

Churchill Cluster Testimony
Regarding the MCPS Recommended
FY 2011 Capital Budget
and
FY 2011-2016 Capital Improvements Program

Winston Churchill Cluster

Winston Churchill High School
Herbert Hoover Middle School
Beverly Farms Elementary School
Seven Locks Elementary School

Cabin John Middle School
Bells Mill Elementary School
Potomac Elementary School
Wayside Elementary School

Montgomery County Council
February 17, 2010

Churchill Cluster Coordinators:
Merry Eisner
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Good evening President Floreen, Vice President Ervin, and distinguished members of the County Council. My name is Merry Eisner, one of the three Cluster Coordinators and I am testifying on behalf of the eight schools in the Churchill Cluster regarding the Superintendent's recommended FY 2011 Capital Budget and the FY 2011-2016 Capital Improvements Program.

Henry Ford said "When everything seems to be going against you, remember that the airplane takes off against the wind, not with it." It's possible that we are often too short sighted in thinking that the economy is holding us back. But in fact, we have arrived at a moment when funding this Capital Improvement Program stands to provide significant benefit to our county; both in the jobs that building schools can create, and the cost savings available that make our dollars go further. Furthermore you can provide incredible benefit to the families in the Churchill Cluster - families who have experienced numerous delays and waited a long time to see their children attend classes in modern school facilities.

We should note that we are very grateful to see Bells Mill Elementary School in a brand new facility after years of delays and overcrowding in our cluster. Cabin John Middle School children are currently in the Tilden Center holding facility while the new Cabin John is being constructed. **However, six of our elementary and middle schools – built between 1949 and 1969 now, remain as part of this MCPS CIP request and are awaiting modernizations¹. To that end, as the council looks at this year's Capital Improvement Program, we urge you to consider fully funding the slated modernizations so that these projects can be kept on track and on time.**

This includes:

- **Cabin John MS Modernization/ August 2011** – This project is scheduled to reopen by August 2011. Hoover Middle School is the next middle school scheduled for modernization. Therefore, CJMS must be completed on time in order for Hoover to move into the Tilden Center on schedule after Cabin John vacates.

¹ Refer to Appendices A and B to compare the completion dates for the modernizations of our cluster schools as shown in the FY 2011 CIP versus the FY 1999 CIP.

- **Seven Locks ES Modernization and gymnasium/ January 2012** – It is imperative that this modernization, which will increase capacity from 251 to 410, remains on schedule to be in accordance with the approved boundary changes for Seven Locks, Bells Mill and Potomac Elementary Schools and in order to alleviate the overcrowding at Potomac Elementary School.
- **Beverly Farms ES Modernization/ January 2013** – Now that this project is accelerated by six months and reassigned to North Lake Center holding facility, delays would affect Bel Pre ES which follows Beverly Farms on the Holding Facility Schedule.
- **Herbert Hoover MS Modernization/ August 2013** – The HVAC system is in need of replacement and will *hopefully* hold out for two more years.
- **Wayside ES Modernization/ August 2016** – Built in 1969, this building has never been modernized.
- **Potomac ES Modernization/ January 2018** – Built in 1949, with updates in 1976 but never fully modernized, this building has HVAC problems and badly worn facilities.

In addition to modernizations, the Churchill Cluster strongly supports continued funding of certain county-wide capital projects. These include recommendations to increase expenditures for replacements and major improvements on HVAC systems and PLAR.

Churchill HS is in need of an improved HVAC system. We request that a portion of the funding increase be targeted toward Churchill in order to improve air-quality, air-flow, and major temperature disparities. During the last fiscal year Churchill had 602 work order hours spent on attempts to fix the HVAC system, that equates to 3.5 hours per school day based on a 180 day school-year. Although Churchill was modernized in 2001, it was the first onsite high school modernization and served as the guinea pig for future high school onsite modernization projects. The HVAC system was not completely replaced.

Potomac ES also has HVAC issues as evidenced by the 199 work order hours spent on their system. With a modernization more than 8 years from now, Potomac ES will likely require a substantial expenditure for HVAC repairs. At Hoover MS 643 staff hours were utilized to

maintain the HVAC system last year. While we recognize that next school year is the final year that students and staff will be in the building before moving to the Tilden Center in September 2011, any delay in Hoover's modernization would likely require a major investment in their HVAC system which would be a waste of county tax dollars.

We also support the increase in expenditures for PLAR projects as recommended in the FY 2011 CIP to ensure that our aging equipment is replaced. This upkeep is important in order for our buildings to remain safe and to ensure that our equipment functions at an optimal level of energy efficiency.

Finally, we recognize that our increasing enrollment, just like every other cluster in the county, and the modernizations in our cluster, mean that portables are a fact of life. Currently, we have 16 portables at 4 of our schools, not including the portables at the holding school, and we support MCPS' efforts to lease better quality portables and work steadily in replacing portables in disrepair. However, to ensure that this process continues, we continue to implore the County Council to ensure that MCPS adopts system-wide maintenance standards for portables and ask that any funding earmarked for portables be allocated on units that meet specified standards that are installed properly and regularly maintained.

