

Bethesda-Chevy Chase Cluster
Bethesda-Chevy Chase HS * Westland MS * Bethesda ES
Chevy Chase ES * North Chevy Chase ES * Rock Creek Forest ES
Rosemary Hills PS * Somerset ES * Westbrook ES

Testimony Before the Montgomery County Council
FY 2011 Capital Budget and the
FY 2011-2016 Capital Improvements Program
November 10, 2010

Good evening Superintendent Weast, President O'Neill,
Members of the Board,
I am Craig Brown, and along with Mary Cobbett and Joy
White, we represent the Bethesda-Chevy Chase cluster.

Tonight, my testimony will be broken into two sections,
first I will testify about the projects that we are advocating
for in this CIP, and second, I will testify on the
Superintendent's recommendations from this past
summer's roundtable meetings, and the subsequent
amendments from the Board's work session on the 4th of
November.

First, the current 6-year CIP budget and the additional
amendments in this year's CIP represent a significant
commitment to invest in the B-CC Cluster schools. We
thank the Board for these recommendations. We are also
grateful for the activities already in flight at two of our
elementary schools. Moreover, we cannot emphasize
enough the importance to adequately fund the
Modernization of Rock Creek Forest Elementary. This
year, the County Council must allocate funding for
planning. This is a critical year to keep the Modernization
on track. The Cluster does not want to see this project
delayed, and we ask for your support to advocate for this
project with the County Council to keep this long overdue
project on track. Finally, the Superintendent has

recommended in this year's amendment, a feasibility study for B-CC HS in 2012. We welcome the recommendation.

Now, I would like to focus the remainder of my time on the Superintendent's recommendations for our Cluster and the Board's working session last week.

First, the Cluster recognizes and appreciates all of the hard work MCPS has done to focus time and attention on our Cluster's myriad of challenges. The issues that we have been facing have been building up for years, and this level of activity should have begun a number of years ago. Regardless, we now need to proceed in a manner that is thoughtful, comprehensive, and with the full representation of all of our schools.

The overwhelming response from our community is that the roundtables did not adequately address the needs of the cluster as a whole. The central recommendation, a new Middle School was made without 3 elementary schools even at the table to provide comment. Moreover, the recommendation did not adequately address in any detail how to best handle the 6th grade curriculum deficits before a second middle school is completed. The Bethesda articulation pattern was pushed out for a number of years.

I would like to present a quick review of what was recommended by the Superintendent and augmented, by the Board's working session: Find a site for the second Middle School. Complete a feasibility study for that school. Give our 6th graders an appropriate education. Complete a boundary study. Add capacity at a number of

schools through a series of additions. Establish a liberal transfer policy for the 6th graders at the Chases and reduce the 6th grade population in the elementary schools. Transfer all Chase 6th graders to Westland. Add portables at the middle school.

Parents—you have less than 4 weeks (and in the case of a response to the Board Working session, only 4 business days) to synthesize this information and provide feedback). School Board—we're looking for a vote on these recommendations.

I would like to call out the hard work our Cluster PTA's have done to comb through and analyze these recommendations and determine their full impact. After the Superintendent's recommendations were released, we met, as an entire Cluster, with PTA representatives from all of our schools, to review the recommendations, gather responses and to begin formulating a Cluster-wide response. Multiple school PTA's have scrambled to design surveys to obtain feedback. Meetings have been held at individual schools. However, with that being said, Members of the Board, I am here to strongly state, there is NO way our Cluster, can provide an approval to everything in this recommendation, and expect a successful outcome, when we've had such a short period of time to determine its impact. Second, what has been offered up as options stretch across a time horizon that will be, at best 7-9 years long. Moreover, the price tag will be very significant, and due to that price tag, there will most likely be delays. Lastly, we barely have any green space in our Cluster as it is, and each piece of property owned by MCPS is a small

parcel of land, so where are we realistically going to build a middle school without having to pay millions of dollars to acquire real estate, and how long will that process take?

Now, I will do my best to break down this complex myriad of issues, lay out what, we think, can and cannot be done in the near term, what is outstanding, and some possible next steps. Together we can improve this process and ultimately get to a common goal.

Let's begin with the Middle School Recommendations
We recognize that Westland Middle School is already out of space, and a second school is needed. We are in support of finding a site and beginning the feasibility process for our second Middle School, however challenging as this may be. Moreover, as a Cluster, diversity in our student population is very important to us. Therefore, we need to be mindful as we investigate our options for boundaries for the second Middle School and Westland, that diversity is taken into consideration. All schools in our cluster need to be represented in this process, and that needs to begin with the location analysis.

