

Churchill Cluster Testimony

**Regarding the Superintendent's Recommended
FY 2011 Capital Budget
and
FY 2011-2016 Capital Improvements Program**

Winston Churchill Cluster

*Winston Churchill High School
Herbert Hoover Middle School
Beverly Farms Elementary School
Seven Locks Elementary School*

*Cabin John Middle School
Bells Mill Elementary School
Potomac Elementary School
Wayside Elementary School*

**Board of Education Public Hearing
Carver Education Services Center
November 12, 2009**

**Churchill Cluster Coordinators:
Laurie Halverson
Laura Siegel
Merry Eisner**

Good evening. My name is Laurie Halverson, one of the three Cluster Coordinators and I am testifying on behalf of the eight schools in the Churchill Cluster regarding the Superintendent's recommended FY 2011 Capital Budget and the FY 2011-2016 Capital Improvements Program.

Thank You

We are excited to see one of our cluster schools, Bells Mill ES on the front cover of the MCPS CIP book! It is a beautiful school that has many special features. The finished product clearly reflects the input received from the community, the staff and the administration. We are grateful to finally have a new elementary school building after years of delays and overcrowding in our cluster. Additionally, we are pleased that the modernization of Beverly Farms has been recommended to begin six months sooner due to a change in holding schools.

Keep Our Modernizations on Track

Now that the momentum is going, we want to encourage you to hold steadfast in keeping the Churchill Cluster modernization projects on track. Any delays will affect the six schools that are awaiting their modernization. Please refer to Appendix A and B and take note of the completion dates for our cluster's projects as was listed in the FY 1999 CIP versus the FY 2011 CIP. The Seven Locks ES modernization was originally supposed to be completed in September of 2003 (the same time as Bells Mill was listed in the FY 1999 CIP) and is now scheduled for completion in January 2012. It would be prudent for the Board of Education to take advantage of the current lower prices in the construction industry by keeping projects on schedule while maximizing county dollars.

Churchill Cluster Modernizations

We urge MCPS to finish the following approved, recommended, and/or programmed modernizations as scheduled per the completion dates listed:

- **Cabin John MS Modernization/ August 2011** –Ensure the construction remains on schedule in order to reopen the school by August 2011 as planned. Hoover Middle

School is the next middle school scheduled for modernization. Therefore, CJMS must be completed on time in order for Hoover to move into the Tilden Center on schedule after Cabin John vacates.

- **Seven Locks ES Modernization and gymnasium/ January 2012** – It is imperative that this modernization, which will increase capacity from 251 to 410, remains on schedule to be in accordance with the approved boundary changes for Seven Locks, Bells Mill and Potomac Elementary Schools and in order to alleviate the overcrowding at Potomac Elementary School.
- **Beverly Farms ES Modernization/ January 2013** – Now that this project is accelerated by six months and reassigned to North Lake Center holding facility, delays would affect Bel Pre ES which follows Beverly Farms on the Holding Facility Schedule.
- **Herbert Hoover MS Modernization/ August 2013** – The HVAC system is in need of replacement and will hopefully hold out for two more years.
- **Wayside ES Modernization/ August 2016** – Built in 1969, this building has never been modernized.
- **Potomac ES Modernization/ January 2018** – Built in 1949, with updates in 1976 but never fully modernized, this building has HVAC problems and worn facilities.

Improve Accuracy of Enrollment Figures

Our cluster has 104 more students than forecasted in the March 2009 enrollment projections. Of that, 50% of that unplanned increase took place at Bells Mill, our new elementary school facility. Given the planned construction for our cluster and the academic achievement level that brings families to our neighborhood, the accuracy of enrollment figures is paramount. We do not want our schools over capacity upon opening or soon after. The results of last year's boundary recommendations will be rippling through our communities over the next few years. The effects of these enrollment shifts need to be very closely monitored.