Thank you for the time you spend on behalf of the citizens of Montgomery County, including our children. We appreciate your recognition of an observation made by a former Churchill cluster coordinator, people don't come to Montgomery County for our traffic – they come for our schools. We recognize that your funding of education has made that possible.

Appendices

Appendix A- **Chart of Churchill Cluster Capital Projects from FY 2011 CIP Book shows a Comparison of anticipated completion dates from the FY 1999-2004 CIP**

Appendix B- **Superintendent's Summary Table of Cluster Projects from FY 1999-2004 CIP**

Appendix A

**Superintendent's Recommendations
FY 2011-2016 CIP**

**Superintendent's Recommendations*
FY 1999 – 2004 CIP**

*** see appendix B next page
for copy of printed page**

copied from
FY 2011 CIP book

CAPITAL PROJECTS

School	Project	Project Status	Date of Completion
Cabin John MS	Modernization	Approved	Aug. 2011
Hoover MS	Modernization	Recommended	Aug. 2013
Beverly Farms ES	Modernization	Recommended	Jan. 2013
Potomac ES	Modernization	Programmed	Jan. 2018
Seven Locks ES	Modernization	Recommended	Jan. 2012
	Gymnasium	Recommended	Jan. 2012
Wayside ES	Modernization	Programmed	Aug. 2016

**FY 1999-2004 CIP
Completion Date**

Sept 2005

Sept 2005

Sept 2004

Not listed

Sept 2003

Sept 2005

Bells Mill ES Modernization Completed Aug 2009

Sept 2003

Appendix B

The Superintendent's Requested FY 1999-2004 Capital Improvements Program

The following table summarizes the superintendent's requested FY 1999-2004 CIP. This table, along with the requested CIP expenditure schedule, provides a listing of the projects and programmed expenditures for the six-year period. The first column in the table shows the projects grouped

by high school cluster. The second column reflects the superintendent's request, and the last column lists the date scheduled for the project to be complete and occupied if the request is approved.

Summary Table

Cluster/Project	Superintendent's Request	Anticipated Completion Date
Bethesda-Chevy Chase Cluster		
Bethesda-Chevy Chase HS Modernization	Planning FY 1999	9/01
Bethesda ES Modernization	Construction FY 1999	9/99
Chevy Chase ES Modernization	Planning FY 1999	9/00
Rock Creek Forest ES Modernization	Feasibility study FY 2003	9/05
Somerset ES Modernization	Feasibility study FY 2000	9/02
Montgomery Blair Cluster		
Montgomery Blair HS Replacement	Furniture/Equipment FY 1999	9/98
Montgomery Blair MS #3	Construction FY 1999	9/98
Takoma Park MS Modernization	Furniture/Equipment FY 1999	9/99
Montgomery Blair Cluster ES #11	Construction FY 1999	9/99
Winston Churchill Cluster		
Winston Churchill HS Modernization	Planning FY 1999	9/01
Cabin John MS Modular Addition	Construction FY 1999	9/00
Cabin John MS Modernization	Feasibility study FY 2002	9/05
Herbert Hoover MS Addition	Planning FY 1999	9/00
Herbert Hoover MS Modernization	Feasibility study FY 2002	9/05
Bells Mill ES Modernization	Feasibility study FY 2001	9/03
Beverly Farms ES Modernization	Feasibility study FY 2002	9/04
Seven Locks ES Modernization	Feasibility study FY 2001	9/03
Wayside ES Modernization	Feasibility study FY 2003	9/05
Damascus Cluster		
John T. Baker MS Addition	Planning FY 1999	9/00
Albert Einstein Cluster		
Glen Haven ES Modernization	Feasibility study FY 1999	9/01
Rock View ES Modernization/Gym	Construction FY 1999	9/99
Gaithersburg Cluster		
Gaithersburg HS Circulation Improvements	Planning FY 1999	9/00
Forest Oak MS Replacement Facility (Magruder MS#2)	Furniture/Equipment FY 1999	9/99
Walter Johnson Cluster		
Walter Johnson HS Modernization/Addition	Planning FY 1999	9/01
Addition Modernization		9/05
W. Johnson MS #2 Renovation (N. Bethesda Facility)	Construction FY 1999	9/99
Farmland ES Modernization	Feasibility study FY 2003	9/05
Garrett Park ES Modernization	Feasibility study FY 2002	9/04
Kensington-Parkwood ES Modernization	Feasibility study FY 2000	9/02
John F. Kennedy Cluster		
John F. Kennedy HS Modernization/Addition	Furniture/Equipment FY 1999	9/99
Glenallan ES Modernization	Feasibility study FY 2002	9/04
Bel Pre ES Modernization	Feasibility study FY 2002	9/04