As noted, Westland is out of space, and will most likely require portables by next year. Mr. Crispell indicated that the school may place the Cluster back into Moratorium within a year or two, just based on population growth projections, without adding the 6th graders from Chevy Chase and N. Chevy Chase. With that being said, does it make sense to stretch Westland further and add the

projected 200+ extra 6th grade students from the Chases at Westland when it's already out of space? How much will all those portables cost the School System? A liberal transfer policy will only make matters worse; it would lower the number of 6th grade students in the elementary school, and would most likely further diminish class offerings at those schools. Our Middle School recommendation is to not make matters worse in the 2011-2012 school year: Fund the necessary teachers in the Chases and let's do our best to educate the 6th graders in place. Our first priority is our children, and let's take care of them first and foremost.

I would like to address some key points about Chevy Chase and North Chevy Chase Elementary Schools. First, the majority of parents in the community do support the principle of 6th graders in a second Middle School to serve the eastern half of the Cluster. Second, the PTA Leadership at both schools is not in support of a liberal transfer policy where some children stay and others leave.

Now, I would like to also look a little more closely at North Chevy Chase's current situation. North Chevy Chase has the worst of three worlds. It is significantly over capacity. It has no gymnasium. And finally, it has a 6th grade program that has seen its staffing reduced and programs dropped. Why this school's over-capacity issue isn't being addressed immediately with the gymnasium program seems to not make sense. Regardless of what is happening with the 6th graders, the school will need capacity and it's time to get moving on this project. Not just a gym—More CLASSROOMS.

B-CC High School

Our high school is at full capacity, and projections will have it significantly over capacity in short order.

Throughout the upcoming work, the impact on the High School must be kept top of mind, it is the facility that will ultimately have to take on our increased enrollment and we want to make certain work is timed appropriately, we do not want to wait too long and end up compromising the programs at the High School because of lack of space.

School Additions at Rosemary Hills and Bethesda ES

The commitment to complete a series of studies for additions at 2 of our elementary schools is welcomed, and sorely needed. Let's move ahead with the boundary study so that we can determine what we need from a facility standpoint, and then move forward.

Cluster Overcrowding

The parents of our Cluster love our local schools, and the families have chosen to live in our neighborhoods so that their children can attend B-CC Cluster schools. One possible scenario that was presented last week was the possibility of having B-CC Cluster residents send their children to schools outside of our cluster. This is not an option that the parent community will support.

Cluster overcrowding must be addressed, and this challenge requires a thorough, disciplined, and practical

study. We recommend a full review of all student flows through the middle and high school, an examination of the Change of School Assignment Process, and all other mechanisms that could potentially increase the overall student population throughout the Cluster.

In a cluster where we are clearly out of space, the issue of overcrowding cannot simply be resolved by promising more capacity. Other systemic and program issues must be researched, analyzed, and options presented to the Cluster's parent population.

In recent days, Cluster parents have heard a whole host of options offered up, and there seems to be rumors throughout the cluster and MCPS about how to move children out into other schools, or change programs. The energy around speculating what to do needs to be redirected towards a factual, objective study so that we can make reasoned decisions.

With all of those challenges, here are our key near-term recommendations to move forward:

First: We recommend maintaining the Chevy Chase and North Chevy Chase 6th grade population in the elementary schools for at least 1 more year. However, their programs should be staffed at their 2008 levels. Let's use the next year and half wisely so that we can focus on determining how to best handle their education, placement, and transportation. We imagine that this would be a more cost-effective than rushing off to add a significant number of

portables at Westland.

Second: Move ahead with the Boundary study for Bethesda ES. The over-due work to update the current articulation patterns for East Bethesda neighborhood and the Paddington Square Apartments needs to begin. The community has had this long-standing issue and it needs to be addressed. This should not wait for the possible second Middle School to be in construction.

Third: Complete a Cluster Overcrowding Analysis that will provide clarity around what are the variables causing overcrowding, and ultimately, those data points can provide the Cluster parent population better insight into student matriculation patterns as well as the genesis of over-capacity at Cluster schools. This analysis needs to include the COSA process and any other mechanisms used by in-bound students from outside the Cluster as well as an analysis of programs within the cluster. We recommend that this analysis be performed by an independent team that is not directly responsible for this function, to reduce the potential for any conflict of interest.

