


Office of the Superintendent of Schools
MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Rockville, Maryland

November 19, 2008

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education

From: Jerry D. Weast, Superintendent of Schools 

Subject: Follow-ups from the November 12, 2008, Public Hearing on the
FY 2009–2014 Amended Capital Improvements Program (CIP)

11-12-08-01

Mrs. O'Neill requested that staff follow up on the Damascus Cluster testimony concerning the lack of heat in four classrooms at Clearspring Elementary School.

Response

There are currently no classrooms without heat at Clearspring Elementary School and no open work orders to that effect on hand.

11-12-08-02

Ms. Brandman asked whether a gymnasium is included in the Garrett Park Elementary School modernization.

Response

A school gymnasium is included in the Garrett Park Elementary School modernization project, scheduled for completion in January 2012.

11-12-08-03

Ms. Brandman requested that staff follow-up on Walter Johnson Cluster testimony concerning drainage issues on the field behind Kensington Parkwood Elementary School.

Response

The drainage problem has been corrected.

11-12-08-04

Ms. Brandman asked about testimony concerning possible fire code issues at Bradley Hills Elementary School.

Response

In the testimony about Bradley Hills Elementary School, a concern was expressed about fire code issues in the all-purpose room if the school was expanded with an addition. It was explained at the table that the feasibility study for an addition, and the possibility of an even larger addition, would include expansion of the all-purpose room as part of the study. The feasibility study will examine the seating capacity of the all-purpose room per fire code requirements for any scenario considered as part of the study.

11-12-08-05

Ms. Brandman asked for a report on the status of the Oak View Elementary School chiller.

Response

The chiller replacement at Oak View Elementary School is scheduled for the summer of 2010.

11-12-08-06

Ms. Brandman requested a list of the Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning Replacement Program (HVAC) projects that are projected for the summer of 2009.

Response

The following HVAC replacement work projects are scheduled for summer 2009 pending approval of an additional \$ 4.4 million for HVAC as a part of FY 2010 CIP amendment request:

Laytonsville ES	Replace chiller
Westbrook ES	Replace 44 unit ventilators
Tilden Center	Replace 30 unit ventilators and 3 air-handling units
Beall ES	Replace chiller
Cedar Grove ES	Replace chiller
Poolesville ES	On-going HVAC repair work to address indoor air quality problems with replacement of one air handling unit and two rooftop units replacements
Fox Chapel ES	Replace all unit ventilators

Strathmore ES	Replace four rooftop units
Germantown ES	Replace boiler
Argyle MS	Replace 12 air-handling units; 21 fan-coil units; and one rooftop unit (Phase II)
Robert Frost MS	Replace boiler and rooftop air conditioning unit
Eastern MS	Replace pipe branch lines (Phase II)

11-12-08-07

Mr. Barclay requested that staff follow up on testimony from the Stephen Knolls Special Education Center PSA representative concerning accessibility issues.

Response

Accessibility problems are addressed through the American with Disabilities Act Compliance Program (ADA) included in the CIP as the needs are identified. An assessment will be conducted for Stephen Knolls Special Education Center to evaluate the accessibility issues, including the restrooms, playing fields, hands-free soap, and towel dispensers, and correct the identified problems through the ADA Compliance Program.

JDW: lmt

Copy to:


- Mr. Bowers
- Dr. Lacey
- Mr. Bedford
- Mr. Edwards
- Mr. Crispell
- Mr. Lavorgna

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Subject: Follow-ups from the November 13, 2008, Public Hearing on the
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11-13-08-01

Dr. Docca requested that staff follow up on Rockville Cluster testimony concerning the condition of playground equipment at Maryvale Elementary School.

Response

Maryvale Elementary School received a new play equipment system this past school year for the pre-K/Preschool Education Program (PEP) that is fully compliant with Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM), and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements and guidelines. In addition, approximately three years ago, the school purchased a new play equipment system that is fully compliant with CPSC, ASTM, and ADA requirements. Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) does not have funds to replace existing play equipment systems that are “deemed” unsafe. If the playground equipment is deemed unsafe, it will be taken out of service and removed by the Division of Maintenance.

Ms. Pam Montgomery, director of System-Wide Safety Programs, Department of Facilities Management, is a Certified Playground Safety Inspector (CPSI) and will evaluate the “rusted and broken metal play equipment” mentioned in the Rockville Cluster CIP testimony this week.

11-13-08-02

Dr. Docca asked who the fields at Thomas S. Wootton High School and Robert Frost Middle School belong to.

Response

The fields belong to the school system.

11-13-08-03

Ms. Brandman requested information on what the cost would be for the TV studio at Springbrook High School to be updated with new equipment.