County Wide Projects

HVAC. We support recommendations to increase expenditures for replacements and major improvements to HVAC systems. Churchill HS is in need of an improved HVAC system. We request that a portion of the funding increase be targeted toward Churchill in order to improve air-quality, air-flow, and major temperature disparities. During the last fiscal year Churchill had 602 work order hours spent on attempts to fix the HVAC system, that equates to 3.5 hours per school day based on a 180 day school-year. Although Churchill was modernized in 2001, it was the first onsite high school modernization and served as the guinea pig for future high school onsite modernization projects. The HVAC system was not completely replaced. The portion that was installed was done piecemeal while the building was constructed in phases resulting in ducts not being properly connected or never connected. Additionally the ductwork makes a loop throughout the building creating an inefficient system.

Potomac ES also has HVAC issues as evidenced by the 199 work order hours spent on their system. With a modernization more than 8 years from now, Potomac ES will likely require a substantial expenditure for HVAC repairs. At Hoover MS 643 staff hours were utilized to maintain the HVAC system last year. While we recognize that next school year is the final year that students and staff will be in the building before moving to the Tilden Center in September 2011, any delay in Hoover's modernization would likely require a major investment in their HVAC system which would be a waste of county tax dollars.

Portable Classrooms. We are looking forward to a day when portables will not be necessary to accommodate enrollment in our cluster, but currently we have 16 portables at four of our schools. We support MCPS' efforts to lease better quality portables and work steadily in replacing portables in disrepair.

PLAR. We also support the increase in expenditures for PLAR projects as recommended in the FY 2011 CIP to ensure that our aging equipment is replaced. This upkeep is important in order for our buildings to remain safe and to ensure that our equipment functions at an optimal level of energy efficiency.

Holding School Conditions are Unacceptable. Holding schools are permanent structures, not temporary facilities. Even though students and staff from varying schools inhabit them temporarily, they need to be properly maintained and upheld to the same health and safety standards that we expect in our permanent buildings.

We have been very disappointed by what we found at the Tilden Holding Center. The school has major issues with its HVAC system, leaks from the ceilings throughout the building, numerous issues with the plumbing fixtures in the restrooms, ADA noncompliance issues that directly impact the physically disabled students in our school and numerous other concerns--many which have yet to be resolved despite numerous meetings with parents, Cabin John staff and the MCPS Department of Facilities. A picture says a thousand words. Please refer to Appendix C to view photos that illustrate a few of the concerns we have raised. Hoover MS will follow Cabin John at this facility and our community will not stand for facilities that can harm the health and safety of our children and staff.

We want to be assured that the North Lake facility, the future home of Beverly Farms in August of 2011, will be in much better condition than we found Tilden Center.

We support the MCCPTA Testimony

The Churchill Cluster supports the testimony presented by MCCPTA. We also ask that the Board of Education to continue to work diligently to advocate to the state and County Council for funding of the FY 2011 CIP and FY 2011-2016 Capital Improvements Program. Thank you!

Appendices

Appendix A-Chart of Churchill Cluster Capital

**Projects from FY 2011 CIP Book shows a
Comparison of anticipated completion
dates from the FY 1999-2004 CIP**

Appendix B- Superintendent's Summary Table of Cluster Projects from FY 1999-2004 CIP

Appendix C-Three pictures of safety concerns at the Tilden Holding Facility (currently the home of Cabin John MS)

Appendix A

**Superintendent's Recommendations
FY 2011-2016 CIP**

**Superintendent's Recommendations*
FY 1999 – 2004 CIP**

*** see appendix B next page
for copy of printed page**

copied from
FY 2011 CIP book

CAPITAL PROJECTS

School	Project	Project Status	Date of Completion
Cabin John MS	Modernization	Approved	Aug. 2011
Hoover MS	Modernization	Recommended	Aug. 2013
Beverly Farms ES	Modernization	Recommended	Jan. 2013
Potomac ES	Modernization	Programmed	Jan. 2018
Seven Locks ES	Modernization	Recommended	Jan. 2012
	Gymnasium	Recommended	Jan. 2012
Wayside ES	Modernization	Programmed	Aug. 2016