Fourth, complete the facility location review for a potential middle school. However, we believe we need to prioritize who is going to go to this school in advance of any construction design. If we indeed find property to put it, let's determine how much capacity we need, and then determine how to design it.

All of these actions should be directed with cluster-wide parent oversight and include representation from MCPS educational program staff, facilities staff, and construction experts. A charter and a set of well-defined objectives must be set, cost models, time lines, and multiple options must be identified. With this approach, we will have a comprehensive team with clear focus accountable to address all aspects of our challenges, provide thoughtful recommendations, across both capital and operating budgets.

Once the near term work is completed, we can objectively decide on what are the best options to move forward, begin any necessary construction design work, place the 6th graders in the best environment available, and successfully begin moving our Cluster in the right direction.

Thank you.

*B-CC Cluster Capital Improvements Program (CIP) Needs
MCPS FY2011 November 10, 2010*

**B-CC Cluster Comments to the Superintendent's Recommended FY 2011-2016 Capital
Budget and Capital Improvements Program (CIP)**

A. Request for Individual Projects:

Additions:

Overall, we are looking forward to actively participate in the actions outlined by the Board in the CIP.

a) Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School Addition:

Funds need to be provided for interior alterations at B-CC High School. There is a need for additional lab space for our Science Classes, due to our increased enrollment, we are falling short of specialized space for our standard chemistry/science courses, and the conversions of regular class space to labs is necessary.

Modernizations

We applaud MCPS' efforts to work with the County Council to maintain the progress of modernizations throughout the system. We have one modernization in the queue, Rock Creek Forest, and continue to advocate for its completion.

a) Rock Creek Forest Elementary School Modernization:

The Council and School Board have committed to completing this project, not only because the school is in desperate need of modernization, but to alleviate the overcrowding in the Cluster. This modernization will bring a significant number of additional classrooms and must not be delayed. The commitment has been made, the feasibility study is beginning to move along, and we fully expect this project to stay on track. It must be deemed a high-priority by MCPS.

Built in 1950 and has not been renovated since 1971, we welcome the Board's recommendation to program funding to complete the plans to fully modernize the facility. Rock Creek Forest has been, and continues to greatly exceed its enrollment capacity, and is apparent within the facility and in its six portable classrooms. Due in part to the popular Spanish Immersion program, class size reduction initiatives, and an increase in first grade enrollment, deficit capacity is projected to double by the end of the decade. The deteriorating conditions of core facilities, including; electrical, plumbing, safety, and classroom fixtures, have created a sub-par learning environment for its students. While Rock Creek Forest ES retained its place in the queue, the

modernization will not be completed for another 6 years. We urge the Board to make certain modernization planning begin on schedule in 2010, and the modernization begin in 2013.

Rationale: The core facility does not meet the fundamental safety needs of its students, does not have adequate sized common areas, hosts a crumbling core infrastructure, an inadequate number of classrooms for its students in regular and special education classes, has unsafe and inadequate front and rear entrances, and a poorly lighted, undersized parking lot for its faculty.

Board CIP funding for Rock Creek Forest Elementary School should be focused towards modernization of the facility, and funds need to be directed to avoid leveraging short-term Planned Life Cycle Asset Replacement (PLAR) and relocatable funds. Therefore, Rock Creek Forest ES should receive proper Board focus and be modernized as expeditiously as possible.

3. New Schools

The B-CC Cluster does not wish to offer any comments in this category at this time.

4. Core/Signature Improvements

The B-CC Cluster does not wish to offer any comments in this category at this time.

B. Request for County-wide Projects:

1. ADA Compliance

a) Westbrook Elementary School ADA Compliance:

All entrances to the school, except the rear entrance, are not ADA compliant. The community believes a ramp at the front entrance of the school is necessary to enable practical access for individuals with limited mobility.

Rationale: It is impossible for individuals with physical disabilities, who cannot climb stairs, to enter using the front or side entrance of the school. Individuals with limited mobility must walk over 100 yards to the rear of the school. A ramp at one of the main entrances would allow disabled individuals to enter and exit the school with dignity.

b) Rosemary Hills PS ADA Compliance:

Rationale: The RHPS facility is not fully equipped for students with disabilities. We serve autistic students and feel that we are lacking in our readiness for them and for students who use wheelchairs. Our facility does not have ramps to our 2nd grade corridor that leads to classrooms and our portable quad; and many of our bathrooms are not equipped to handle wheelchairs. We either need to remove the four steps and create a ramp in the 2nd grade corridor OR add a ramp on the side of the steps.

