



March 6, 2009

Dr. Jerry D. Weast, Superintendent
Montgomery County Public Schools, Room 122
850 Hungerford Dr
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear Dr. Weast:

Recently, State Comptroller Peter Franchot visited Walter Johnson High School to learn more about the construction projects being undertaken in Montgomery County. In an article in the February 25, 2009 edition of the *Gazette*, an MCPS community superintendent is reported to have 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. We ask that you clearly and unequivocally repudiate this comment.

Our membership recently adopted a resolution supporting full funding of the Board of Education’s FY 2010 Capital budget request. We have been working diligently to advocate in support of full funding for the CIP. I testified on behalf of the MCCPTA at the County Council on February 10 and before the House Appropriations Committee in Annapolis on February 19. In all of our advocacy, we have emphasized that our priority is to promote the educational opportunities available to all students and protect the health, safety or welfare of students.

The suggestion that some projects have been put on “indefinite hold” is very disturbing to us. First and foremost, it is premature to place any projects on hold, much less projects that will address some of the most dilapidated buildings in our inventory. MCCPTA opposes any delay in the additions or modernizations planned in the six-year CIP. Moreover, decisions about the priorities to place on projects are to be made according to established processes, with full public disclosure and input. We hope that you will correct the public misperception created by the *Gazette* article promptly.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Kay Romero, President
Montgomery County Council of PTAs

Cc: Ms. Shirley Brandman, President, Montgomery County Board of Education
Mr. Phil Andrews, President, Montgomery County Council