

THE NORTHEAST CONSORTIUM
A Consortium of the Blake, Paint Branch and Springbrook Clusters

Comments to the Montgomery County Council
on the FY 2011 Capital Budget and the FY 2011-2016 Capital Improvements Program

On behalf of The NEC Elementary Schools

February 16th, 2010

Broad Acres, Burnt Mills, Burtonsville, Cannon Road, Cloverly,
Cresthaven, Dr. Charles Drew, Fairland, Galway, Greencastle, Jackson Road,
Roscoe Nix, William T. Page, Sherwood, Stonegate, Westover

Good evening President Floreen and members of the Council. My name is Dawn Dolan, Springbrook Cluster Coordinator, speaking on behalf of the sixteen elementary schools of the Northeast Consortium. It's a pleasure to say that there has been remarkable progress for our Clusters' schools.

Galway opened this year in their long-awaited new school. Construction at Cresthaven and Sherwood is in full swing! Jackson Road and Fairland have both received Board approval for their Addition bids, and Cannon Road will begin their modernization next fall. However, there is still a long way to go.

We are all aware of the strain of this economy, but we are seeing real gains made by maximizing on lower construction industry costs. Advancing our renovation and modernization projects is sensible and the NEC anticipates seeing benefit in this approach.

With an enrollment of 7,786 children, we are overcapacity by 853 students and have 41 portables not including those at FHC to help us find seats for education. ***Cannon Road, Fairland, and Jackson Road constitute 560 of these extra seats and their projects are critical!*** Our overtaxed schools easily illustrate the need to give modernizations equal priority to additions in the planning budget. For us, the idea that schools long overused as Galway and Cresthaven have been and Cannon Road is, defy any coherent reason to differentiate the priority of their facility needs.

The NEC has five elementaries yet to receive a FACT Score. Two of these, Stonegate and Burnt Mills, at 37- and 45-years-old, have been have been "Recommended for Assessment" in the FY11-16 CIP. Stonegate is keen to be placed on the list for modernization. The remaining three, Broad Acres (@57), Cloverly (@48) and Greencastle (@21) have not requested an assessment, but we are concerned about their age — especially given the history of our time-lines for CIP schedules.

We support the idea of re-examining the FACT evaluation process with the inclusion of stakeholder input to ensure it is reflective of changing educational needs. The NEC may be a

perfect model for how schools have adapted programs to meet student and family needs that often influence their facilities, speaking volumes to their tenacity and ingenuity.

The NEC is composed of a richly diverse community and this is reflected throughout our schools. Socio-economically our schools provide for some of the most and least fortunate students. Our schools have the 2nd largest student population after the DCC (16 vs. 28 ESs), we are 4th highest in our FARMS rates (@ 43.4%), 6th highest in ESOL (20.4%) and 2nd highest in our mobility rates (19.3%). Additionally, a large number of our schools are in the Priority Funding Area. Eleven (11) of our schools are part of the Class Size Reduction Initiative and have a total of 152 CSR classes. Our schools have 7 pre-k, 2 Head Start, and 2 METS classes. Four (4) of our schools provide Linkages To Learning/School Based Health Centers. We have 37 classes of Special Ed. Programs, as well as a Gifted & Talented Center at Drew and a Spanish Immersion Program at Burnt Mills.

Providing a safe and healthy school for our children is paramount, regardless of its position on the CIP schedule. Pressing maintenance issues too often make this a contest. We support the expansion of Countywide Projects such as the proposed HVAC program. ***Sherwood Elementary has long petitioned to replace their system that creates extreme cost and environmental inefficiencies.*** We'd like to see this effort continue in PLAR, BMPI and other overlapping maintenance areas.

Regarding the MCCPTA Delegates position to prioritize maintenance above restroom renovations, Jackson Road provides an apt example of this reasoning. Currently on schedule for an Addition with a completion date of August 2011, and gymnasium in 2012, their restroom renovations are scheduled for 2016. It is perplexing that the scope of the Addition project could not be widened to include restroom updates — crews and materials cost would surely see a long-term savings.

