

Testimony of Commissioners of the Town of Poolesville
On The FY 2008 Amendments to Montgomery County Public School System
FY 2007 – 2012 Capital Budget
May 1, 2007

Good evening President Praisner, members of the county council. I am Jerry Klobukowski, a Commissioner of the Town of Poolesville. I am here representing the Commissioners of Poolesville, Poolesville's citizens and the citizens of Western Montgomery County whose children attend the Poolesville Cluster Schools.

We would like to take this opportunity to strongly endorse the inclusion of the Poolesville High School Whole School Magnet Program in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2008 Capital Budget and Amendments to the FY 2007 – 2012 Capital Improvements Program (CIP). Poolesville Cluster Coordinator Mr. Roger Hayden's testimony and Mr. Enrique Zaldivar's communications more eloquently articulate the benefits of the Whole School Magnet Program than mine.

The Poolesville Cluster's requests (see Attachment 1) for Poolesville High School, John Poole Middle School, Poolesville Elementary School and Monocacy Elementary School are not new and reflect the age of some of our schools.

Many of these are maintenance related issues, which do not require a major modernization to accomplish. They could be easily accomplished through well-managed, focused, discrete work packages. They all relate to better classroom utilization, and in the case of the Entrance Security System (3.d and 4.c), student, staff, community and facility safety and security. Some of these upgrades would save money by reducing energy and water consumption and repair work required to repair vandalism.

The entire Western Montgomery County Community is excited by the creation of the Whole School Magnet Program at Poolesville High School, which incorporates the high school's existing Global Ecology Studies Program. We look forward to a magnet program whose curricula and supporting facilities are fully equal in scope, caliber and stature to the county's other magnet programs, without neglecting the needs and aspirations of cluster students who do not participate in the magnet program.

This Whole School Magnet Program will provide Poolesville Cluster students and those from other county clusters a greater opportunity to experience an enriching, challenging academic environment in a wide variety of disciplines and prepare them for their future academic endeavors. It is imperative that the facilities match the program at the commencement of each succeeding grade level of a specific discipline. This will guarantee a seamless transition between grade levels, resulting in a cohesive program, supporting the rigor demanded by each course and fulfilling student, both charter and non-charter, the staff and the community expectations.

The continued recognition that our students' and schools' have received (e.g., Washington Post and Newsweek articles) prove the resources provided to us are being used very wisely, and demonstrate our cluster schools' administrators', teachers', staff and parents' commitment to providing a challenging academic environment. The facilities must support and match their efforts to successfully conduct all courses and activities.

The Poolesville Cluster's requests contain no frills, and the Commissioners and the Western Montgomery County community strongly endorse their inclusion in the FY 2007 – 2012 CIP budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to raise these issues with you.

Attachment (1) To
Commissioner Jerome J. Klobukowski
May 1, 2007 Testimony

On Poolesville Cluster Requests for Inclusion in the Amendments to the FY 2007 Capital Budget

1. Poolesville High School
 - a. Magnet Issues
 - (1) Additional Science Classroom/Labs
 - (2) Additional Computer Labs
 - (3) Reconfigure Classrooms as necessary to support Humanities Program
 - b. Modernization Issues
 - (1) Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) Replacement – Correct extremely poor indoor air quality and climate control. Three phase program: Phase 1 – Underway, Phase 2 – FY 07, Phase 3 – FY 08
 - (2) Planned Life Cycle Asset Replacement (PLAR)
 - (a) Replace all school windows with energy efficient ones to reduce energy costs. – Funding pulled, also relates to b.1.
 - (b) Security
 - 1 Inside building – install four additional cameras.
 - 2 Outside building – install cameras around building, at the stadium, athletic fields and greenhouse.
 - (c) Remodel all restrooms including low flush toilets and single lever faucets to conserve water. – Completed
 - (d) Reconfigure and consolidate General, Administrative, Business and Guidance Offices in one area to:
 - 1 Consolidate administrators, business and guidance personnel in one area.
(e.g. Currently Guidance in three separate locations – Registrar in converted Science Hall closet, Career Center next to Cafeteria and Guidance Counselors across from main office).
 - 2 Provide privacy/confidentiality for staff – student or parent conferences.
 - 3 Install window to enable office staff to view people entering the building.
 - (e) Extend sidewalk from tennis courts along parking lot to bollards/pilings on eastern end of Student Parking Lot.
 - (f) Continue Spurrier Avenue – West Willard Road sidewalk northward to West Willard Road Student Parking Lot.
2. John Poole Middle School
 - a. Third Science Laboratory for the existing third Science Classroom.
 - b. Computer Laboratory.
3. Monocacy Elementary School
 - a. Pedestrian Safety – Improved Access to School
 - (1) Increase Parking Lot size to reduce/eliminate parking on Barnesville Road during school events.
 - (2) Create separate car and bus entrances to reduce congestion and the possibility of an accident.
 - b. Improved Classroom Air Quality – Improve air circulation by removing portions of countertops in classrooms.
 - c. Restroom Renovations – Installation of paper towel dispensers or electric hand dryers.
 - d. Security – Installation of an Entrance Security System to permit identification and control of people desiring to enter the school.

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(Continued)

4. Poolesville Elementary School Modernization

- a. Fire Safety Code Upgrades – Public Address System can only be heard in hallways and bathrooms
- b. PLAR
 - (1) HVAC system – Replaced, system adjustments continue.
 - (2) Painting – Interior painting completed; however, outside portions of school in need of painting too.
- c. Security – Installation of an Entrance Security System to permit identification and control of people desiring to enter the school.