2. Asbestos Abatement

The B-CC Cluster does not wish to offer any comments in this category at this time.

Building Modifications and Program Improvements

a) Westbrook ES:

Rationale:

Westbrook's addition and gymnasium must stay on track. The additional classroom space will help with the significant over-crowding in the Cluster, and must be kept on track.

The student population at Westbrook has been growing at an unprecedented rate in recent years and this growth is expected to continue through the end of the current six year projects. Westbrook began the 2009-10 school year with 393 students, which is 46% above the existing building's capacity of 269 students. MCPS's demographer has projected continued growth and a student enrollment of 485 (180% over capacity) within the next six (6) years!

Westbrook recently completed a feasibility study. Westbrook already exceeds capacity by five (5) classrooms and is projected to exceed capacity by at least eight (8) classrooms for the duration of the six-year period. An FY 2011 appropriation is recommended for planning funds to begin the architectural design for the classroom addition and gymnasium. The recommended completion date for the addition and gymnasium is August 2013. In order for this project to be completed on schedule, county and state funding must be provided at levels recommended in this CIP.

Five relocatable classrooms currently surround Westbrook ES, which somewhat addresses our current capacity requirement. However, the basic infrastructure of the building, bathrooms and other commonly used areas, can no longer support the size of our student and staff populations. In addition, the placement of portable classrooms in the schools already small parking lot has exacerbated traffic and parking challenges for our school staff, parents and greater community.

Westbrook ES and our greater community are anxiously awaiting the proposed expansion and gymnasium. We have reached a crisis level situation and need your support. We are thankful for past support but strongly urge you to vote in favor of our proposed CIP requests and adhere to the timeline required to bring these requests to fruition.

Fire Safety Code Upgrades

a) None at this time

5. Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) Replacement

This project provides for the orderly replacement of heating, ventilating, air conditioning, control, and plumbing systems in facilities that are not on the modernization schedule.

a) Air conditioning or better ventilation of school gymnasiums:

Rationale: Conditions at school gymnasiums, which are heavily used year-round by both the school and the surrounding community, render the facilities unhealthy and unsafe during many of the warmer months. While we are aware that the exorbitant capital and operating costs do not now allow for air conditioning of school gyms, we believe they should be better ventilated with effective, working ceiling fans so that they can be used for PE classes, daycare programs, and community groups for the entire 10-month school year. In addition, a down-county shortage of community centers (and a lack of gyms at two B-CC Cluster elementary schools) makes it crucial that the gyms be used to their fullest capacity.

At RHPS and RCFES, our large student body and our smaller All-Purpose rooms, we often have to use our gyms for our larger functions. Our gym is extremely uncomfortable at the beginning and end months of the school year. The temperature is many degrees higher than the rest of the buildings, even in the morning, of warm days. This makes it hard for kids to exercise as much as they might, and makes them sleepier for the rest of the day. Additionally, it warms up the nearby classrooms just from heat escaping through the closed doors. Also, in our capacity as a community school, we are unable to serve our community well in the warmer months. We recommend installing air conditioning at RHPS at the earliest possibility. At a minimum, we request that large capacity fans be installed in the Gyms. They should be mounted high on the walls to provide proper ventilation and some cooling. The temperature at times is 10-15 degrees higher INSIDE the gym than outside the actual facility.

6. Improved (Safe) Access for Schools

a) Improvement of the playing fields at B-CC High School:

Rationale:

B-CC HS would like to state that is not formally requesting an upgrade to its playing field, but this is due to the economic situation we are currently in. B-CC HS still lacks green space and playing fields in the congested, down-county area is a major problem and is particularly acute at B-CC HS, the smallest high school site in MCPS, which is situated on 16 acres (14 acres fewer than the county standard of 30 acres per high school). With a full panoply of field sports, and with most teams having varsity and junior varsity boys and girls teams, B-CC HS fields 8 teams in the fall which require daily outdoor practices and play all home games on the single stadium field. In the spring, there is a single baseball diamond that can't support four teams for practices and games. As a result the majority of practices and all softball games are held off site. To preserve the playability of the stadium field, neither of the four other outdoor teams or any of the other spring teams can use it for practice. Because buses are not available for practices, students must drive to a variety of practice sites, which adds to the congestion in the area and places far too many inexperienced teen drivers to our roads.