Existing conditions at ***Cannon Road*** are troubling. There is ***NO Generator*** and school closed on more than one occasion last year for ***lack of heat!*** There is ***no sprinkler system*** and a proper ***fire safety*** plan to compensate is non-negotiable! The ***rest room*** situation is shameful. They ***lack basic toilet paper dispensers*** and any ***ventilation***. Students must use ***inappropriate stalls that are too low*** to provide any privacy! Frankly, it's impossible to believe walls can't be raised, or partitions jury-rigged from plywood etc., and fitted. Taking care of basic human needs should not be a cause for social and emotional trauma!

Fairland, also scheduled for an addition, continues to request ***Improved Lighting*** in their ***parking lot***. Ironically, the handicapped parking area is now lit via the outdoor lamps of the portables. However, it is likely that when the portables leave, so goes the light — and the larger parking lot remains dim.

We are wary of the “out-of-sight, out-of-mind” mentality that seems prevalent in our facility approach — that corrections are not made and finishing details not completed. ***Roscoe Nix*** needs attention to their problem with ***Safe Access to School***. The ***bus circle configuration*** and ***lack of sidewalks*** presents a serious safety hazard for the arrival and departure of children. This has been well established since the opening of this school, and with the indication that Safe Access projects will not be funded in the CIP after FY2012, raises the frustration that it has not been corrected.

While **Stonegate** prepares for an indefinite placement (and wait) on the modernization schedule, their list of facility issues is growing. We do not want them reach the levels of decrepitness seen in other NEC schools. Stonegate needs ***repair to the roof that is leaking over the main entry hallway***. ***Sinks and plumbing*** throughout classrooms are ***leaking and backing up***. The ***walls in the hallways and classrooms*** are seeing significant ***cracking*** and ***paint is chipping*** throughout!

Security has become a sensitive issue for Stonegate with several vandalisms. They are in need of **Security Cameras**, as well as a **Secured Entry System** for the main entrance for the safety of the students and protection of school property.

Thank you for the opportunity to represent our schools. Your dedication to our school system is much appreciated and we value your efforts on our behalf. We believe that supporting the current capital budget is fiscally prudent and will provide long-term benefits for our students and County.

Respectfully,

The Northeast Consortium Cluster Coordinators

Area Vice President

Patti Twigg

Blake

Lee Ann Doerflinger

Springbrook

Dawn Dolan

Paint Branch

Patti Twigg

Attachments:

Stonegate PTA Letter

NEC Elementary Individual CIP Requests FY2011

Chart - NEC Capacity/Program/CIP Schedule



Stonegate Elementary School PTA, Inc.
14811 Notley Road,
Silver Spring, MD 20905

February 8, 2010

The Honorable Nancy Floreen
President, Montgomery County Council
100 Maryland Ave.
Rockville, MD 20850

RE: MCPS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS BUDGET

Dear President Floreen and Councilmembers:

We write on behalf of the Stonegate Elementary School PTA, which requests that the Montgomery County Council fully fund the capital budget for MCPS. During testimony before the Montgomery County Board of Education (BOE) last fall, we asked the BOE to authorize a FACT assessment for our school in order to be considered for renovations. Stonegate ES was built in 1971, making the building 38 years old. While we are grateful for the bathroom improvements and gymnasium we have received, our classrooms are not large enough for our ever-increasing enrollment, and there are unacceptable problems with the majority of the building, such as:

- * windows that are old and drafty, that provide no energy efficiency;
- * a leaking roof over main entry hallway;
- * chipping paint in most classrooms;
- * cracking classroom and hallway walls; and
- * leaking sinks and old plumbing that often backs up.

Furthermore, while projected enrollment for this year was 431, we have enrolled 471 students. Stonegate houses four portable classrooms. With an increase in shared housing and students leaving private schools in our neighborhood, we anticipate similar trends in the coming years. Our school building is simply too small to accommodate the number of students we have.

