

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

June 25, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education

From: Thomas W. Taylor, Superintendent of Schools

Subject: Contract Approval for Request for Proposal No. 8120.1, School Bus Stop-Arm Camera Safety Program, Equipment, Installation, Operation, and Maintenance Services

☐ Information ☒ Action

Superintendent Recommendation

The superintendent recommends that the Board of Education approve the contract under Request for Proposal No. 8120.1, School Bus Stop-Arm Camera Safety Program, Equipment, Installation, Operation, and Maintenance Services, under the Annotated Code of Maryland, Education Article §5-112 and Montgomery County Public Schools Regulation DJA-RA, *Procurement of Equipment, Supplies, and Services*.

Background

Under Maryland law, MD. Code Ann., Transp. § 21-706, drivers strictly are prohibited from overtaking or passing a stopped school vehicle operating alternately flashing red lights. Under the statute, local governing bodies may enact laws authorizing law enforcement to partner with county boards of education to install school bus monitoring cameras. These cameras capture vehicles illegally passing stopped school buses, allowing the jurisdiction to impose civil penalties on vehicle owners pursuant to MD. Code Ann., Transp. §§ 21-706 and 21-706.1. On March 6, 2012, the Montgomery County Council enacted Bill 37-11, authorizing the use of school bus monitoring cameras in Montgomery County.

Pursuant to this law, and through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Montgomery County (County) in 2016, Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) collaborated with the Montgomery County Police Department (MCPD) in the development and implementation of a school bus safety program for the use of school bus monitoring cameras on the interior and exterior of all operating buses to improve student safety and enforce school bus traffic violations (School Bus Safety Camera Program). Under the terms of the MOU, MCPS agreed

to engage the services of a contractor to provide a comprehensive school bus camera system that has a proven track record in other jurisdictions; oversee and manage the installation of the contractor's school bus camera system on the fleet of school buses; and maintain and operate its school buses consistent with its existing policies and practices. Under the MOU, the County agreed to collaborate with the contractor to implement the violation processing system; to review the business and financial terms of the proposed contract; and to cooperate with the contractor with revenue sharing of all revenue generated from the payment of fines received under the School Bus Safety Program.

On June 30, 2016, MCPS entered into a contract with Force Multiplier Solutions, Inc., to provide a turn-key school bus camera system through a bridge of an existing contract between East Baton Rouge Parish School Board, RFP 22-10. The County reviewed the business and financial terms and considered them beneficial to the public interest. Force Multiplier Solutions, Inc. agreed to install, operate and maintain cameras, equipment, processes and back-office services to enable MCPS in coordination with MCPD to implement the school bus safety program on all operating school buses. The initial term of the contract was for five years, through June 30, 2021, with five optional one-year extensions.

On June 14, 2017, Force Multiplier Solutions Inc. sold certain assets to BusPatrol America, LLC (Bus Patrol), and assigned its rights and obligations under the School Bus Safety Contract to BusPatrol. MCPS and BusPatrol executed an Amendment, dated October 9, 2017, wherein MCPS consented to the assignment of the Contract. On February 20, 2020, MCPS and BusPatrol executed a Second Amendment to outline a series of changes to Revenue Sharing, Equipment Ownership, Transition, Public Relations Co-Investment, Payment Processing Account, and Additional Modifications to the Terms and Conditions. The parties exercised all five one-year extensions, and the contract is set to expire on June 30, 2026.

Upon taking over the contract, BusPatrol successfully implemented and maintained a robust safety suite. This system integrates stop-arm enforcement, full-coverage video surveillance, Global Positioning System tracking, and real-time monitoring supported by dedicated software and technical support. The system provides a significant benefit to MCPS and the community by implementing measures designed to enhance safety and protect students while boarding and exiting school buses, all at no cost to MCPS and the County.

The system's primary objective is to maximize student safety by deterring unsafe driving behaviors and providing an additional safeguard for students during one of the most vulnerable parts of their school day. The interior cameras provide visibility into activities within the bus, helping to promote safety, accountability, and compliance with established operational procedures by transportation staff. Currently, the system has been deployed throughout the MCPS transportation fleet and, as of June 2026, is installed on approximately 1,454 operating school buses.

The school bus safety camera program is funded through county citation revenue, which supports the installation, operation, maintenance, and ongoing enhancement of the system. The program utilizes automated enforcement technology to identify motorists who illegally pass stopped school

buses displaying activated stop arms, a traffic violation subject to a \$250 civil citation under Maryland law. Pursuant to the terms of the contract, BusPatrol shares revenue with the County after recovering its investment and contractual costs. As part of this agreement, the revenue share allows the program to operate at no cost to the MCPS Operating Budget, as revenues generated from traffic citations are used to fund all equipment, software, services, and operational support associated with program implementation, maintenance, and administration.

