Montgomery County
Public Schools

August 29, 2016

Montgomery County Board of Supervisors
Montgomery County Government Center
755 Roanoke Street, Suite 2E
Christiansburg, VA 24073

Dear Members of the Board,

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Southwest Virginia has operated after-school and summer programs at Shawsville and Christiansburg Middle Schools for well over a decade. These programs have offered homework help, tutoring, and enrichment activities essentially free-of-charge to students, who pay only a $15/year club membership fee. The major source of financial support for these programs has been ongoing grants from the federally-funded 21st Century Community Learning Centers grant program. The Montgomery County Board of Supervisors has been providing supplemental funding in the amount of $10,000/year to the Boys & Girls Clubs to enhance programming at the Shawsville Middle School (SMS) Club location.

On August 1st, the Boys & Girls Clubs received notification from the Virginia Department of Education that its most recent grant application for these two clubs was not funded. As a result, the organization has informed MCPS that it will cease operation of the clubs at these two schools. Due to this circumstance, the Boys & Girls Clubs of Southwest Virginia has returned a check to the Board of Supervisors that you had already issued for the current school year.

News of the program's closing caused great concern for the SMS community, where the after-school program has become an integral part of and great asset to the school's educational activities. To fill this gap, MCPS is planning to use district funds and some local donations to continue a modified version of the after-school program at SMS. Current plans are for a program that will run four days/week, two hours/day and offer bus transportation home for participants. MCPS requests that the $10,000 that had already been issued to the Boys & Girls Clubs be re-issued to SMS, which will administer the program directly for the current school year. Thank you for your consideration of this request and please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Mark Miear, Superintendent

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