Significantly, Stonegate provides little ADA accessibility, despite having a robust LFI program with two wheelchair-bound students. There is no exit ramp or path in the front or the back of building, potentially creating a very unsafe environment for those students.

The safety of our students is paramount. We would like security cameras as well as a secured entry system for the main entrance. Vandalism at Stonegate has occurred repeatedly. While MCPS has budgeted security camera installation for middle and high schools, elementary schools are not included in this plan.

We understand that MCPS is undertaking a re-evaluation of the way FACT scores are assigned. We support this endeavor and urge that this be done with due haste so that Stonegate may be assessed as soon as possible.

We are proud of our teachers and staff at Stonegate, who do a great job teaching our kids. Nevertheless, our school building is significantly outdated and can not support new technologies to help our students learn. We respectfully request that you consider these comments as you prepare your recommendations for the capital improvements budget. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Patty Parachini, NEC Representative for Stonegate

Tammy Forsyth, Stonegate PTA President

cc: Audra Fladung, Stonegate Principal
Ursula Hermann, Community Superintendent

NEC Elementary Individual CIP Requests FY2011

Broad Acres

- Assessment for FACT Score
- Add to Modernization Schedule

Burnt Mills

- **Assessment for FACT Score**
 - **Maintain on Superintendents Recommended CIP for FY11-16**
- **Add to Modernization Schedule**

Cannon Road

- ☛ MAINTAIN ON MODERNIZATION SCHEDULE WITH
 - Move to Fairland Holding Facility: June 2010
 - COMPLETION DATE: JANUARY 2012

☒ NO GENERATOR! A solution is imperative to provide for the health and safety of students with consistent **heating for students** throughout this school year!

☒ BATHROOM REPAIRS!!

Toilet Paper Dispensers:

- Only 2 of the 4 Faculty Facilities have Dispensers!
- **NONE (0)** of the Student Facilities have Dispensers! 14 Needed!

Stall Walls:

- Walls are **TOO SHORT for Student Privacy!** Need to be Raised OR Partitioned!

NO VENTILATION

******UPDATE FROM 11/2009 BOE TESTIMONY: It has been determined by MCPS that modernization will occur in fall 2010, no action required!***

☒ Inefficient A/C WINDOW UNITS: Replacement or repaired window units need to be in place to ensure the health and safety of students throughout this school year!

☒ NO SPRINKLER SYSTEM! A reasonable FIRE SAFETY system must be in place to protect the health and safety of students throughout this school year!

******UPDATE FROM 11/2009 BOE TESTIMONY: It has been determined by MCPS that fire safety plan in place is sufficient — students will be at holding facility in fall 2010.***

Cloverly

- FACT Score Assessment
- Restroom Renovation Schedule: 2015

Cresthaven

- ✓ At Fairland Holding Facility – Thank You!
- Maintain Completion Date of 2010 with gymnasium!

Fairland

- ☛ FY10 Addition Bidding Complete!
 - Maintain for a Completion Date of August 2011 and 2012 Gymnasium
- Lighting in the Parking Lot is inadequate. Handicapped Parking is temporarily enhanced via the outdoor lamps of the portables.

Greencastle

- Assessment for FACT Score
- Restroom Renovation Schedule: 2015
- No CIP requests at this time! Thank You!

Jackson Road

- ☛ FY10 Addition Bid Complete!
 - Maintain for a Completion Date of August 2011 and 2012 Gymnasium
 - Restroom Renovation Schedule: 2016
- ☒ PLUMBING REPAIRS! Plumbing back-ups and clogs are becoming **progressively worse** causing **uncomfortable stench** throughout building! Must be repaired or replaced BEFORE a health/safety crisis and in conjunction with addition of new plumbing to the facility.
 - ***UPDATE FROM 11/2009 BOE TESTIMONY: Drains have been disconnected to prevent "sour milk odor," drain in maintenance "grease trap" has been rerouted.***

Roscoe Nix

- ☛ Safe Access to School: The **bus circle configuration** and **lack of sidewalks** presents a Safety Hazard for arrival and departure of students and vehicles.

