

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

Comments to the Board of Education on the FY 2013 Capital Budget and amendments to the FY  
2013-2018 Capital Improvements Program

**On behalf of the NEC Elementary Schools**

November 14, 2011

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 Starr, Mr. 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.

Cannon Road ES is looking to finish its modernization and new gymnasium on schedule for January 2012 and the community is very excited in anticipation of their new facilities. Jackson Road ES is very pleased with and grateful for their recently completed addition. However, within the Northeast Consortium, as with all our county schools, there is a great deal of differentiation and as a team we still 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.

As with all clusters, one main commonality is the increase of enrollment in the pre-K through 5<sup>th</sup> grade which has increased in the last 4 years and will continue to grow at a fast pace over the next decade. This increase has shown that as of the 2011-2012 school year we are already at 106% capacity and growing since the largest increase of students is still in the elementary level.

The NEC has four elementary schools on the FACT Scores (Schools assessed in 2010-2011) list in the FY13-18 CIP. The four schools, Stonegate (@40), Broad Acres (@ 59), Cloverly (@ 50) and Sherwood (@ 34) are very grateful to now finally have a score, but we are concerned about their age and the length of time before they will be modernized.

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), our FARMS rate is 50.4%, ESOL is 23.7% and our mobility rate is 17.2%. Additionally, a large

number of our schools are in the Priority Funding Area. Twelve of our schools are part of the Class Size Reduction Initiative. Our schools have 11 pre-K, 2 Head Start, and 3 METS classes. Four (4) of our schools provide Linkages to Learning/School Based Health Centers. We have 54 classes of Special Education 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.

It is perplexing that the scope of construction projects 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. For instance, at Jackson Road ES, with an addition which was completed in August 2011, and a new gymnasium due for completion in 2012, it seems on-cost effective to delay their restroom renovations until the currently 2016.

While Stonegate is very grateful for their new FACT score, we must recognize that they will not be modernized until well after 2020, assuming that the schedule remains on track for those in front of them in the queue. They are grateful for the security cameras, painting and sealing the windows, but a serious need for Stonegate is that of a ramp in the rear of the building for use by their handicapped students during fire drill evacuations. While they received a ramp in the front of the building, that is of no use for rear exit evacuations. Stonegate also desperately needs additional parking space, as there are 47 spaces for 60 staff members and there is no visitor parking.

Our most pressing issue currently in the Northeast Consortium is the crisis being felt at Drew ES; the HVAC system has reached catastrophic proportions. For the past six years this has been an issue which has led to continuous replacement and Band-Aid repairs of issues from chillers to water flow, which has led to mold and mildew of epic proportions inside the classrooms and storage closets, as well as on the pipes.

Drew ES has provided us with a complete list of their records of work orders concerning this issue, which has not been resolved to any satisfaction. There continue to be leaks, flooding of classrooms, and mold and mildew odors that have staff and students wanting to hold their studies elsewhere. Even after an air quality report was completed which states, "I found extensive mold contamination on pipe insulation and ceiling tiles in several classrooms," remediation has not been satisfactory. (See photographs of conditions at Drew ES and complete list of work orders and comments, which is almost 2 page long, relevant to this ongoing situation below).

HVAC is also an issue at Broad Acres ES, where air quality and leaks are an ongoing concern. To continue the theme, Nix ES has HVAC issues as well as leaks causing flooding in some classrooms.

At the end of this testimony, please find a complete list, by elementary school, of the issues that were sent to us in the past month.

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.

Dr. Starr and members of the Board of Education, the twenty-four schools of the Northeast Consortium appreciate your efforts to involve the community through your listen and learn events, school walkthroughs, community forums and meetings with our parents. We also look forward to continuing to be the best school system in not only the state of Maryland, but the nation as well.

Respectfully,

The Northeast Consortium Cluster Coordinators

Area Vice President

Patti Twigg

Springbrook

Reva Gambrell

Blake

Jocelyn Walker

Paint Branch

Larry Edmonds

Princess Akwura-Igwebuike

Attachments:

NEC Elementary Individual CIP Requests FY2013

Photos – Drew ES mold and water damage

Stonegate ES email regarding Capital needs

## **NEC Elementary Individual CIP Requests FY2013**

### **Broad Acres ES**

The Broad Acres Elementary School facility is becoming increasingly overcrowded and challenged. Although the building was partially renovated in 2005, the original heating system remains and is ineffective. As a result, there are persistent heating and air conditioning issues that remain on a daily basis. Work orders and complaints are submitted frequently. The current roof has many trouble spots and has several persistent leaks which have led to some indoor air quality issues.

School enrollment has grown from 441 to 651 since 2007-2008, (48%) and is projected to grow by another 77 students in the next few years. Due to their reduced class size and high ESOL rate (currently about 70%), this will cause the need for numerous additional portables. They are already in need of one additional portable; but with the projected growth of 45 students next year, they suspect they will need 3 additional portables for those 45 students (2 classroom teachers, 1 ESOL teacher). That would place 6 portables on their campus next year and projections show expected increases for several years after that.

