

Montgomery County Board of Education
2009 Capital Improvements Program Testimony
John F. Kennedy Cluster
November 12, 2008

Good evening. My name is Ricky Ford and I serve as the cluster coordinator for the John F. Kennedy Cluster of schools. On behalf of the Kennedy Cluster, thank you for allowing me to speak about the Capital Improvements Program.

The Kennedy Cluster supports the Superintendent's FY 2010 Capital Budget and the FY 2009 - 2014 Capital Improvements Program. We would like to thank the Superintendent and the Board for:

- The restroom renovations at Lee MS and Argyle MS
- The technology modernization at Argyle

Our elementary schools are over the 105% utilization rate for the 2009-2014 estimates. Therefore, we are pleased with the:

- The recommended 2010 funding for facility planning for the Bel Pre ES modernization.
- The approved 2009 funding for facility planning for Georgian Forest, however, there were no funds allocated for 2010 facility planning.
- The approved 2009 and recommended 2010 funding for the Glenallan modernization facility planning.
- The Strathmore HVAC project funding request for 2010.

We believe that it is prudent that the CIP long-term capacity projections for Glenallan take into account the Poplar Run (Indian Spring) development. The ground-breaking ceremony for the Poplar Run development is scheduled for next week and as a result this project must remain on schedule.

We still have the parking issue at Georgian Forest. They currently have 56 parking spaces (with four designated as handicapped), a staff of over 70 people, and are prohibited from parking across the street from the school. As a result, there are not enough spaces to accommodate the staff or any parents who may want to come to the school. This has been and continues to be a major issue at the school.

Col. E. Brooke Lee Middle School was built in 1966; it has never been renovated and remains the oldest non-modernized middle school in the county. Though it is listed in the CIP, there is still no date for modernization and this remains a community concern.

We are concerned about the overall state of the facilities within the entire Down County Consortium (DCC). Northwood, Einstein, Wheaton, Blair and Kennedy are part of the DCC. In order for the DCC to meet its objective, each of the DCC schools needs to have adequate facilities to be successful.

The Kennedy Cluster stands ready to respond creatively to the challenges presented by our diverse community.

Thank you for your attention to these matters.