

HHS/ED COMMITTEE #1

March 3, 2016

Discussion

MEMORANDUM

March 1, 2016

TO: Health and Human Services Committee
Education Committee

FROM: Essie McGuire, Senior Legislative Analyst *Essie McGuire*
Vivian Yao, Legislative Analyst *VY*

SUBJECT: **Discussion – Implementation of the Building Educated Leaders for Life (BELL) Program**

Today the Health and Human Services (HHS) and Education Committees will receive an update on the implementation of the Building Educated Leaders for Life (BELL) program. The following individuals are expected to brief the Committees:

- Deann Collins, Director, Division of Title I and Early Childhood Programs and Services, Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS)
- Damon Johnson, Regional Director, Mid-Atlantic, BELL

Background

In November 2015, the Council approved a special appropriation of \$750,750 to support implementation of the BELL program. This program provides a summer academic and enrichment program to support students who lack the reading and math skills to perform at grade level. The program is funded through a public-private partnership with the Norman R. and Ruth Rales Foundation, which is providing \$475,375 toward the program and is supporting local fundraising efforts to raise remaining program funds.

The Council appropriated the County funds to the Children's Opportunity Fund Non-Departmental Account (NDA) to reflect the role of the Children's Opportunity Fund in coordinating the planning efforts with relevant stakeholders.

The purpose of today's briefing is to receive an update on the plans to date in preparation to implement the pilot program this summer.

Update Information

Today's presentation materials are attached on circles 1-3 and an update memorandum to the Board of Education is attached on circles 4-5. Council staff highlights the following:

- The program expects to enroll 1,050 students, rising 3rd and 4th graders who are performing below benchmarks and enrolled at Title I schools.

The Committees may be interested in hearing from MCPS some additional context of how the anticipated enrollment of 1,050 relates to the overall number of students who may fall into this category.

- Circle 5 references the need to hire approximately 100 staff.

The Committees may want more information on the type of positions included in this total. Will MCPS take the lead in the hiring process, given that many of the BELL staff are expected to be MCPS employees?

- Eight Title I schools have been identified as sites for the summer program. These are listed on circle 2.
- The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and MCPS are contributing in-kind funds in addition to the program funding. DHHS is providing school health services and contract monitoring; MCPS is providing bus transportation, food services, facility needs, and evaluation.
- The materials reference evaluation by both BELL program assessments and MCPS review of school based assessments.

The Committees may want to hear more detail about the evaluation components and the timeline for understanding the outcomes of the summer pilot program.

Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS)

Building Educated Leaders for Life (BELL) Summer Program Update

Presented by :

Mrs. Deann M. Collins, director, Division of Title I and Early Childhood Programs and Services

Mr. Damon Johnson, regional director, Mid-Atlantic, BELL



March 3, 2016



Thank You!

- Montgomery County Council
- Norman R. and Ruth Rales Foundation
- Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)



Program Overview

Schedule and Timeframe

June 27 - July 29, 2016

Five weeks, 6.5 hours per day

- 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
- 3 hours of academic instruction
- 2 hours of enrichment
- 1.5 hours for breakfast, lunch, and recess

Enrollment Target

- 1,050 students
- Capacity of 20 students per class

Students and Selection Criteria

Rising 3rd and 4th grade students who are performing below benchmarks and are enrolled in Title I schools

Curriculum, Assessment, and Instruction

- BELL Curriculum
- STAR Assessment
- Instruction from trained classroom teachers
- Friday field trips



BELL Sites

- Arcola Elementary School
- Bel Pre Elementary School
- Clopper Mill Elementary School
- Cresthaven Elementary School
- Sargent Shriver Elementary School
- Summit Hall Elementary School
- Watkins Mill Elementary School
- Weller Road Elementary School



DHHS and MCPS Contributions

DHHS - School Health Services:

- provide school health nurses and/or health room technicians, \$6,558.40

DHHS - Children, Youth and Families, Child and Adolescent and Community and School Based Services:

- provides contract monitoring

MCPS, Office of the Chief Academic Officer:

- leading and coordinating the partnership among BELL, DHHS, and MCPS

MCPS, Office of the Chief Technology Officer:

- generating reports to identify eligible students
- providing access to technology

MCPS, Office of the Chief Operating Officer:

- scheduling and arranging specialized bus routes for each site
- providing meals
- coordinating and scheduling cleaning of buildings before and after the program
- co-facilitated the identification of BELL sites

MCPS, Office of Shared Accountability:

