

Capital Improvement Program Committee Report – September 2009

Chair: Steve Augustino

First and foremost, the Committee supports the advocacy of MCCPTA and the individual clusters on capital projects. For many years, the Committee has been dedicated to the principle that every child in Montgomery County is entitled to attend school in a safe, secure, healthy and modern facility. I expect continued pressure on the budget this year and within the six year projection of the CIP. We will have to work hard to keep all planned projects on track. One item to watch will be the potential impact of the Sector growth plans on school needs and the resources available to schools.

Second, we will continue to address the restroom renovation project planned for 108 schools. An important issue this body and the DA will have to address, I believe, is whether the project is worthwhile if continued at its historical level. We will need to decide quickly whether to support the existing level of renovations (restorations, really) or to argue for changes. If we support changes, I think our options are to argue for more extensive renovations in order to be meaningful, or for an alternative program to ensure that all bathrooms are kept clean and well maintained.

Third, I am hoping to increase awareness and understanding of the CIP elements. I'm going to continue and update the Guide to the CIP, plan a training program on the parents' role in the design and construction process and hope to obtain a better understanding of the disposition of MCPS projects in the state funding process. As usual, we will be sponsoring the CIP Forum (Oct 29 – mark your calendars) and the CIP Testimony Writing Workshop (Nov. 7). Cluster CIP testimony to the BOE will be Nov. 11 and 12.

I will be looking for help from interested volunteers, so look for emails about upcoming CIP Committee meetings. I will probably have more meetings in September and October than later in the year, as the CIP planning process is front-loaded.