In 2026, MCPS initiated a new public solicitation process for an upgraded School Bus Stop-Arm Camera Safety Program under Request For Proposal No. 8120.1, School Bus Stop-Arm Camera Safety Program, Equipment, Installation, Operation, and Maintenance Services, which includes a revenue sharing requirement and replacement of existing hardware and software, deployment of advanced interior and exterior camera systems, enhanced enforcement and data-processing capabilities, and comprehensive operational support services. The program is intended to accommodate future fleet growth of up to approximately 1,600 buses during the initial five-year contract term.

If this contract is approved by the Board of Education, MCPS will work with the MCPD to update the existing MOU to implement the new contract. In particular, MCPS and MCPD have a shared interest and responsibility to allocate any revenues received, after system implementation costs are reimbursed, to safety improvements for school communities consistent with the provisions of State law.

WHEREAS, Maryland law prohibits a vehicle from overtaking or passing a stopped school bus that is operating its alternately flashing lights (MD. Code Ann., Transportation § 21-706); and

WHEREAS, Under MD. Code Ann., Transportation § 21-706, local governing bodies may enact laws authorizing law enforcement to partner with county boards of education to install school bus monitoring cameras; and

WHEREAS, On March 6, 2012, the Montgomery County Council enacted Bill 37-11, authorizing the use of school bus monitoring cameras in Montgomery County; and

WHEREAS, The cameras capture vehicles illegally passing stopped school buses, allowing the jurisdiction to impose civil penalties on vehicle owners pursuant to MD. Code Ann., Transp. §§ 21-706 and 21-706.1; and

WHEREAS, School bus stop-arm violations pose a significant threat to student safety by placing children at risk while boarding and exiting school buses; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Education of Montgomery County Public Schools is committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of students, staff, and the community; and

WHEREAS, Montgomery County Public Schools and Montgomery County executed a Memorandum of Understanding to implement a school bus safety program on all operating school buses to improve student safety and enforce school bus traffic violations in Montgomery County; and

WHEREAS, The school bus safety program is funded through Montgomery County citation revenue, which supports the installation, operation, maintenance, and ongoing enhancement of the system; and

WHEREAS, Montgomery County Public Schools executed a contract with Force Multiplier Solutions, Inc., to provide a turn-key school bus camera system through a bridge of an existing contract between East Baton Rouge Parish School Board, RFP 22-10; and

WHEREAS, BusPatrol America, LLC, as assignee to the contract with Force Multiplier Solutions, Inc., provided the installation, operation and maintenance of cameras, equipment, processes and back-office services to enable Montgomery County Public Schools in coordination with the Montgomery County Police Department to implement the school bus safety program on all operating school buses; and

WHEREAS, The initial term of the contract was for five years, through June 30, 2021, with five optional one-year extensions; and

WHEREAS, The parties have exercised all five one-year extensions to the contract, and the contract will expire on June 30, 2026; and

WHEREAS, Montgomery County Public Schools issued Request for Proposal No. 8120.1, School Bus Stop-Arm Camera Safety Program, Equipment, Installation, Operation, and Maintenance Services to seek a contractor to provide the equipment and services needed for the continued implementation of the school bus safety camera program; and

WHEREAS, In accordance with procurement requirements, and after evaluating responses to Request for Proposal No. 8120.1, staff in the Division of Transportation Services and the Department of Procurement recommend the contract be awarded to BusPatrol America, LLC; and

WHEREAS, BusPatrol America, LLC, proposed to provide technology-enabled school bus safety solutions, including automated stop-arm enforcement cameras, video monitoring systems, Global Positioning System tracking, and related operational services designed to improve roadway safety and compliance with traffic laws; and

WHEREAS, The implementation of automated school bus safety enforcement programs has been demonstrated to increase driver awareness, deter illegal passing of stopped school buses, and enhance student safety; and

WHEREAS, Montgomery County Public Schools desires to enter into an agreement with BusPatrol America, LLC, for the provision, installation, maintenance, operation, and support of a comprehensive school bus safety camera program in compliance with applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations; and

WHEREAS, The proposed solution includes upgraded safety technology, enforcement support services, data processing, system maintenance, and scalability to support future transportation fleet requirements; now therefore be it

Resolved, That having been duly advertised, the following contract be awarded to the bidder, meeting specifications as follows:

Division of District Operation

RFP Name: School Bus Stop-Arm Camera Safety Program,
Equipment, Installation, Operation, and Maintenance Services
8120.1 **Division Name:** Division of Transportation Services

Awardee:

BusPatrol America, LLC, Lorton, Virginia

\$0

and be it further

Resolved, That the Board of Education authorizes the president of the Board of Education and the superintendent of schools to negotiate and execute a contract with BusPatrol America, LLC, and all other necessary documents, including but not limited to a Memorandum of Understanding with the Montgomery County Police Department, for the implementation and operation of a School Bus Safety Camera Program in Montgomery County Public Schools, in accordance with all applicable procurement and regulatory requirements.

TWT:IAW:MKL:aft