

Office of the Superintendent of Schools
MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Rockville, Maryland

November 21, 2007

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education

From: Jerry D. Weast, Superintendent of Schools

Subject: Follow-up from November 15, 2007, Public Hearing on the
FY 2009–2014 Capital Improvements Program

11-15-07-01

Mrs. O'Neill inquired about the status of Albert Einstein High School's parking and whether we are still looking for additional parking solutions for this school.

Response

Albert Einstein High School currently has 225 parking spaces. The students and some staff members utilize parking that is available on the street. Relocatable classrooms were removed when the Signature Program addition was completed, exposing blacktop. This area can be converted to provide approximately 20 additional parking spaces. This conversion will be evaluated and considered as a future Improved Safe Access to Schools project.

11-15-07-02

Mr. Barclay asked whether a request for a traffic study has been made for Glenallan Elementary School.

Response

A traffic study will be conducted as part of facility planning in FY 2009.

11-15-07-03

Mr. Barclay requested the status of the pool at Piney Branch Elementary School.

Response

This question was answered at the table.

11-15-07-04

Mr. Moskowitz asked how many parking spaces were available at Albert Einstein High School compared to other high schools.

Response

Albert Einstein High School has 225 spaces. The average number of spaces across our high schools is 425. Below is a chart showing the number of parking spaces at all high schools.

High School	Number of Existing Parking Spaces
Bethesda-Chevy Chase	197
Montgomery Blair	523
James Hubert Blake	551
Winston Churchill	406
Clarksburg	425
Damascus	331
Albert Einstein	225
Gaithersburg	366
John F. Kennedy	349
Col. Zadok Magruder	532
Northwest	422
Northwood	405
Paint Branch	434
Poolesville	287
Quince Orchard	464
Richard Montgomery	337
Rockville	457
Seneca Valley	473
Sherwood	577
Springbrook	487
Walter Johnson	562
Watkins Mill	464
Wheaton	374
Walt Whitman	456
Thomas S. Wootton	530

11-15-07-05

Dr. Docca requested the status of the parking situation for staff at Georgian Forest Elementary School.

Response

There are currently 57 parking spaces at Georgian Forest Elementary School to serve approximately 80 staff members. Staff utilizes available street parking in front of the school. There is no level ground on which to provide additional parking at Georgian Forest Elementary School.

11-15-07-06

Ms. Cox requested information on how often and where quad-cluster Special Education programs have been moved from one school to another in the past five year period.

Response

Following are quad-cluster special education programs that have moved from one school to another in the past five years:

- 2003–2004—Wayside Elementary School received two School Community-Based Programs (SCBP) from Beall Elementary School.
- 2004–2005—Glen Haven Elementary School received three SCBP from Highland Elementary School.
- 2005-2006—Lakelands Park Middle School received two SCBP from Ridgeview Middle School.
- 2006-2007—James Hubert Blake High School received one SCBP from Springbrook High School, and Galway Elementary School received two Elementary Learning Centers from Westover Elementary School.
- 2007–2008—Arcola Elementary School received one SCBP from Takoma Park Elementary School and one SCBP from Kemp Mill Elementary School.

11-15-07-07

Mr. Barclay asked if there are security cameras located in any of the high school gymnasiums, and if there are plans to install cameras in the gymnasiums.

Response

There are cameras in some high school gymnasiums presently, and there are plans to install cameras in all gymnasiums.

11-15-07-08

Mr. Barclay requested information on the access control plan that is included in the security systems request.

Response

The access control plan includes installation of two types of electronic locks on exterior doors to help schools better secure their facilities. One type of lock that could be placed on the front and rear doors of elementary schools would consist of a camera and intercom that would allow main office staff to view and speak with someone trying to access the school. This lock would be activated after the normal school day has started and children are in class. The second type of locking device would be a proximity card reader. This type of lock could be placed on the doors leading to the playground and staff parking lot. Staff could use their school ID card to gain entry into the building at these points. This would reduce instances of doors being propped open to facilitate access.

All schools received a memorandum from Mr. Larry A. Bowers, chief operating officer, stressing the importance of securing all doors except the main entry whenever possible in order to limit the access of individuals who do not belong in our schools and to account for visitors with legitimate business.

