

APPROVED MINUTES

REPORT OF THE WORK SESSION ON THE PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2006 CAPITAL BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS

Wednesday, September 22, 2004
Greenwood

The Board of Education of Baltimore County, Maryland, met in open session at 7:03 p.m. at Greenwood. President Mr. James R. Sasiadek and the following Board members were present: Mr. Luis E. Borunda, Mr. Thomas G. Grzyski, Ms. Frances A.S. Harris, Mr. John Hayden, III, Dr. Warren Hayman, Mr. Rodger C. Janssen, Mr. Michael P. Kennedy, and Ms. Joy Shillman. In addition, Dr. Joe A. Hairston, Superintendent of Schools; staff members; as well as the media were present.

Mr. Sasiadek reviewed the purpose of the meeting and thanked staff for its work in preparing the information presented at the meeting.

Ms. Burnopp, Executive Director of Fiscal Services, remarked that tonight's work session was a follow-up to the presentation made to the Board on September 21st. She stated that current requests are based on items that were previously State, County, and Board priorities with the concern being enrollment and systemic needs. Ms. Burnopp reviewed specific projects and noted that previous State Funding was \$11M.

First, Ms. Burnopp reviewed the list in priority order. She noted the proposed State funding to be requested is \$62,534,000. Mr. Hayden asked whether this amount included previous State funding with Ms. Burnopp responding no.

Next, Ms. Burnopp reviewed miscellaneous projects, major maintenance alterations, and site improvements. She noted the total County requested funding is \$93,298,000 bringing the total requested funding for State and County to \$155,832,000. Ms. Burnopp then reviewed the amount originally proposed, the FY06 County adopted budget, and specific changes, which totals \$93,298,000. She informed the Board that the budget is due to the State by October 7th.

Mr. Michael Goodhues, Director of Budget and Reporting, explained the difference between the operating budget and capital budget. The capital budget is characterized by their use (new schools, additions) as well as their source (sale of bonds). Additionally, the capital budget extends for 6 years, with funds available until a project reaches completion.

Mr. Goodhues noted that all projects must be endorsed by the County, and be submitted in writing to the State by December 8, 2004.

Ms. Ramona Johnson, Board member, entered the room at 7:11 p.m.

Next, Mr. Goodhues explained the two sources of funding.

Aging School Funding

- Public School Construction Program (PSCP) administers the program
- Annual program that funds renovation projects in schools at least 15 years old
- Use of funds – ADA upgrades, boilers, lighting, and doors
- 18-month time limit on the use of funds
- Unspent funds revert to the State

Qualified Zone Academy Bonds Program

- Federal funds administered by PSCP
- 35% of more Free and Reduced lunch
- Use of funds – same as Aging Schools
- 10% cash or volunteer hours match required
- 18-month time limit on the use of funds

Mr. Kevin Grabill, Fiscal Analyst, Budget and Reporting, provided an overview of the State and County government budget process. Mr. Grabill noted State and County timeline stating the budget request is due to the State by October 7, 2004 with funds becoming available in July 2005.

Mr. Hayden inquired about the amounts requested in 2003, 2004 and 2005. Mr. Grabill responded BCPS asked for \$31M in State funding in 2005. Mr. Hayden asked whether there is any consistency in percentages within each capital budget year. Ms. Burnopp responded in the negative.

Finally, Ms. Burnopp reviewed the historical funding of the capital budget showing the split between County and State Funding.

Year	State Funding (in thousands)	County Funding (in thousands)	Total Funding (in thousands)	Two Year Funding (in thousands)
FY97	\$13,055	\$24,064	\$37,119	
FY 98	\$25,000	\$88,252	\$113,252	\$150,371
FY 99	\$28,000	\$62,441	\$90,441	
FY 00	\$30,011	\$129,015	\$159,026	\$249,467
FY 01	\$39,683	\$105,817	\$145,500	
FY 02	\$18,705	\$91,715	\$110,420	\$216,237
FY 03	\$12,470	\$23,143	\$35,613	
FY 04	\$13, 121	\$76,941	\$90,062	\$125,675
FY 05	\$11,563	\$2,892	\$14,455	
FY 06 (requested)	\$62,534	\$93,298	\$155,832	\$170,287

Other staff members highlighted specific topics listed in the capital budget as follows:

1. Kenwood High School

Ms. Phyllis Bailey, Executive Director of Special Programs, PreK-12, stated that the two career completer programs occupy a wing at Kenwood High School, which was built in 1955. The four completer programs service the gender mix as well as special needs students. She noted the proposed renovations would:

- Improve students' opportunities to concentrate on future careers and college
- Double carpentry completer program capacity from 73 to 150 students
- Provide space for large construction projects
- Allow the printing and graphics program to increase its enrollment by 30%.
- Extend printing and graphics completer program by adding a media production center and offer advance radio and television technology.

Mr. Grzynski stated the current wing has limited laboratory and laboratory facilities. He was pleased to see this item in the budget.

Mr. Janssen did not believe that \$11M would be sufficient to fund this project. Mr. Kurt Buckler, Head of Engineering of Physical Facilities, stated the renovations are limited to the Tech education wing only, an area of 13,000 square feet.

