

Testimony of Sarah Defnet
Poolesville Cluster Coordinator
Before the Montgomery County Board Of Education
On The FY 2010 Montgomery County Public School System
Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Budget
November 13, 2008

Good evening, I am Sarah Defnet, Poolesville Cluster coordinator, representing the school populations of Poolesville Elementary, Monocacy Elementary, John Poole Middle, and Poolesville High School.

We appreciate the Board of Education's support in achieving some of our celebrations for FY 2009. Poolesville High School now has new Promethean Technology equipped classrooms, the start of a new Science and Technology building, new windows and doors along the front of the school, and continued progress on the HVAC replacement. This past summer Poolesville Elementary School received modifications to their vehicular access to improve carpool and bus drop-off and pick-up. On behalf of the parents and staff in our cluster, I thank you.

The Poolesville Cluster supports the Fiscal Year (FY) 2010 Capital Improvements Program (CIP) Budget. In FY 2010, we are the direct beneficiary of two planned capital projects: the continuation of Poolesville High School's (PHS) Science and Technology building, and the Poolesville Elementary School restroom renovations. Additionally, the HVAC work on PHS will continue with the English and Global classroom wing scheduled for the summer of 2009, leaving only the two Gymnasiums to complete the HVAC replacement project. Monitoring the air quality in the high school also remains a focus for us, to ensure that the changes being made are achieving our goals for improved air quality.

We recognize that we are facing several challenging years of making difficult choices in the budgeting process. Despite these challenges, our cluster believes that a safe and healthy learning environment is a high priority, and that the quality of the learning environment is paramount to achieving educational goals. We urge you to keep pace with the current modernization schedule for assessed schools and not let dates slip. I recall sitting in an elementary school PTA meeting in the late 90's hearing the date 2010 used in reference to Poolesville High School's modernization.(thinking, at the time that it was a long way into the future) Poolesville High School¹ is next on the list to get a date – and is now probably slated for 2020. We don't want to see yet another slippage in our date, thus we must not deviate from the modernization schedule for schools listed in the 2010 CIP.

Each year we revisit the Cluster's requests (see Attachment 1) for Poolesville High School, John Poole Middle School, Poolesville Elementary School and Monocacy Elementary School. It's a running list of requests of which some have been addressed, some have been carried forward from prior years and still need to be addressed, and some of which are new requests that have surfaced since last year.

¹ The community is not in agreement that a complete renovation took place in 1978 as noted with our FACT score

Many of the requests on the list relate to the Whole School Magnet Implementation; facility maintenance; improved classroom habitability and utilization; and student, staff and facility safety and security. Many could be accomplished outside of a major modernization through existing countywide projects.

The community appreciates the needed, on-going PHS Indoor Air Quality Enhancements and urges that the project to replace the remaining windows stay on track in order to gain the benefit of the new HVAC system's long term optimization and cost effectiveness, and its ability to control the humidity levels in the building. The auditorium lighting at PHS also requires replacement. PHS auditorium lighting is antiquated with frequent component failures, which increase maintenance costs and creates a higher degree of uncertainty that it will work when required. This adds additional unnecessary anxiety on opening night. The stage floor also requires repair or refurbishment.

At John Poole Middle School, our most pressing facility need is the conversion of a classroom to a science lab. Currently the school only has two science labs to serve three grades of students. There is an existing classroom that provides sufficient space along with running water that could allow this to be accomplished inexpensively.

Our cluster schools' administrators, teachers, staff and parents have worked and continue to work very hard to provide a challenging academic environment. The facilities must support and match their efforts to successfully conduct all courses and activities. The achievements of our students and schools and the accolades they have received prove we have used the resources provided to us very wisely indeed.

Thank you for the opportunity to highlight the issues important to the Poolesville Cluster.

To

Commissioner Jerome J. Klobukowski
November 14, 2007 Testimony
On Poolesville Cluster Requests for Inclusion in the FY 2009 CIP Budget

1. Poolesville High School

a. Magnet Issues

- (1) Additional Science Classroom/Labs – Will be addressed by addition in FY 2008
- (2) Additional Computer Labs – Will be addressed by addition in FY 2008
- (3) Reconfigure existing Science Classrooms as necessary to support increased enrollment.

b. Modernization Issues

- (1) Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) Replacement – Correct extremely poor indoor air quality and climate control. Three phase program:
 - (a) Phase 1 – Completed FY 06
 - (b) Phase 2 – Commenced FY 07
 - (c) Phase 3 – To begin 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) Reconfigure and consolidate General, Administrative, Business and Guidance Offices in one area to:
 - 1 Consolidate administrators, business and guidance personnel in one area. – Reconfigured front office area to consolidate all personnel except for Registrar, who remains in converted Science Hall closet and Career Center next to Cafeteria.
 - 2 Provide privacy/confidentiality for staff – student or parent conferences. – Unable to accomplish within current space limitations.
 - 3 Install window to enable office staff to view people entering the building. – Completed (2008)
 - (d) Installation of Team Room Lockers to avoid locker sharing among team members.
 - (e) Additional Student Lockers required to support enrollment increase.
 - (f) Upgrade TV studio to support Humanities Program and intra-school communications.
 - (g) Auditorium:
 - 1 Lighting requires replacement
 - 2 Stage requires repair/refurbishment
 - (h) Continue Spurrier Avenue – West Willard Road sidewalk northward to West Willard Road Student Parking Lot.

Attachment (1) To
Commissioner Jerome J. Klobukowski
November 14, 2007 Testimony
(Continued)

Poolesville High School Modernization Issues (continued)

(i) 23 additional Staff Parking spaces required to replace those lost when Science Addition is built.

(j) Outside portions of school require painting.

2. John Poole Middle School

a. Third Science Laboratory for the existing third Science Classroom.

b. Second fully equipped 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 – Require installation of an Entrance Security System (ESS) to permit identification and control of people desiring to enter the school.

4. Poolesville Elementary School Modernization

a. Fire Safety Code Upgrades

(1) Public Address System – Can not be heard in hallways and bathrooms

(2) Fire Alarm System – Replaced and can now be heard throughout the school

b. PLAR

(1) HVAC system – Replaced, system adjustments continue.

(2) Painting

(a) Interior painting – Completed

(b) Outside portions of school still require painting.

c. Security – Require installation of an ESS to permit identification and control of people desiring to enter the school.