

# **THE NORTHEAST CONSORTIUM**

## **A Consortium of the Blake, Paint Branch and Springbrook Clusters**

### **Comments on the FY 2009 Capital Budget and Amendments to the FY 2009-14 Capital Improvements Program (CIP)**

#### **The NEC Elementary School Needs**

November 14, 2007

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 Superintendent Weast, President Navarro, and members of the Board. My name is Dawn Dolan, one of the Blake Cluster Coordinators, speaking on behalf of the CIP needs of our 16 elementary schools.

The NEC is grateful for the long-awaited acknowledgement by the Board and MCPS to address the critical needs of our community schools in this latest CIP. With the modernization of Galway [ES] and Key [MS] fully underway, and several schools on the Recommended Projects Schedule, the NEC was fairly elated that its Clusters were looking at a rosy future!

We are now troubled that the predicted financial shortfalls will severely affect this schedule and fail to alleviate the facility and program stress of our many overburdened elementary schools. We are worried that these shortfalls could cause a reduction in the scope of both ongoing and planned projects. The delay of Paint Branch is discouraging and a disappointment to the entire Consortium.

Currently, 9 of our 16 elementaries are overcapacity. 7 of our 16 [elementary] schools built between 1952 and 1988 have never been modernized. The elementaries have 64 portables with reductions at some overcapacity schools. The NEC has a significant stake in this year's budget appropriations.

Projected development in the [NEC/Sherwood] Quadcluster area continues to increase. Even at this point in the year, schools have noted they are seeing a tremendous amount of movement in enrollment. In addition, 11 of our elementaries are part of the Reduced Class Size Initiative; 2 have Linkages to Learning (including 1 school-based health center); and there are 37 separate classes of Special Ed programming.

We ask that all phases of Galway's modernization including all add-ons be maintained. With 700 students, the Fairland [Holding] Facility is only able to hold half the school population and an additional 24 portables are on-site to accommodate all students.

Four schools have Recommendations with completion dates of 2010. Cresthaven, built in 1962 has suffered from years of over-enrollment relieved by the opening of

Roscoe Nix [in 2006]. The list of facility woes for Cresthaven is so acute, that a modernization is the only feasible solution.

Additions are scheduled for Fairland [built in 1992] currently 171 students overcapacity, Jackson Road [built in 1959/mod in 1995] at 152 students over, and Sherwood [built in 1977] at 214 students over. These 3 schools have a combined 25 portables.

Cannon Road's modernization has been recommended for a completion in 2012 and is 120 students overcapacity. Cannon Road's portables have been reduced from 7 to 6 as one was emptied for health & safety reasons.

We ask that you consider the addition of 4 more schools to the modernization schedule. Sherwood is 30-years-old and Stonegate, 36. Broad Acres, built in 1952, received additional classrooms and a reconfigured admin area, but has never been fully modernized. Burnt Mills' facility, while modernized in 1990, was subject to years of overcrowding [prior to the opening of Roscoe Nix].

Cloverly and Stonegate are elated that their gym construction is underway and join Fairland in thanking you. Cloverly and Stonegate ask that you please keep a watch on their rising enrollments, along with Burtonsville, Page and Greencastle. The reduction in portables has added further pressure to accommodate the students with Burtonsville at 36 over and 0 portables, Cloverly 58 students over and 2 portables, Page 24 over and 0 portables. Greencastle is at capacity with 1 portable and Stonegate 24 over with 4 portables.

Thank you for the Tech Mod projects and Restroom Renovations completed for Broad Acres, Jackson Road, Page, Stonegate, and Burnt Mills. Further needed projects noted by our schools include:

- new and safer playground equipment at Burnt Mills, along with a retaining wall around the play area; and additional computers;
- Fairland continues to request additional lighting in its parking lot for safety, and the replacement of carpet in the Media Center;
- Roscoe Nix is worried about the safe access of students arriving and departing and asks that the sidewalks and bus area be reconfigured.

We respectfully request that all planned projects receive their full appropriations and that a common sense approach to long-term planning be followed for our wonderful elementary schools. Thank you.

Respectfully,  
The Northeast Consortium Cluster Coordinators

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