

THE NORTHEAST CONSORTIUM
A Consortium of the Blake, Paint Branch and Springbrook Clusters

Comments to the Board of Education on the FY 2012 Capital Budget and amendments to the FY
2011-2016 Capital Improvements Program

On behalf of the NEC Elementary Schools

November 11, 2010

Broad Acres, Burnt Mills, Burtonsville, Cannon Road, Cloverly,
Cresthaven, Dr. Charles Drew, Fairland, Galway, Greencastle, Jackson Road,
Roscoe Nix, William T. Page, Sherwood, Stonegate, Westover

Good evening Superintendent Weast, Madam President, and members of the Board. My name is Larry Edmonds, and I am a Paint Branch Cluster Coordinator for the Northeast Consortium Clusters. I am here tonight to speak on behalf of the CIP needs of the sixteen elementary schools of the Northeast Consortium. It is a pleasure to speak on behalf of the tremendous progress that we together have made and look forward to our continued success.

Cresthaven opened this year, and students and staff are in their long-awaited new school. Sherwood is enjoying its new addition, Jackson Road and Fairland have both started their initial groundbreaking rituals toward their new additions, and Cannon Road has begun its modernization this fall. However, as with all our county schools the one commonality is we have a long way to go.

We are all aware of the commonality of budget pitfalls and the strain of this economy, but we are seeing real gains made by maximizing our growth on lower construction industry costs. Advancing our renovation and modernization projects are sensible and the NEC anticipate seeing much benefit in this approach.

As with all clusters, one main commonality is the increase of enrollment in the pre-K through 5th grade which has increased in the last 3 years and will continue to grow at a fast pace over the next decade. This increase has shown out of the 2400 new students enrolled in our county 2300 of them were elementary students, this trend in 5 years will continue into middle school and on into high school.

The NEC has five elementaries on the “Recommended for Assessment” list in the FY11-16 CIP to receive a FACT Score in the next round of assessments. Two of these, Stonegate and Burnt Mills, at 38- and 46-years-old, are to be placed on the list for modernization. The remaining three, Broad Acres (@57), Cloverly (@48) and Sherwood (@33) have not requested an assessment, but we are concerned about their age and are grateful for their inclusion — especially given the history of our timelines for CIP schedules.

We support the re-evaluation of the FACT evaluation process with the inclusion of stakeholder input to ensure it is reflective of changing educational needs. The NEC may be a perfect model for how schools have adapted programs to meet student and family needs that often influence their facilities, speaking volumes to their tenacity and ingenuity.

We in commonality with MCCPTA, welcome the draft Renewal and Modernization Policy's recognition that a systemic approach for the replacement of building systems goes hand-in-hand with a modernization policy. However we too are concerned that the Board's draft policy will lack the meaningful goals to guide MCPS's activities. The policy should identify specific components for replacement or repair on a periodic basis and a specific target time for replacement while establishing clear criteria for modernization as opposed to regular maintenance.

The NEC is composed of a richly diverse community and this is reflected throughout our schools. Socio-economically our schools provide for some of the most and least fortunate students. Our schools have the 2nd largest student population after the DCC (16 vs. 28 ESs), we are 4th highest in our FARMS rates (@ 43.4%), 6th highest in ESOL (20.4%) and 2nd highest in our mobility rates (19.3%). Additionally, a large number of our schools are in the Priority Funding Area. Eleven (11) of our schools are part of the Class Size Reduction Initiative and have a total of 152 CSR classes. Our schools have 7 pre-K, 2 Head Start, and 2 METS classes. Four (4) of our schools provide Linkages To Learning/School Based Health Centers. We have 37 classes of Special Ed. Programs, as well as a Gifted & Talented Center at Drew and a Spanish Immersion Program at Burnt Mills.

Providing a safe and healthy school environment for our children is paramount, regardless of its position on the CIP schedule. Pressing maintenance issues too often make this a contest. We support the expansion of Countywide Projects such as the HVAC program. ***Sherwood Elementary has long petitioned to replace their system that creates extreme cost and environmental inefficiencies.*** We'd like to see this effort continue in PLAR, BMPI and other overlapping maintenance areas.

Regarding the MCCPTA Delegates position to prioritize maintenance above restroom renovations, Jackson Road provides an apt example of this reasoning. Currently on schedule for an Addition which will be completed as of August 2011, and a new gymnasium in 2012, their restroom renovations are scheduled for 2016. It is perplexing that the scope of the Addition project could not be widened to include restroom updates — crews and materials cost would surely see a long-term savings, utilizing these sources while on site in comparison to returning later.

Fairland, also scheduled for an addition, continues to request ***Improved Lighting*** in their ***parking lot***. Ironically, the handicapped parking area is now lit via the outdoor lamps of the portables. However, it is likely that when the portables leave, so go the light — and the larger parking lot remain dim.

While *Stonegate* prepares for an indefinite placement (and wait) on the modernization schedule, their list of facility issues is growing. They are grateful for the roof replacement made over the main hallway and all-purpose room. They are also thankful to be part of the Visitor Management System and Controlled Access System for enhanced security. *Sinks and plumbing* throughout classrooms are *leaking and backing up*. The *walls in the hallways and classrooms* are seeing significant *cracking* and *paint is chipping* throughout! Stonegate also desperately needs additional parking space, as there are 47 spaces for 60 staff members and there is no visitor parking.

Security has become a sensitive issue for Stonegate with several vandalisms. They are in need of *Security Cameras*, as well as a *Secured Entry System* for the main entrance for the safety of the students and protection of school property.

Thank you for the opportunity to represent our schools. Your dedication to our school system is much appreciated and we value your efforts during these tumultuous times on our behalf. We believe that supporting the current capital budget is fiscally prudent and will provide long-term benefits for our students and County.

Respectfully,

The Northeast Consortium Cluster Coordinators

Area Vice President

Patti Twigg

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Attachments:

NEC Elementary Individual CIP Requests FY2012

Chart - NEC Capacity/Program/CIP Schedule

NEC Elementary Individual CIP Requests FY2011

Broad Acres

· Assessment for FACT Score

- Add to Modernization Schedule

Burnt Mills

- **Assessment for FACT Score**
 - *Maintain on Superintendents Recommended CIP for FY11-16*
- **Add to Modernization Schedule**

Cloverly

- FACT Score Assessment
- Restroom Renovation Schedule: 2015

Fairland

- FY10 Addition Bidding Complete!
 - Maintain for a Completion Date of August 2011 and 2012 Gymnasium
- Lighting in the Parking Lot is inadequate. Handicapped Parking is temporarily enhanced via the outdoor lamps of the portables.

Greencastle

- Assessment for FACT Score
- Restroom Renovation Schedule: 2015
 - No CIP requests at this time! Thank You!

Jackson Road

- FY10 Addition Bid Complete!
 - Maintain for a Completion Date of August 2011 and 2012 Gymnasium
- Restroom Renovation Schedule: 2016

Stonegate

- **Assessment for FACT Score**
 - *Maintain on Superintendents Recommended CIP for FY1116*
- **Add to Modernization Schedule**

Plumbing Repair: Sinks and plumbing throughout classrooms backs up and leak. These are mostly in the first and third grade cluster areas with shared plumbing.

SECURITY: The school has been vandalized several times and is in need of *Security*

Cameras

Walls: The walls in hallways and classrooms are cracking and Chipping Paint is prevalent throughout!

Stonegate desperately needs additional parking space, as there are 47 spaces for 60 staff members and there is no visitor parking.