The single field cannot be used for required physical education classes, so instructional delivery is negatively impacted as many classes are held indoors in oversized classes of 40 or more students.

We understand that MCPS is considering turf fields at other schools. In the event that MCPS cannot immediately provide turf for this field, we request that MCPS allocate enough funds to maintain the field properly to provide a safe and less fragile playing surface.

b) Improvement of the playing fields at Somerset ES:

Rationale:

Rationale: Despite recent resodding, about half of the field at Somerset ES is dirt, the grass having been worn away in less than two years, even with reseeding and extensive watering this past summer. When the field is dry, there is a tremendous amount of dust swirling around as the students play on the field. In addition, with the top soil now worn away, small rocks and pebbles are coming to the surface again which makes the field slippery and dangerous to run on. Recreational and school fields continue to be in short supply in the down-county area, so it is essential that the fields that do exist be kept in reasonable, safe condition.

We continue to be concerned, since the field at Somerset is one of the smallest in the county, that the wear and tear of students using the field daily during school for PE and recess, along with after school and weekend use, that replacing the sod will be a very temporary solution, lasting less than two years. While we know that it is unusual for an elementary school to be considered for an alternative like artificial turf, we feel that assistance is needed for the school's playing field. An alternative sod could yield a lifespan of 10-15 years, negating the necessity for replacing the sod every eighteen to twenty-four months.

c) Improvement of the playing field at Westbrook ES:

Rationale: As a result of substantial hill side erosion, rain water flows heavily onto our playing field. A pooling effect then occurs on our field preventing the water to drain properly. After any heavy rain in our area, our playing field can not be used by students during recess or physical education due to substantial amounts of pooled water and very poor water drainage. Please remember too that Westbrook ES's gymnasium addition scheduled for completion in August 2010 was delayed; therefore there is limited indoor space for use when outdoor space can not be used.

d) Improvement of the playing field at Bethesda ES:

Rationale: The grassy area of the Bethesda ES field is a clay like surface covered with a mix of weeds and grass. Our field is heavily used by the community, which has resulted in uneven areas throughout the field; dips in the surface and patches of weeds

where grass used to be. Due to the heavy traffic on the field, the top soil is now worn away and small rocks, pebbles, pieces of glass and brick like material come to the surface. Bethesda ES is an inclusion model school and has students with mobility restrictions requiring them to use walkers and/or wheelchairs; this uneven surface makes it difficult to maneuver wheelchairs and walkers across the field.

Although the field was resurfaced (topsoil added and sod) approximately five years ago to address the uneven patches of grass and the surfacing of debris, we are faced with the same issues once again. With the heavy use of the field by the school and the community, replacing the sod with artificial turf will extend the life of the field and help support our need to make the field more accessible for students with mobility challenges.

e) Improvement of the playing field at Westland MS:

The current condition of Westland's fields is simply dangerous. Not only are there random holes but large rocks litter the field. Over one thousand children play on the fields each day during physical education classes and athletic events. The fields are also used outside the school hours by a large number of groups. Their constant use hinders any efforts to improve the safety and overall quality of the fields. Please consider our children's safety and renovate the fields at Westland Middle School.

7. Planned Life-Cycle Asset Replacement (PLAR)

This project includes repair or replacement of building systems, exterior resurfacing, interior partitions, doors, lighting, windows, security gates, bleachers, communication systems, and flooring.

a) Rock Creek Forest ES Funds need to be included for Rock Creek Forest ES to maintain an adequate environment for our children, particularly if there is a decrease in the pace of modernization schedule.

Rationale: Rock Creek Forest ES is not scheduled for modernization until January 2015 (when it will be 65 years old) and it will have been more than three decades since the school's last renovation in 1971. Thirty to sixty year-old systems are bound to need maintenance or replacement.

b) Rosemary Hills funds need to be included for Parking.

Rationale: The parking situation at RHPS is already over capacity. This situation is only exacerbated with the larger portable in our parking lot. County assistance with a solution is needed.

b) Bethesda ES Parking Needs

Rationale: Bethesda ES is over enrolled by 135 students, which means increased staffing and increased number of families. These changes in enrollment and the location of the school in downtown Bethesda with no street parking puts a strain on the Bethesda ES parking lot. County assistance is needed to address this issue of limited parking for staff and families.

8. Relocatable Classrooms

a) There is a need for funding for heavier, short-term reliance on relocatable classrooms (previously referred to as “temporary classrooms”). As units age, and with the possible slippage of the modernization schedule due to fiscal constraints, units are being used longer and being installed more frequently necessitating acquisition, refurbishing, and replacement of relocatable classrooms.

