


Internal Audit Unit
MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Rockville, Maryland

May 20, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: Mr. James A. Sweeney, Principal
Spark M. Matsunaga Elementary School

From: Melvin A. Phillips, Supervisor, Internal Audit Unit 

Subject: Report on Audit of Independent Activity Funds for the Period
October 1, 2022 through January 31, 2026

Background

Independent Activity Funds (IAFs) of Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) are established to promote the general welfare, education, and morale of students, as well as to finance the recognized extracurricular activities of the student body. School principals are the fiduciary agents for the IAFs charged with determining the manner in which funds are raised and expended for activities such as field trips, admission events, and fundraisers. Principals are responsible for ensuring that the IAFs are administered in accordance with:

- Board Policy
- MCPS Regulation DIA-RA
- MCPS Financial Manual
- MCPS Business Center Memoranda and Tools

Spark M. Matsunaga Elementary School (SMES) is part of the Northwest and Seneca Valley Clusters located in Germantown. SMES serves over 500 students ranging from Kindergarten to grade 5. SMES shares a building with Longview School, which serves special education students with severe disabilities. SMES has a local Centers for Enriched Studies (CES) program. The CES provide a learning environment for Grade 4 and 5 students that accelerates and extends the MCPS reading language arts curriculum. It is designed to meet the needs of advanced and motivated learners in Language Arts, Social Studies and Science. The program focuses on critical thinking, problem-solving, and communication skills. At the time of this audit, SMES reported total IAF assets of \$33,648. Of this balance, \$31,758 is in the Centralized Investment Fund (CIF), which pays a 3.28 percent annual interest rate. The school received annual commissions from the Interagency Coordinating Board (ICB) and student pictures. These funds are part of the overall balance in the IAF.

Audit Objective

The Internal Audit Unit (IAU) uses generally accepted auditing principles to provide an audit opinion on the school's financial activity by evaluating the adequacy of internal controls and compliance with Board of Education (Board) policies and MCPS regulations and procedures. Specifically, the audit seeks to obtain reasonable assurance that:

- Evidence of fraud was not identified within the IAF.
- Funds are safeguarded against loss, misappropriation, or misuse.
- Transactions are accurately recorded and fairly reported in the school's financial records.
- Receipts and disbursements are appropriate, properly documented, and consistent with the intended purpose of the funds.
- Instances of misappropriation, misreporting, or waste, if they exist, are identified and evaluated for materiality.

The IAU is free from organizational impairments to independence. The IAU administratively reports directly to the chief of staff of the Office of the Board of Education and functionally reports to the Montgomery County Board of Education's Fiscal Management Committee.

Methodology

The audit is not designed to examine every transaction but instead relies on risk-based sampling and other generally accepted audit procedures to provide reasonable assurance. Audit procedures include interviews with key staff, a review of prior audit findings and the status of related action plans, testing of transaction samples, and an on-site assessment of internal controls and procedures.

Audit Opinion:

Clean Opinion

Based on the results of our audit, we found no evidence of fraud or material misappropriation, misreporting, or waste within the school's Independent Activity Fund (IAF). The financial activity reviewed was recorded accurately, expenditures were properly supported and aligned with student benefit, and internal controls were operating effectively. Accordingly, we provide reasonable assurance that the school's IAF is in compliance with Board policies and MCPS regulations and procedures.

Exit Conference:

At our March 26, 2026, exit conference with Mr. James A. Sweeney, principal, and Mrs. Margaret Murphy, administrative secretary, we reviewed the prior audit report dated October 17, 2022, and the status of the present conditions.

We thank you for your cooperation. Based on the **Clean** status of your IAF audit, an action plan is not required.

MAP:GK:rg

Copy to:

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