

MITCHELL WILLIAMS

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March 7, 2011

Mr. John Walker
John Walker, P.A.
1723 Broadway
Little Rock, AR 72206

Re: *Little Rock School District, et al v. Pulaski County School District et al*
USDC Eastern District of Arkansas Western Division No. 4:08cv0866 BSM

Dear John:

This letter is written pursuant to Plan 2000 Section H.(3) concerning school facilities. As you are probably aware, the PCSSD has conducted a series of public community forums to elicit feedback and recommendations for plans to repair, replace, or combine certain schools in the District. While the Plan is not yet complete, I think enough of it has emerged that I can provide the notice to you that Plan 2000 requires. Also, I can state that the Plan does not include closing any schools which are located in historically African American areas.

1. Harris Elementary School

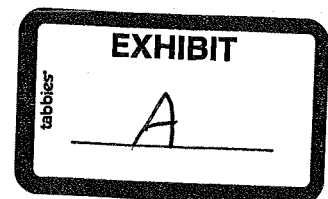
The existing facility will be upgraded to update its exterior to enhance its curb appeal. Additions and alterations will be provided to meet the academic requirements of the school which will continue to operate as a grade K-5 school. The plans do not currently include increasing the capacity of Harris which already has excess capacity, but a centralized circulation area will be added.

While no students would be moved from Harris, it is hoped that these updates might increase the number of both African American and other students who select Harris for elementary school.

2. College Station Elementary School

College Station would be updated to provide a more contemporary appearance to enhance its visual appeal and attractiveness. The capacity of College Station would be increased by converting the current media center to classrooms. A new media center and centralized circulation area will be constructed.

The conversion of the media center should increase the capacity of College Station by approximately 50 students.



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3. Scott Elementary

The Scott facility will be upgraded by enhancing the exterior of the building to make it more modern looking. The old junior high school which has been closed for decades would be demolished. The elementary school would continue to serve grades K-6. The capacity would be increased by approximately 50 students by converting the existing media center and office back to classrooms. A new centralized circulation area and new media center will be constructed.

4. Jacksonville Elementary

Jacksonville Elementary would likely be combined with Dupree Elementary School (or perhaps an elementary school other than Dupree), and the existing buildings would be replaced. The new school would be built on property already owned by the PCSSD. The new elementary school would serve grades K-5 and would be designed for approximately 650 students.

5. Arnold Drive and Tolleson

Arnold Drive, which is located on the Little Rock Air Force Base, and Tolleson Elementary School located just outside of Little Rock Air Force Base property, would be combined in a new facility. The United States Air Force has indicated its willingness to provide a site for the new elementary school on base property lying just outside the fenced perimeter. The property anticipated to be provided is across the street from the current North Pulaski High School.

The combined new elementary school would continue to serve grades K-5 and would be designed to house up to 750 students.

6. Jacksonville Middle

A new Jacksonville Middle School would be constructed to replace the current facility and would serve grades 6-8. The new building would be located upon the current site occupied by Star Academy which is part of the same campus and acreage upon which the Jacksonville Middle School currently stands. This school would be built to accommodate up to 1000 students.

7. Robinson Middle

Robinson Middle School would be upgraded to modernize its façade and would continue to serve grades 6-8. Part of the building will be demolished and rebuilt. Barriers will be removed to make the campus ADA and national fire code compliant.

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No final determinations have been made regarding housing the student body while the renovations are ongoing. Potential possibilities include housing the 6th grade at Robinson Elementary School and 7th and 8th grade at Robinson High School. This determination will be made in the near future.

The renovated Robinson Middle School would house up to 730 students.

Racial Impact Upon Student Bodies

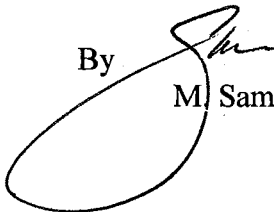
For most of the schools, the zones would not change and therefore the upgrade or replacement of the school should not affect current racial balance outcomes except to the extent that the improvements attract new students. To the extent that schools will be combined, it is currently anticipated that their existing zones would be combined as well and that the resultant school would reflect the consolidated student bodies which currently attend separate schools. Again, it is hoped that building new facilities will attract students new to the District or students from private or charter schools.

As for schools whose student bodies must be redistributed while the school is being updated or replaced, those reassignments whether temporary or permanent, will be done in a desegregative fashion. It is currently too early to state with precision what those reassignments will be and which schools will be involved.

Cordially,

MITCHELL, WILLIAMS, SELIG,
GATES & WOODYARD, P.L.L.C.

By


M. Samuel Jones, III

MSJ:acg

From: RightFax E-mail Gateway [Administrator@mwlaw.com]
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