Science and Reading clubs and funding a Student Resource Officer. Ms. Mach said taxpayer money is used to fund these programs, and it is not fair that not all Greenbelt children benefit from them.

Mayor Jordan and Ms. Davis mentioned the City was having difficulty in reaching an agreement with PGCPS for the joint use of the athletic fields at Greenbelt Middle School. Dr. Maxwell said he would check into the matter.

Ms. Grady and Dr. Maxwell left the meeting at 9:08 p.m. to attend another meeting.

Ms. Kelly, member of the Prince George's County Advocates for Better Schools, spoke about their meeting on February 4th. She said School Board Member Grady and John Pfister, Director

of Budget and Management Services for PGCPSS, were in attendance and reviewed the proposed budget. Council requested Ms. Kelly provide them with meeting dates of the organization. Mr. Putens suggested Ms. Kelly reach out to the City's Advisory Committee on Education, as well as the College Park Education Advisory Board.

Informational Items

Ms. Davis provided an update from the Maryland Municipal League Legislative Committee meeting.

Several other informational items were discussed.

The meeting ended at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Cindy Murray
City Clerk*