



October 8, 2009

Dr. Jerry D. Weast  
Superintendent, Montgomery County Public Schools  
850 Hungerford Drive  
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear Dr. Weast:

In public statements, you have made the assertion that the construction market is favorable at this time and that MCPS could experience significant savings if we proceed with planned construction funded by county bond obligations. Last year, however, when you asked your staff to identify projects scheduled for bid in FY 2011 that could be ready for bid in FY 2010, only one project, the modernization of Paint Branch High School, met the stated criteria of “the design of the project [is] complete and the permit process [is] ready to begin.”<sup>1</sup> If the upcoming climate is indeed favorable to construction bids, then it would seem prudent to prepare as many projects as possible for bidding either in the current fiscal year or in fiscal year 2011, assuming of course, authorization from the County Council to proceed with bidding of the project.

In order to inform our advocacy on the issue, we would like to know which of the currently planned projects can be made ready for bid either in the spring of 2010 (FY 2010) or in the fall of 2010 (FY 2011). Attached is a list of CIP projects that currently are planned for completion in the next few years and that have not been bid for construction. For each project, we would like to know (a) when the project is scheduled for bid, assuming no changes from the 2010 Educational Facilities Master Plan (June 2009), (b)

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<sup>1</sup> Memorandum to the Board of Education, May 18, 2009. This memorandum is attached to the agenda of the Board of Education’s May 18, 2009 special meeting and is available at this link: <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/boe/meetings/agenda/2008-09/2009-0518/3%200%20FY%202010%20Appropriation%20for%20PBHS.pdf>

what actions would be necessary to prepare the project for bid sooner than planned, and (c) which projects are most capable of being bid either in spring 2010 or fall 2010. In addition, if other projects not on the attached list can be readied for bid in this time frame, please provide information on those projects as well.

It is our desire to see the county take advantage of a favorable situation to “catch up” on the backlog of projects that have not proceeded due to funding shortfalls. If any of these projects can be bid more quickly and allow the county to complete the projects under budget, this not only could relieve competing pressures on general revenues but also may allow the county to complete more projects with the same bond capacity. Such an outcome would be a “win-win” for the county and for students. We look forward to receiving this additional information as quickly as possible. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kay Romero". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Kay Romero  
President, Montgomery County Council of PTAs

cc: Montgomery County Board of Education

**MCPS ADDITION OR MODERNIZATION PROJECTS  
NOT YET BID FOR CONSTRUCTION**

<b>Project</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>	<b>Est. Bid Date</b>	<b>Potential Bid Date</b>
Brookhaven ES addition			
Fairland ES addition			
Harmony Hills ES addition			
Montgomery Knolls ES addition			
Rock View ES addition			
Seven Locks ES addition/modernization			
Glenallen ES modernization			
Beverly Farms ES modernization			
Weller Road ES modernization			
Bel Pre ES modernization			
Hoover MS modernization			
Farquhar MS modernization			
Gaithersburg HS modernization			
Wheaton HS modernization			