**FY 1999-2004 CIP
Completion Date**

Sept 2005

Sept 2005

Sept 2004

Not listed

Sept 2003

Sept 2005

Bells Mill ES Modernization Completed Aug 2009

Sept 2003

Appendix B

The Superintendent's Requested FY 1999-2004 Capital Improvements Program

The following table summarizes the superintendent's requested FY 1999-2004 CIP. This table, along with the requested CIP expenditure schedule, provides a listing of the projects and programmed expenditures for the six-year period. The first column in the table shows the projects grouped

by high school cluster. The second column reflects the superintendent's request, and the last column lists the date scheduled for the project to be complete and occupied if the request is approved.

Summary Table

Cluster/Project	Superintendent's Request	Anticipated Completion Date
Bethesda-Chevy Chase Cluster		
Bethesda-Chevy Chase HS Modernization	Planning FY 1999	9/01
Bethesda ES Modernization	Construction FY 1999	9/99
Chevy Chase ES Modernization	Planning FY 1999	9/00
Rock Creek Forest ES Modernization	Feasibility study FY 2003	9/05
Somerset ES Modernization	Feasibility study FY 2000	9/02
Montgomery Blair Cluster		
Montgomery Blair HS Replacement	Furniture/Equipment FY 1999	9/98
Montgomery Blair MS #3	Construction FY 1999	9/98
Takoma Park MS Modernization	Furniture/Equipment FY 1999	9/99
Montgomery Blair Cluster ES #11	Construction FY 1999	9/99
Winston Churchill Cluster		
Winston Churchill HS Modernization	Planning FY 1999	9/01
Cabin John MS Modular Addition	Construction FY 1999	9/00
Cabin John MS Modernization	Feasibility study FY 2002	9/05
Herbert Hoover MS Addition	Planning FY 1999	9/00
Herbert Hoover MS Modernization	Feasibility study FY 2002	9/05
Bells Mill ES Modernization	Feasibility study FY 2001	9/03
Beverly Farms ES Modernization	Feasibility study FY 2002	9/04
Seven Locks ES Modernization	Feasibility study FY 2001	9/03
Wayside ES Modernization	Feasibility study FY 2003	9/05
Damascus Cluster		
John T. Baker MS Addition	Planning FY 1999	9/00
Albert Einstein Cluster		
Glen Haven ES Modernization	Feasibility study FY 1999	9/01
Rock View ES Modernization/Gym	Construction FY 1999	9/99
Gaithersburg Cluster		
Gaithersburg HS Circulation Improvements	Planning FY 1999	9/00
Forest Oak MS Replacement Facility (Magruder MS#2)	Furniture/Equipment FY 1999	9/99
Walter Johnson Cluster		
Walter Johnson HS Modernization/Addition	Planning FY 1999	9/01
Addition Modernization		9/05
W. Johnson MS #2 Renovation (N. Bethesda Facility)	Construction FY 1999	9/99
Farmland ES Modernization	Feasibility study FY 2003	9/05
Garrett Park ES Modernization	Feasibility study FY 2002	9/04
Kensington-Parkwood ES Modernization	Feasibility study FY 2000	9/02
John F. Kennedy Cluster		
John F. Kennedy HS Modernization/Addition	Furniture/Equipment FY 1999	9/99
Glenallan ES Modernization	Feasibility study FY 2002	9/04
Bel Pre ES Modernization	Feasibility study FY 2002	9/04

Appendix C (Page 1 of 2)



Room C123-Ceiling has bulging wet tiles. 1



Instrumental Music Storage room - Repairs were made, then new ceiling tiles were installed. The leak came back and damaged the new ceiling tiles. Building Maintenance removed a badly damaged electrical outlet and removed the ceiling light. A blue recycle bin collects the water. Another leak exists in the storage room behind this one.

Appendix C (Page 2 of 2)



Doors to the three courtyards on the second floor are all badly damaged on the outside and the doors do not close properly.