Rationale: During 2009-2010, the B-CC Cluster required 24 relocatable classrooms at Westland MS (1), Bethesda ES (5), North Chevy Chase ES (4), Rock Creek Forest ES (6), Rosemary Hills PS (5), and Westbrook ES (3). In addition, B-CC HS far exceeds capacity and requires relocatable classrooms or teaching carts unless additional classrooms are provided. Delays in modernizations and additions, expansion of all-day kindergarten, and reduced class size initiatives will require MCPS to maintain a larger “fleet” of relocatable classrooms.

9. Restroom Renovations

a) Rosemary Hills PS requests to be added to the bathroom renovation schedule.

Rationale: Rosemary Hill PS understands that the cluster is renovating bathrooms that have not been updated since 1985, however, RHPS (renovated in 1988) is in need of better bathrooms and ones that are ADA compliant. Our bathrooms receive heavy (and inexperienced!) use. We request that RHPS be added to the list of elementary schools in need of bathroom renovations, especially to ensure that we in compliance with ADA regulations.

b) **Additions needed to ES bathroom renovation scheduled for 2016**

Rationale: Bethesda ES needs to add a ventilation system to move the air in the bathrooms to decrease the unpleasant odor. In addition, the handicap stalls need to be widened to accommodate both an individual in a wheelchair and his/her assistant, who assists with toileting. Moreover, Bethesda ES needs more than one stall with a handrail.

c) **Westbrook Elementary School is on the schedule for bathroom renovations.**

Rationale: We understand that Westbrook Elementary School is on the list of schools to receive updated bathrooms in the 2014-15 school year. With the growth of the school, the existing bathrooms, both adult and children facilities, get much greater usage resulting in greater breakdowns and necessary repairs. We recommend that MCPS take advantage of the efficiencies of scale by completing these renovations concurrent with the school expansion.

10. Roof Replacement

none

11. School Gymnasiums

a) Construction of gyms at North Chevy Chase ES and Westbrook ES is required. We must keep these projects on-track.

Rationale: The BOE and the Superintendent continue to believe that elementary gymnasiums are essential for the physical education program and well being of students and that these facilities should be included in all Montgomery County Public Schools. Because recreational and school fields continue to be in short supply throughout the entire down-county area, these gyms should be given high priority. The all-purpose room continues to be the only place for EVERYTHING in these schools and, on rainy days, indoor recess wrecks havoc on the building, the children, the staff and the faculty, food services, and the teaching day! All elementary schools should have gyms, and we strongly agree with the recommendation to move forward with the gymnasiums.

The need is particularly acute at Westbrook ES, due to overcrowding – the school is 46% above capacity or 124 students over the school’s capacity – and at North Chevy Chase ES, which houses the only sixth-graders, countywide, who lack access to a school gym. Because this factor was not considered, North Chevy Chase ES was ranked #20 of 25 schools and is not scheduled to get a gymnasium until August 2012. The need for a gym is also becoming increasingly acute as other facilities are being over-used. Both gym projects have already been approved.

12. School Security Systems

a) **Security Gates and Phones are requested at Rosemary Hills PS.**

Rationale: Funds are needed to install two security gates (or cameras) and telephones in classrooms. RHPS houses our youngest and most vulnerable children. The school was measured for security gates, but these were never installed. We need to be able to monitor all door entrances. Though all classrooms have intercoms, the school administration believes that emergency telephones are needed in every classroom and office, especially now that relocatable classrooms are being used.

13. Technology Modernization

The B-CC Cluster does not wish to offer any comments in this category at this time.

14. (Water and) Indoor Air Quality

Improvement of water quality/lead remediation is a concern for several of the B-CC Cluster schools. On June 6, 2005, we received notice from the MCPS Environmental Safety Coordinator (Lynne Zarate) advising that testing has been completed and remediation is not needed at Chevy Chase ES, North Chevy Chase ES, Westbrook ES, Somerset ES, and Westland MS (though earlier testing indicated elevated lead content

at Westland MS). However, B-CC HS, Bethesda ES, and Rock Creek Forest ES have not yet been cleared.

Poor air circulation persists at Westland MS, especially on the second floor of the building where air pockets continue to need regulation.

- B. Total Number of Relocatable Classrooms in Cluster : 27**
- C. Total Capacity Deficit (Cluster-wide): 1014**