### **Cloverly ES**

Restroom Renovation Schedule: 2015

After speaking with the principal and parent community, the immediate concerns at Cloverly ES are updated student and adult bathrooms, lighting in the hallways, and the overall smell of the building.

### **Drew ES**

The air conditioning system and its accompanying condensation leaks in the Drew ES building have reached a crisis. They consistently have repair orders in, have dehumidifiers running, and have mold forming on ceiling tiles, mildew odors in several rooms, damp walls that won't hold classroom displays and students sitting on carpets that feel damp. The frequent "Band-Aid" type repairs by MCPS are just not alleviating the problem. In light of the current economy, they have tried to hold off requesting such a major system replacement but they feel they have no choice. Therefore they are requesting a system replacement for Drew ES's heating/air conditioning system. They have provided further documentation, information and a list of work orders below.

They have files on this that go back to the summer of 2005. Everything summarized/listed they have some kind of paper trail for:

August, 2005: Staff, as they unpack, finding things like erasers with mold on them. Indoor air quality analysis was done and Dehumidifiers ordered.

October, 2005: E-mail request to Maintenance and Air quality regarding continued mold found on contents of boxes and medical issues experienced by staff, parent contact with school and OSP regarding medical issues of her medically fragile child

July, 2006 -- e-mailed request to maintenance regarding renewed mold, must and mildew issues (Note...these develop in the spring when air conditioning is turned on and continue through autumn when it is switched off)

October, 2006 -- Indoor air quality report completed -- worn insulation in ventilation units is replaced

Winter, 2009 -- At the request of a staff member and her doctor, another IAQ assessment completed. Stained/moldy ceiling tile replaced. Unit ventilator cleaned and sanitized. Recommend evaluation of thermostat controls.

July, 2010 -- Another IAQ report completed in response to another staff member's doctor's request and as a result of her symptoms. (Medical report says evidence of pseudomonas fluorescens were in her system.) Ventilator cleaning is to take place throughout the building this summer.

Sept. 1, 2010 -- e-mail from teacher, already replaced moldy ceiling tile is moldy again from moisture. Additionally there is a Mildew odor in reminting throughout the classroom.

According to maintenance worker: working on HVAC putting in "free stat", needs to come back with parts, requested we send all additional

HVAC problems to air quality folks

9/3/10 -- Mr. Cox, Mr. Hoyle and Mr. Park from MCPS all met at Drew to discuss ongoing problems. One commented: You have lots of problems with air quality. The current problem was designated to be with Air conditioning condensation and outside the scope of Air Quality office. Need work on the chiller. Need to clean and repair air conditioning ventilation equipment

They have a print out of work orders dated: 5/26/10, 5/3/10/5/6/10, another 5/3/10, 4/30/10

Work order 5/26/10: water flow to chiller was repaired

Work order 7/8/10: reset the chiller

Work order 7/20/10: results unknown

7/23/10 -- air conditioning in summer pre-K program not working

8/10 -- mold on ceiling tile in room 9

7/30/10 -- work order, repaired and replaced insulation on pipes and roof top unit, painted seal pipes

7/28/10--work order -- flooded classroom from air conditioning condensation line, repaired line

9/7/10 -- e-mail to Mr. Cox -- re: 8 rooms with wet ceiling tiles, water condensation collecting on floor of classroom under AC unit, rm. 8 musty smells and rm. 10 mildew stain on ceiling tile

9/8/10 -- work order --Media center 2 leaks in ceiling from pipe insulation (no note of resolution)

9/9/10 -- e-mail from Mr. Cox promising to replace all moldy ceiling tiles but put off work installing new insulation until after the heat changeover on October 1

May/June, 2011 -- additional work orders regarding condensation and wet ceiling tiles

7/22/11 -- e-mail from building services to Mr. Hoyle -- same leaks as last year, wet ceiling tiles and mildew in all first grade classes, media center and some hallways

8/4/11 -- Sean Yarup reports the wrapping of pipes (insulation) was poorly done and said the "situation of mold in pipe insulation is extensive and pretty bad."

