

## Kennedy Cluster

John F. Kennedy High School  
Col. E. Brooke Lee Middle School  
Argyle Middle School

Bel Pre Elementary School  
Strathmore Elementary School  
Georgian Forest Elementary School  
Glenallen Elementary School

Submitted by: Frances Frost, MCCPTA Kennedy Cluster Coordinator  
November 11, 2010

---

To: Montgomery County Board of Education, President, Patricia O'Neill  
Montgomery County Public Schools, Superintendent Jerry Weast

The Kennedy Cluster schools support the Superintendent's Recommended FY 2012 Capital Budget, its accompanying Amendments for the FY2011-2016 Budget, and the proposed Capital Improvements Program. In consideration of the expected enrollment growth in the county overall and in the DownCounty Consortium area in particular, we appreciate and look forward to the proposed modernizations and renovations within our community:

- the approved modernization of Bel Pre Elementary School, increasing capacity from 366 to 587, with completion in FY2014;
- the approved additions and bathroom renovations at Georgian Forest Elementary School, increasing capacity from 304 to 570 in FY2013; and
- the approved modernization of Glenallen Elementary School, more than doubling capacity from 288 to 631 with completion in August 2013.

We anticipate that the capital investment in our physical plant will result in a more conducive learning environment, modern educational amenities, and a safer environment for our children.

In addition, we support countywide projects on HVAC, Roof Replacements, School Security upgrades, Planned Life-Cycle Asset Replacement (PLAR) and BMPI (science labs and performance spaces) to address the maintenance and needed upgrades to the schools' infrastructures and safety with the recommended increase in the HVAC and PLAR budgets.

Looking to the future improvements of our schools, we also recommend that the CIP include a plan for the routine and equitable maintenance of athletic fields and facilities across the county. Considering a

random selection of high schools and middle school, the disparities in the condition and quality of our sporting venues is evident. Some will argue that the “better” fields are the result of parent and community support through private donations and booster clubs. But shouldn’t every child in the county have the same opportunity to run on a beautiful carpet of green, dribble on a shiny court, or serve over a properly maintained net? We are sure that you would agree that the condition of our public school facilities should not be dependent on the income level of the families which attend that school. Just as the county does not leave it up to a particular community to build a new school or repair their own heating and air condition, we encourage the Board to have a uniform approach to our athletic facilities.

In conclusion, we encourage the Board to fully fund the current CIP to ensure that the modernizations, renovations, and maintenance recommended and approved occur for the improvement of our public school facilities and to develop a countywide project for the maintenance of athletic fields and facilities.

*Congratulations to Ms. Brandman, Dr. Docca, Mr. Durso, and Mrs. O’Neill on their recent re-election success, we look forward to another four years of your work for the students of Montgomery County.*

*Dr. Weast, on your impending retirement, we thank you for your years of service and the marked improvements that your dedication has made to this school system.*