



**MCCPTA Testimony
Regarding the Capital Improvements Program
Before the Montgomery County Board of Education
December 8, 2009**

Good morning, President O'Neill and Members of the Board. I am Kay Romero, President of the Montgomery County Council of PTAs.

MCCPTA believes that four items deserve more attention before the County Council adopts a budget in May.

1. The Board should prepare the next set of construction projects for bid within the next 12 months.

For these projects, we urge you to:

- Set an expectation that the projects will be ready to bid no more than 12 months from today;
- Require MCPS to report at least monthly on the progress of the design phase of these projects; and
- Require MCPS to identify any specific obstacles to completion of the design within this time frame so that the Board may address the obstacles.

This puts the Board in control of when to actually seek bids based on funding availability and market conditions.

2. The Board should critically examine the condition of our school's restrooms.

We strongly support the goal of ensuring that all restrooms have fixtures that work, floors and partitions in good order and generally are clean and well maintained.

3. The Board should proceed with the CIP Task Force promptly so the task force can examine the process for modernizing schools and the criteria to be used to assess schools for modernization.

4. The Board should obtain complete answers to its questions from the November 11 and 12 CIP hearings

We would like to see more complete answers to these questions:

- Changes made in the line item for Current Replacements/Modernizations.

FY 11 and 12 numbers increased with no new projects added to the list and no modernizations accelerated into this time period. MCPS's response did not explain this.

- Cost to accelerate the design of upcoming projects.

The Board's question asking for a cost estimate to complete certain designs within 12 months went unanswered.

- Promethean boards in elementary schools.

We would like to see a clear policy for when elementary schools are eligible for this technology and how these resources will be divided among schools.

IN CONCLUSION

We all want to ensure that MCPS provides our students the best opportunities to learn. The projects listed in the CIP contribute directly to student success.

Thank You,

Kay Romero, President
Montgomery County Council of PTAs (MCCPTA)