11-15-07-09

Ms. Brandman asked when Col. E. Brooke Lee Middle School was last inspected for indoor air quality.

Response

Col. E. Brooke Lee Middle School was inspected in September 2007. Environmental safety coordinator Sean Yarup investigated concerns about the “damp environment” and the condition of carpeted areas. It appeared that there may be an issue with the amount of outside air being brought into the building by the facility’s mechanical ventilation equipment. If too much outside air is brought into the building without proper dehumidification, it could lead to damp conditions. A Division of Maintenance work order was submitted to evaluate the damper controls on the ventilation systems at the school. Corrective measures are under way. All of the classrooms have floor tile, which does not negatively affect indoor air quality. While the main office and media center have carpet, no visible mold or mustiness was detected in these areas. These areas will be re-evaluated after or during a rain event when musty odors are typically at their worst.

11-15-07-10

Mrs. O’Neill requested a follow-up on testimony regarding the safe access issue at Farmland Elementary School in regard to the sidewalk.

Response

Staff is reviewing the walkway issue at Farmland Elementary School and will incorporate improvements as part of the Improved Safe Access to Schools project.

11-15-07-11

Mrs. O'Neill requested the status of the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system at Tilden Middle School.

Response

This question was answered at the table.

11-15-07-12

Ms. Brandman asked how HVAC projects are prioritized.

Response

HVAC projects are prioritized based on the age and life-cycle of the equipment, current condition assessments, and scope of work.

11-15-07-13

Mr. Abrams asked how much it would cost to acquire 14 acres adjacent to Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School.

Response

Hypothetically, approximately 14 acres of land in the general Bethesda area would cost \$65 to \$70 million to purchase. Costs would increase if property owners were unwilling to sell and condemnation were necessary. There is no reason to believe that any of the property owners would be willing to sell. In addition, it would be difficult to achieve abandonment of the adjacent roadways.

11-15-07-14

Ms. Brandman asked how much it would cost to conduct a Facilities Assessment with Criteria and Testing (FACT) assessment on the remaining schools.

Response

Additional FACT assessments for the next 37 schools would cost approximately \$267,000.

11-15-07-15

Mr. Abrams requested a response to Mr. Ted Willard's testimony regarding options for the Redland Middle School project.

Response

During public testimony from Mr. Willard, Col. Zadok Magruder Cluster coordinator, he stated that the Col. Zadok Magruder Cluster suggests delaying the nine new elementary school additions recommended by the superintendent and including full funding for the improvements at Redland Middle School. The following two tables illustrate the Superintendent's Recommended FY 2009–2014 Capital Improvements Program (CIP) broken down by the nine new addition projects, the remaining individual projects, modernizations, and systemic countywide projects. The second table illustrates the Col. Zadok Magruder Cluster's suggestion for delaying the nine addition projects one year and including full funding for the improvements at Redland Middle School.

The two tables show that Mr. Willard's proposal results in FY 2009 increases of approximately \$2.5 million, FY 2011 increases of approximately \$20 million, and FY 2012 increases of approximately \$12 million. (FY 2010 decreases by \$13.8 million.) The six-year total increases by approximately \$21 million, the difference between the superintendent's recommendation and the full cost of the improvements for Redland Middle School.

Superintendent's Recommended FY 2009–2014 CIP

Project	Total Six-Years	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
Total of nine new additions	75,107	3,510	37,956	29,908	3,733	0	0
Remaining individual projects	151,283	77,748	27,324	20,682	23,055	2,474	0
Modernizations	897,913	106,699	132,034	154,982	194,678	156,463	153,057
Systemic countywide projects	366,100	69,958	69,818	63,559	55,077	53,823	53,865
Total Recommended FY 2009–2014 CIP	1,490,403	257,915	267,132	269,131	276,543	212,760	206,922

Col. Zadok Magruder Cluster Recommendation with Delay of Ten New Projects and Full Funding for Redland Middle School

Project	Total Six-Years	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
Total of nine new additions	75,107		3,510	37,956	29,908	3,733	0
Remaining individual projects	144,763	75,043	33,058	26,991	9,671	0	0
Redland Middle School improvements	27,714	8,895	14,882	3,937			
Modernizations	897,913	106,699	132,034	154,982	194,678	156,463	153,057
Systemic projects	366,100	69,958	69,818	63,559	55,077	53,823	53,865
Total	1,511,597	260,595	253,302	287,425	289,334	214,019	206,922