Response

The MCPS Supervisor of Instructional Television (ITV), Dr. Dick Lipsky, researched the equipment needs at Springbrook High School. The cost of the equipment needed is \$5,380 -- an MX-70 Switcher (Special Effects Generator) for \$5,200 and a DVD/VHS Recorder Model #DVD/VR for \$180. Some cabling also would be needed for the new equipment at a cost of about \$100. ITV staff could do the installation.

11-13-08-04

Ms. Brandman asked about the process and timing for improving the restrooms at the Carl Sandburg Learning Center.

Response

Assessments are under way this year for the remaining schools that are at least ten years old and have not had restroom renovations. The Carl Sandburg Learning Center and other special education program centers are included in this assessment. Once this assessment is completed, the facilities will be prioritized based on condition. The schedule for these restroom renovations will be included next fall in the FY 2011-2016 CIP.

11-13-08-05

Mr. Barclay requested information on how MCPS video equipment is recycled to schools for their use.

Response

ITV holds "yard sales" (biannually) of surplus ITV equipment. Announcements are made to school-based media services technicians about what equipment is available and when it can be picked up from the ITV facility. Media services technicians complete an inventory form, which is signed by the school principal. The forms are forwarded to Dr. Lipsky. Virtually all equipment ITV makes available has been picked up by media services technicians for use in schools. ITV has given away more than \$50,000 worth of used equipment over the past few years.

11-13-08-06

Ms. Cox requested information on what the state allows for funding in the state CIP, in terms of square footage.

Response

The state maximum gross area allowance sets the limit for state participation for construction projects. The maximum gross area allowance eligible for state funding is the product of the state-approved project enrollment rounded to whole classrooms and the area allowance per pupil. The following table presents the state’s maximum gross area allowances:

<u>Elementary Schools</u>		<u>Middle Schools</u>	
Up to 350 students	128 square feet*	Up to 600 students	145 square feet*
351 to 399	45,885 square feet	601 to 649	87,615 square feet
400 to 500	115 square feet*	650 to 800	135 square feet*
501 to 549	57,645 square feet	801 to 849	110,370 square feet
550 to 720	105 square feet*	850 and up	130 square feet*
721 to 749	75,649 square feet		
750 and up	101 square feet*		
<u>High Schools</u>			
Up to 650 students	170 square feet*		
651 to 700	111,840 square feet		
701 to 1,150	160 square feet*		
1,151 to 1,249	187,350 square feet		
1,250 to 1,600	150 square feet*		
1,601 to 1,670	242,150 square feet		
1,671 and up	145 square feet*		

*Per pupil square footage allowed

The state square foot formula falls short of covering the square footage built by MCPS. For example, College Gardens Elementary School was a replacement project with an approved maximum gross area allowance of 80,256 square feet. However, the actual square footage of the building is 96,986 square feet; a difference of approximately 17,000 square feet from the approved allowance.

MCPS is finding that the square footage allowed by the state falls short at every level. Parkland Middle School was a modernization project with an approved maximum gross area allowance of 111,575 square feet. However, the actual square footage of the building is 151,169 square feet; a difference of approximately 40,000 square feet from the approved allowance.

Since the state only participates in a portion, approximately 25 percent, of the maximum gross area allowance, Montgomery County must fund the balance, as well as fund 100 percent of the square foot difference that the state does not consider eligible for funding.

11-13-08-07

Ms. Navarro requested staff comment on testimony from the Seneca Valley Cluster concerning revenue assumptions in the CIP.

Response

The funding sources shown on page 1–13 of the Superintendent’s Recommended FY 2010 Capital Budget and Amendments to the FY 2010–2014 Capital Improvements Program (CIP) are assumptions approved by the County Council and included when it adopted the FY 2009–2014 CIP.

11-13-08-08

Ms. Brandman requested information about the Ridgeview Middle School project and future scheduling of this project.

Response

The Ridgeview Middle School community in its testimony urged the Board to move forward with designing facility modifications to the school using the nine priorities the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) adopted at its November 11, 2008, meeting. The community is asking to move forward utilizing existing funds available in the project, once the design is completed and updated cost estimates can be prepared. The Ridgeview Middle School community is asking that the full project be considered in next year’s CIP with an appropriate budget. The Board can respond to this request with a resolve clause in its CIP resolution on November 20, 2008.

11-13-08-09

Dr. Docca requested information on the feasibility of converting a classroom to a science lab at John Poole Middle School.

Response

The typical process for requesting laboratory improvements is for the principal of the school to make a request to the Department of Facilities Management (DFM), at which time a planner meets with the principal and staff members to analyze the need for the laboratory. In this case, DFM staff will contact Mr. Richard H. Bishop, principal of John Poole Middle School, to discuss the need for the science laboratory and to identify a proposed location and plan. Funding and

timing for converting classroom space into a science laboratory will be considered in the Building Modifications and Program Improvement (BMPI) project as part of the FY 2011–2016 Capital Improvements Program next fall.

JDW:imt

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