

THE NORTHEAST CONSORTIUM

A Consortium of the Blake, Paint Branch and Springbrook Clusters

Comments on the FY 2009 Capital Budget and Amendments to the FY 2009-14 Capital Improvements Program (CIP)

The NEC Elementary School Needs

November 13, 2008

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 Weast, President Navarro, and members of the Board. My name is Dawn Dolan, one of the Blake Cluster Coordinators, and I will be speaking on behalf of the CIP needs of our 16 elementary schools.

The NEC is grateful to the Board and MCPS for the recognition of our community's unique needs —and for the Superintendent's effort to maintain the project path for our schools within a restrictive fiscal environment. The modernization of Galway [ES] and Key [MS] are almost complete, and the ribbon cutting for the Cloverly Gym occurred with great fanfare.

The fiscal crises we are now facing can most certainly have a severe impact on our schools. We believe our 16 schools specifically characterize the Capacity & Safety Criteria of an off-budget year. Equally, they are models of the Objectives outlined for Facility Planning — especially in the areas of early education, reduced class size, and special education programming. *We cannot afford to fall behind!*

The NEC serves 7,633 elementary age students — 2nd only to the DCC — and currently 11 of our 16 schools are overcapacity (*882 additional students* based on the published CIP book). 7 of our 16 [elementary] schools built between 1952 and 1988 have never been modernized. The elementaries have 32 portables not including those in place for Galway while at Fairland Holding Facility. The NEC has a vital stake in this year's CIP.

Only **Cannon Road** (107 overcapacity) is on the Approved Modernization Schedule (2012), leaving **Cresthaven** still under Recommendation, but with an approved gymnasium. (And we have all heard loud and clear of this school's dire condition!). Of the 3 schools Recommended for Additions, **Fairland** (208 overcapacity) and **Jackson Road** (201 overcapacity) are delayed one year, though we thank you for the inclusion of additional classrooms. This leaves only **Sherwood Elementary** (95 overcapacity) on the Recommended Schedule for 2010, but without any consideration for their request for modernization.

The delay of these projects is a cause for much anxiety in the NEC, given the example of our urgent need for Paint Branch's modernization. Will these delays

only serve to further backlog the High School Schedule? *The NEC cannot afford to fall behind!*

Projected enrollment shows a continued increase in our highly diverse community and the service needs of the NEC continue to grow. Our elementaries' have the 4th highest FARMS, 3rd highest mobility and 6th highest ESOL rates amongst the MCPS Clusters.

In addition, 11 of our elementaries are part of the Reduced Class Size Initiative (CSR), with 147 classes impacted; we have increased from 2 to 4 Linkages to Learning (including school-based health center); and there are 39 separate classes of Special Ed programming, 10 classes of PreK/HS, and 2 classes of METS.. The positive relationship between successful programming and appropriate & safe facilities is established. *We cannot afford to fall behind!*

We ask that you consider the addition of 4 more schools to the modernization schedule. Sherwood is 31-years-old and Stonegate, 37. Broad Acres & Burnt Mills, while partially modified, have been subject to age and/or overuse.

[Broad Acres, built in 1952, received additional classrooms and a reconfigured admin area, but has never been fully modernized. Burnt Mills' facility, while modernized in 1990, was subject to years of overcrowding (prior to the opening of Roscoe Nix).]

Burtonsville, Cloverly, Drew, Page, Greencastle and Stonegate need to be watched for rising enrollments. The reduction in portables has added further pressure to accommodate the students.

Thank you for the Tech Mod projects for Cannon Road, Cresthaven, Galway, and Westover. Further needed projects noted by our schools include:

- Fairland continues to request additional lighting in its parking lot for safety, *especially near the handicapped area*;
- Roscoe Nix is worried about the safe access of students arriving and departing and asks that the sidewalks and bus area be reconfigured;
- new and safer playground equipment at Burnt Mills, along with a retaining wall around the play area.

We respectfully request that all planned projects receive their full appropriations and that a common sense approach to long-term planning be followed for our wonderful elementary schools. *Our Children Cannot Afford to Fall Behind!*

Thank you.

Respectfully,
The Northeast Consortium Cluster Coordinators

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	SCHOOL	YEAR BUILT/MOD	CIP 2008-09 ENROLL	CAPACITY	# PRTBLS	CSR / LL-SBHC PREK & SPECED	CIP STATUS
Schools Currently Undergoing Modernization							
Jan 09	Galway	@Fairland	745	754		CSR - 20 rooms prek-1, hsm-2, elc-14	on-schedule furniture & equipment approp 09
Schools on Approved Schedule for Modernization							
2012	Cannon Rd	1967	402	295 (107)	7	CSR - 12 rooms e/lad-1, lang-1, aac-1	Approved Mod (Fy 09 planning) Recom plnng fnds Gym -2012
Schools on Recommended Schedule for Modernization							
2010	Cresthaven Gr. 3-5	1962	338	363	0	CSR - LL, mets-1, e/lad-2	RecApprop 2010 Construction Funds & Gymnasium
Schools on Recommended Schedule for Additions							
2010 DELAY	Fairland 2011	1992	554	346 (208)	8	CSR - 16 rooms HS-1, ED-2	RecApprop FY2010 Construction increase by 9 rooms: 4+9 = 13
2010 DELAY	Jackson Rd 2011	1959 / 1995	587	386 (201)	11	CSR - 10 rooms prek-1, PEP-4	RecApprop FY2010 Construction increase by 3 rooms: 11+3 = 14
2010	Sherwood	1977	471	376 (95)	7	SCB - 2	RecApprop FY2010 Construction + 8 rooms / Rest Rm Ren 09/10
Schools Never Modernized and Not on Recommended Schedule for Improvements							
	Broad Acres	1952	486	694	0	CSR - 14 / LL-SBHC prek-2,HS-1, mets-1	new classrooms added and reconfig admin area
	Stonegate	1971	442	431 (11)	4	LFI - 2	
	Greencastle	1988	605	570 (35)	1	CSR - 17 / LL - SBHC prek-1	
Schools Requesting Addition to Modernization with Special Circumstances							
	Sherwood	1977	471	376 (95)	7		Scheduled for Add 2010 NEVER Modernized
	Burnt Mills	1964 / 1990	368	386	1	CSR- 10 / LL prek -1	Severe Overcrowding Relieved by Roscoe Nix
Schools to Watch for Enrollment							
	Burtonsville	1952 / 1993	634	594 (40)	0		
	Cloverly	1961 / 1989	514	460 (54)	2	AUT-3, PEP-3	NEW GYMNASIUM
	Greencastle	1988	605	570 (35)	1	RCSI / LL, prek-1	
	Page	1965 / 2003	390	371 (19)	0	CSR - 9 / prek-1	
	Stonegate	1971	442	431 (11)	4	LFI-2	
	Drew	1991	423	406 (17)	0	CSR-7/pek-1, e/lad-3, scb-5	

* CSR - Reduced Class Size Initiative LL - Linkages to Learning / SBHC - School Based Health Center