As indicated by Mr. Joseph Lavorgna, acting director, Department of Facilities Management, there are three future projects in the upcounty that will be needed to relieve overutilization in the Clarksburg Cluster that are anticipated to cost approximately \$85 million. If planning for these three upcounty projects were to begin in FY 2010, construction costs would be included in FY 2011 and FY 2012, increasing those expenditures by \$17 and \$38 million respectively. Therefore, the expenditures for FY 2011, based on the Col. Zadok Magruder Cluster suggestion with the anticipated Clarksburg projects, would be approximately \$304 million, and the FY 2012 expenditures would be approximately \$327 million.

11-15-07-16

Mr. Moskowitz requested the costs and benefits of “green relocatables” versus the ones we currently use.

Response

This question was answered at the table.

11-15-07-17

Dr. Docca requested the status of permits for the Washington Grove Elementary School addition project.

Response

This question was answered at the table.

11-15-07-18

Mrs. O'Neill requested the availability of green modular classrooms in Maryland.

Response

This question was answered at the table.

11-15-07-19

Mrs. O'Neill asked why there are several gymnasiums in the county, including those at Beall, Bradley Hills, Clearspring, and Woodfield elementary schools, which have upkeep issues.

Response

This question was answered at the table.

11-15-07-20

Ms. Cox asked if additional blacktop could be put down at Little Bennett Elementary School to allow for the placement of more relocatable classrooms.

Response

Currently there are five relocatable classrooms at Little Bennett Elementary School, with space for two additional relocatable classrooms on the existing paved play area. Additional relocatable classrooms will have to be installed in the parking lot, reducing the number of parking spaces available. Surrounding properties are owned by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC). With their permission, additional relocatable classrooms could be placed on the ball fields owned by M-NCPPC.

11-15-07-21

Ms. Cox requested information on potential long-term use of relocatable classrooms at Spark M. Matsunaga Elementary School regarding the options to provide more substantive "semi-permanent" green classrooms in place of relocatables.

Response

Currently, there are 12 leased relocatable classrooms at Spark M. Matsunaga Elementary School. The green relocatable classrooms cost significantly more than the leased units. Replacing the 12 existing leased relocatable classrooms with 12 green relocatable classrooms would cost approximately \$1.8 million.

11-15-07-22

Dr. Docca requested information on how the feasibility study for Takoma Park Elementary School was advertised.

Response

This question was answered at the table.

11-15-07-23

Mr. Barclay asked what the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) is doing in terms of wireless technology to address computer lab issues at schools like Gaithersburg High School.

Response

Staff in the Office of the Chief Technology Officer has developed a strategy for implementing wireless technologies throughout all schools as part of the Technology Modernization Program. One important aspect of this strategy is to allow laptop computers on portable carts to be delivered to classrooms to supplement existing computer labs, especially when space is at a premium. This model has been implemented most recently in Rockville and Clarksburg high schools, Great Seneca Creek Elementary School, and in the five Middle School Reform Phase I schools. Modernizations at Richard Montgomery High School and College Gardens Elementary School will result in wireless capacity throughout the buildings, with laptop computers on portable carts. As use of wireless technology expands throughout MCPS, consideration is being given to slower connection speeds and battery life in determining appropriate uses in instruction. Generally, laptops are purchased with two batteries to ensure that they will last the full day. Furthermore, laptop batteries need to be replaced on an average of every two years. Laptops tend to cost a few hundred dollars more than desktops, and they have an average life of three years.

11-15-07-24

Ms. Brandman asked if there are fire code issues with Bradley Hills Elementary School conducting a class on the stage.

Response

There are no outstanding citations for code corrections at Bradley Hills Elementary School. A class can be conducted on the stage, but must follow capacity guidelines based on the fire code. The 450 square-foot stage can accommodate approximately 30 students, according to the fire code.

JDW:vnb

Attachment

Copy to:

Mr. Bowers
Dr. Lacey
Mr. Bedford
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Crispell
Mr. Lavorgna