Sherwood Elementary

- ✓ Addition Under Construction – Thank You!
- Maintain Completion Date of 2010!
- ☺ Restroom Renovation Completed Summer 2009 – Thank You!
- HVAC – A more environmentally efficient and **cost effective** system is needed!

Stonegate

- **Assessment for FACT Score**
 - ***Maintain on Superintendents Recommended CIP for FY11-16***
 - **Add to Modernization Schedule**
- ☒ ADA ACCESSIBILITY: NO Exit Ramp or Path in Front or Back of Building! (**although have two LFI students in wheelchairs!**).
 - ***UPDATE FROM 11/2009 BOE TESTIMONY: Evaluated by MCPS and access to be constructed (including playground) over spring break.***
- ☒ Roof Repair: Leaking Roof over Main Entry Hallway!
- ☒ Plumbing Repair: Sinks and plumbing throughout classrooms backs up and leak. These are mostly in the first and third grade cluster areas with shared plumbing.
- ☒ SECURITY: The school has been vandalized several times and is in need of **Security Cameras**; as well as **Secured Entry System** for Main Entrance for the safety of the students and the protection of school property.
- ☒ Walls: The walls in hallways and classrooms are Cracking and Chipping Paint is prevalent throughout!

	Broad Acres	Burnt Mills Recommnd FY 11-16	Burtonsville	Cannon Rd	Cloverly	Cresthaven* at Frind HC	Drew	Fairland ES Addition +13	Galway	Greencastle	Jackson Rd Addition +15	Roscoe Nix	Page	Sherwood* 09/10 Const +9	Stonegate Recommnd FY 11-16	Westover
	No FACT	FACT Assmnt		FY 11 Mod	No FACT	09/10 Mod		FY 10 Bid In!		No FACT	FY 10 Bid In!			09/10 Add	FACT Assmnt	
Proj enr	506	354	642	424	501	350	416	581	761	634	568	447	386	473	471	272
Capacity	569	366	593	307	460	363	477	334	759	577	372	486	365	*376	431	281
space	63	12	(49)	(117)	(41)	13	61	(247)	(2)	(43)	(196)	39	(21)	(97)	(40)	9
Portables		1		7	2			9		1	11			7	4	1
Completion				Jan/12 gym		Aug/10 gym		Aug/11 gym/12			Aug/11 gym/12			10/11 *589- c		
RR Reno					2015					2015	2016			2009		
Special programs # rms	csr-11, csr-5, prek-1, hs-1 mets-1 ltl- sbhc	csr-6, csr-4 ltl-sbhc		csr-8, csr-4 lang-1 aac-1	aut-3, pep-3	mets-1, e/lad-2 ltl-sbhc	csr-4, csr-2 prek-1 e/lad- 3 scb-4	csr-12, csr-6, hs-1, ed-2	csr-12, csr-8 prek-1 elc-5	csr-12, csr-6 prek-1 pep-2 ltl- sbhc	csr-10, csr-6, prek-1, pep-4	csr-19 csr-7, prek- 1, scb-1, aut-2	csr-7, csr-3, prek-1	scb-2	lfi-2	lang-1 aut-3
FARMS	87.3	61.4	34.6	47.3	13.7	64.2	36.6	45.1	47.8	51.2	60.2	63.2	35.3	10.2	13.7	13.0

CSR=152, Pre-k=7, HS=2, METS=2, SpEd=37 rooms / Total Enrollment=7,786 / Capacity (853) over

Built Prior to 1989 with NO FACT Score NOR Improvement/Mod Prior to 1975

Yr Built	1952									1988					1971	
Imp	1974									None					none	

Built Prior to 1989 with NO FACT Score – Last Improved/Mod 1990

Yr Built	1964				1961											
Closed	1977				1983											
Reopened	1990-I				1990- M											

as of 11/2009

