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July 3, 2018

Dear Honorable Members of the Metro Council:

The final version of the MNPS Fiscal Year 2018-19 Operating Budget assumes revenue of \$13 million from a proposed sale of the MNPS Transportation Center located at 336 Woodycrest Avenue. This revenue line was changed to this property from the Murrell School property located at 14th Avenue South. At present, these properties are not considered surplus by the Metro Board of Public Education nor has the Board expressed a desire to dispose of these properties.

Now that the Transportation Center has been proposed for sale, a new problem has arisen. The Transportation Center is not a parking lot, but rather a site where buses and other vehicles are maintained, fueled, and repaired. Without this property, MNPS would be unable to manage the fleet required to operate the school system. Selling this property likely would result in no additional revenue because the district would need to acquire and equip another piece of property where similar functions can occur. The replacement cost could exceed revenue generated by selling the property. Funds for a new location and to move the Transportation Center were not included in the capital improvement budget recently passed by the Council.

As you know, large urban school systems like MNPS have complex operational and facilities-management needs. Selling property in order to generate one-time monies to fund recurring expenditures is not a sustainable budget practice. However, we understand tough decisions need to be made and that MNPS may need to divest of some property in order meet short-term funding requirements. We simply believe the Transportation Center is not a feasible option. With this letter, we are asking for the Council to partner with the School Board to discuss other potential revenue sources, other Metro properties to potentially sell, and other MNPS properties that are not vital to the school system's operations. We look forward to additional conversations.

Sincerely,

Sharon Gentry, Ed.D.
Chair, Capital Needs Committee
Metro Nashville Board of Public Education