8/9/11 -- Air quality report completed ("I found extensive mold contamination on pipe insulation and ceiling tiles in several classrooms....I found moldy pipe insulation and actively dripping condensation. The dripping condensate also caused ceiling tiles to become moldy. The following factors may have contributed to...Age of pipe insulation, poor installation techniques, type of insulation used") Recommend -- remediate mold contaminated pipe insulation and ceiling tiles. (This reinsulating project took place just prior to pre-service week and on the first day of pre-service)

9/15/11-- work order, Rm. 17 unit heater leaks from condensation

9/15/11 -- work order -- media office and storage ceiling leak from condensation

9/16/11-- work order -- room 8 leak in ceiling from A/C piping

9/26 /11 -- teacher complains that the soaked ceiling tiles are developing even more mold -- her carpet is damp from moisture in the room and display items on the wall are curling/peeling off from moisture; another teacher reports the same issue including mildew/moldy odor;

9/27/11 -- work order -- roof leak in rm. 21

9/29/11 -- indoor air quality report by Mr. Cox; MCPS indicates they need the insulation contractor to return. Work to be done after school 9/30 and on 10/1 if necessary (Saturday)

### **Fairland ES**

Their Annex is absolutely fabulous. It is spacious and beautiful. They are getting endless compliments about it all. Staff loves it. Their technology is fantastic with all of our Promethean Boards and Elmo's. Their reconfigured front of the building is safe, most importantly, and so accessible for pick-ups and drop-offs! Further, it is also beautiful. They have new state of the art playground equipment that the kids so love. So, they are pleased! After a few close calls, all was completed on time.

James Song was so responsive and with them each step of the way. All worked well. While they have expressed appreciation for all of this to many, thank you again is always a good thing.

### **Galway ES**

We love our new building, but it is filling up very quickly. We hate to think that there might be portables in Galway's future since the school is only four years old. I suppose this goes hand in hand with the request to keep class size down. But it is an issue we are keeping our eyes on.

### **Greencastle ES**

Restroom Renovation Schedule: 2015

— No CIP requests at this time! Thank You!

### **Jackson Road ES**

Restroom Renovation Schedule: 2016

### **Nix ES**

Many of their concerns continue to be those that were addressed earlier in the school year:

They have reached a student population of approximately 540 students (well over the March projections - 190 in kindergarten). Every available space is currently occupied and if the school grows any larger, relocatables will be needed next year. The total population of Nix ES and Cresthaven ES combined is 1000 students!

Their HVAC system continues to function poorly and this was felt this summer during our ELO-SAIL Program. It has not worked well in any season. Some areas of the building are cold in the winter and hot in the summer.

Building leaks also continue to be an issue. During Hurricane Irene, their pre-kindergarten classroom experienced flooding in the closet, destroying many of the teacher's personal materials. They have also had several classroom leaks on the upper level as well.

Finally, they also continue to have teenagers attempting to get on the school roof. In April 2011, they had an attempted break-in through the roof of the building. Roof hatches must be secured at all times (it is their understanding that they were not built with locks to prevent someone from getting locked out). Several high school students attempted to break into the school through the roof, but were caught by the police when the alarm went off. This occurred during the first day of Spring Break when there is minimal staff in the building. Security during extended school breaks is extremely important.

## **Sherwood ES**

They continue to limp along in the old part of the building on a heating system from 1977. It is all electric and their monthly bills have been as high as about \$14,000 in the winter. They constantly have maintenance out to repair it and keep it going, but it is still a major problem. Sherwood really does need a new HVAC system for the older part of the building.

## **Stonegate ES**

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

I know we are also supposed to have gotten a ramp in the back of the school that would allow our special needs children to access the lower black top which is where we evacuate during a fire. That is something that can't wait for the renovation!

## **SENT BY EMAIL**

September 16, 2011

Mr. Bruce Crispell

Director, Division of Long-Range Planning

[bruce\\_crispell@mcpsmd.org](mailto:bruce_crispell@mcpsmd.org)

## **RE: FACT REPORT - - STONEGATE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Dear Mr. Crispell:

I write today on behalf of the PTA at Stonegate Elementary School, located in the Northeastern Consortium and still in its original school building. Although there is some irony to these comments, we are pleased to support your recognition that Stonegate is one of the "Top Five" schools in the county in need of renovation. In the FACT Report dated July 22, 2011, Stonegate is cited as Number Four on the list for the next round of renovations. We have indeed been asking for a FACT assessment for the past two years, so we are not surprised that we have such a high score. The photo in the report of our water-stained ceiling says it all!

If I may mention one other concern that cannot wait until the renovations begin - - We currently have no exit ramp for our wheelchair-bound students in the back of the school. Stonegate sits on a hill, and the children in wheelchairs cannot reach the lower playground and the safe place where all of our children report when there is a fire drill. Specifically, access is limited from both the top blacktop to the lower blacktop and from the school exits to the lower blacktop. These areas are used for multiple purposes and should be accessible for all students. We are grateful for the emergency ramp in the front of the school that you provided us last year. However, a ramp has been promised us for the back, but it hasn't materialized. For purposes of ADA compliance and for the safety of our children (particularly in the

three robust LFI classes), we respectfully request that a ramp be built at the back of Stonegate ES as soon as possible.

We thank you for this opportunity to support your FACT Report as it pertains to Stonegate. We look forward to the day when our children come to a school building that matches the quality of our teaching staff! Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about this letter.

Sincerely

Patricia A. Parachini  
NE Consortium Representative for Stonegate