



March 17, 2009

Ms. Kay Romero, President  
Montgomery County Council of PTAs  
2096 Gaither Road, Suite 204  
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Dear Ms. Romero:

This is in response to your recent letter to Dr. Jerry D. Weast, superintendent of schools, regarding an article in the February 25, 2009, edition of the *Gazette*. You stated that a Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) community superintendent said that modernizations at Paint Branch, Gaithersburg, Seneca Valley, and Wheaton high schools have been put on hold indefinitely while the county waits to see how much money it will receive from the state this year. It is my understanding that the statement in the *Gazette* article was not a direct quote. The community superintendent was referring to actions that occurred in the past. He was offering a historical perspective, not future speculation.

The Board of Education's Requested FY 2010 Capital Budget and Amendments to the FY 2009–2014 Capital Improvements Program (CIP) included funding for the four high school modernizations listed above, and the completion dates for those modernizations remained on schedule from the approved CIP. As you know, the approved FY 2009–2014 CIP delayed the completion dates for high school modernizations.

With respect to state funding, many capital projects move through planning, design, and construction before the state allocates its share of the construction costs to Montgomery County. Our state aid request for FY 2010 was \$113.9 million. To date, the Interagency Committee (IAC) on School Construction has recommended \$234.3 million statewide for school construction projects and \$26 million remains to be recommended, based on the proposed capital budget of \$260.3 million.

For MCPS, the IAC has recommended \$26 million in school construction funding, approximately \$87 million less than our request. Montgomery County would require an additional \$14 million allocation from the state to reach the \$40 million that has been assumed for state aid in the FY 2010 Capital budget. If there is a shortfall of state aid for MCPS, additional county funds will be needed to supplement state aid or project schedules may need to be delayed. Therefore, until the County Council acts on the Board of Education's request, there is uncertainty regarding all of our capital projects.

Office of the Chief Operating Officer

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850 Hungerford Drive, Room 149 ♦ Rockville, Maryland 20850 ♦ 301-279-3626

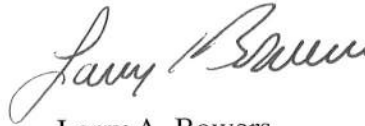
Ms. Kay Romero

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If you have additional questions, please contact Mr. Joseph Lavorgna, acting director, Department of Facilities Management, at 240-314-1060 or me at 301-279-3626.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Larry Bowers".

Larry A. Bowers  
Chief Operating Officer

LAB:vnb

Copy to:  
Members of the Board of Education  
Dr. Weast  
Mr. Lavorgna  
Dr. Stetson