- preparing to evaluate the effectiveness of the program

MCPS Costs:

- Cafeteria managers' salaries and benefits
- Building supplies
- Transportation
- Total of \$47,030.00



Additional Updates

BELL Staffing and Training

- Director of Program Operations has been hired
- Recruitment and hiring of program manager, program assistant, instructional coach, academic teacher, enrichment teacher, and teacher assistant - April/May

Enrollment

- Identification and registration of students - March/April/May/June

Communication

- Notified the Board of Education of the BELL summer program
- Informed MCPS executive staff and principals of the BELL summer program

Evaluation

- BELL will provide STAR assessment results at the end of the program
- MCPS will conduct its own evaluation by determining growth on assessments between Spring 2016 and Fall 2016

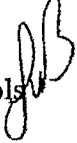


Office of the Superintendent of Schools
MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Rockville, Maryland

February 3, 2016

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education

From: Larry A. Bowers, Interim Superintendent of Schools 

Subject: Building Educated Leaders for Life—BELL Summer Program in Title I Schools

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide information regarding additional summer programming in Title I schools for summer 2016. The Montgomery County Council, the Norman R. Rales and Ruth Rales Foundation (the Foundation), and Building Educated Leaders for Life (BELL) are partnering with Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) to offer a summer program in Title I schools. A forthcoming memorandum will provide the recommended Title I schools for the 2016–2017 school year. BELL, a national organization that grew out of a community service project at Harvard Law School, partners with schools as near as Baltimore, Maryland, and as far as California, and has served more than 100,000 students nationwide since 1992, addressing summer learning loss which, research has shown, contributes to gaps in performance.

The BELL summer program will provide opportunities for approximately 1,050 rising Grade 3 and 4 Title I students. With the planned expansion of this program, BELL will serve an estimated 4,200 students over a four-year period. The BELL summer program is designed to share the infrastructure of MCPS' long-standing Extended Learning Opportunities—Summer Adventures in Learning program that currently supports K–2 students.

A Memorandum of Understanding is being developed with BELL to define the collaboration and the roles of a variety of MCPS offices in the implementation of BELL into existing Title I summer programs. These offices include the Division of Title I and Early Childhood Programs and Services; the Department of Transportation; the Division of Food and Nutrition Services; the Office of the Chief Academic Officer; the Office of the Chief Technology Officer; the Office of Human Resources and Development; and the Office of Shared Accountability.

All rising Grade 3 and 4 Title I students with performance levels below the 60th percentile on the Measures of Academic Progress assessments in reading and/or mathematics will be invited to attend. Students also may be invited to attend based on other formative data determined by their school. Eight Title I school sites have been strategically planned as sites to house the BELL summer program; therefore, students may not necessarily attend the BELL summer program at their home school. The BELL summer program will operate 6.5 hours a day, five days per week,

for five weeks (excluding July 4). Students will receive the added benefits of breakfast, lunch, and transportation. Through small group instruction, the program will implement research-based curricula in the areas of literacy and mathematics and measure student progress using a computer adaptive assessment. In addition to literacy and mathematics instruction, the afternoon programming will include daily rotations through hands-on enrichment activities, with educational field trips on Fridays. BELL will support the needs of various learners including those receiving special education services and English Language Learners.

For this summer program, BELL aims to employ more than 100 staff. BELL will hire and train staff members needed to implement the program with the expectation that the majority of BELL staff members will be current MCPS employees.

For summer 2016, funding for the BELL program will be managed by the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services, in close collaboration with MCPS' program contact, Mrs. Deann M. Collins, director, Division of Title I and Early Childhood Programs and Services, Office of Curriculum and Instructional Programs. The Foundation has proposed a four-year contribution of \$1.6 million (25 percent) to support the program. In addition, BELL employs a sustainable funding model that commits to raising an additional 25 percent for the program. It is proposed the County Council and MCPS will equally contribute an additional \$3 million (50 percent) of the cost. A special appropriation resolution for \$750,750 from the County Council was adopted for Fiscal Year 2016 to allow the program to begin this coming summer. To kick start the program this summer, MCPS is providing in-kind supports such as transportation, building services, and cafeteria services.

Should you have questions regarding the Montgomery County BELL summer program, please contact Dr. Maria V. Navarro, chief academic officer, at 301-279-3127.

LAB:MVN:bll

Copy to:

Executive Staff
Mrs. Collins
Mrs. Hazel
Mr. Ikheloa