Dr. Hayman noted it would be helpful if this type of program as provided by the presenter could have been part of the package and received by Board members prior to the work session. He asked whether the programs at Kenwood High School have been approved by MSDE with Ms. Bailey responding affirmatively. Dr. Hayman asked for clarification of the \$3.9M request. Ms. Burnopp responded State funding needs to be prioritized at this time. Dr. Hayman asked how this amount relates to the total request of \$11M. Ms. Burnopp responded \$7M of the \$11M would be County requested funding leaving approximately \$3.9M as State requested funding.

Mr. Kennedy asked whether the Kenwood addition would take care of the 390 seats needed at the school with Ms. Burnopp responding affirmatively.

2. Maiden Choice School

Mr. Richard Cassell, Administrator for Physical Facilities, explained that this request is the result of the Perks-Reuter report and addresses modifications to assist special needs students.

In response to Mr. Sasiadek's query whether funding is separate from the roof replacement monies, Ms. Burnopp responded affirmatively.

Mr. Kennedy commented on the number of individuals from Maiden Choice School who attended the public hearing in June 2004. He was pleased to see this item on the list.

3. System Renovations

Mr. Cassell provided a brief history of the Perks-Reuter study. These basic renovations need to be performed at all elementary, middle, and high schools and prioritized by age of building. These renovations include: infrastructure items: fire safety code upgrades, electrical, HVAC, and plumbing. Mr. Cassell stated that elementary schools renovations are 99% complete. Funding is requested for the following five middle schools: Holabird, Woodlawn, Catonsville, Deep Creek, and Perry Hall.

Mr. Janseen requested a spreadsheet listing all schools and their renovation status.

Dr. Hayman noted enrollment projections have a different impact on each individual school. Ms. Burnopp responded enrollment projects were added to the spreadsheet to provide the Board with a perspective of what impact each item may have on the schools and students. She noted that 10-year enrollment projections will be given to the State as part of the budget request.

4. Environmental Issues

Mr. Robert Merrey, Environmental Manager for Physical Facilities, stated the requested funding will provide resources to implement measures to prevent environmental concerns, including mold accumulation. The funding would help reduce unnecessary costs, allow timely repairs, and place BCPS in a pro-active mode with respect to environmental concerns.

Mr. Janseen asked how the system would be in place to prevent recurrence of mold issues. Mr. Cassell responded these items would be regarded as engineering projects. Engineers would look at the problems and provide solutions to prevent recurrence.

Ms. Harris expressed concern over the funding amount. Mr. Cassell stated the school system has spent \$300K for mold clean up and replacement this past summer alone. He noted that clean-up and repairs do not address the root cause of the problem to prevent recurrence.

Mr. Sasiadek was pleased to see ADA improvements throughout the budget.

J. Robert Haines, Esquire, Deputy Superintendent of Business Services stated BCPS has committed \$200K a year to ADA modification for 158 buildings.

Mr. Kennedy asked whether the ADA contracts would be brought before the Building Committee for review and approval. Mr. Haines responded affirmatively.

5. Safety and Security Systems

J. Robert Haines, Esquire, Deputy Superintendent of Business Services reviewed three types of security systems within the school system. He noted that window breakage is greatest in the middle schools. This funding will permit BCPS to complete installation of closed circuit security and card access systems in various middle schools. Mr. Haines also noted that fire code changes prohibit the use of steel drawn gates to limit access to parts of school buildings.

Mr. Kennedy inquired about placement of cameras in school buildings. Mr. Haines responded camera locations vary within each school.

Ms. Shillman expressed concern over security in elementary schools. Mr. Haines stated BCPS creates a priority list based on data in conjunction with the Baltimore County Police Department.

Mr. Borunda requested information on two new construction projects: Woodholme Elementary and Windsor Mill Middle Schools. Woodholme Elementary is scheduled for opening in August 2005 and Windsor Mill Middle scheduled for opening in August 2006. Mr. Borunda inquired about land acquisition process for these two sites. Mr. Christopher Brocato, Data Analyst, Strategic Planning, responded Woodholme Elementary School site was acquired in 1973 and Windsor Mill Middle School site was acquired sometime between 1970-1975. Mr. Buckler noted a standard rule for land is as follows: elementary school, 25 usable acres; middle school, 35 usable acres; and high school 60 usable acres.

Ms. Harris inquired about the \$3M county requested funding for the site bank. Mr. Ghassan Shah, Planning Administrator, Strategic Planning, responded this funding is for three possible sites. Mr. Shah stated he would provide additional information on the process for requesting a new school.

Ms. Johnson inquired whether the installation of closed circuit security systems has been effective. Dr. Scott Gehring, Executive Director of the Northwest Area, responded incidents have decreased, however, figures cannot be provided at this time.

Ms. Shillman expressed concern over resurfacing tennis courts at two high schools. She would like to see monies for these projects redirected for track replacement at Owings Mills High School.

Mr. Hayden commented that the Carver Center auditorium is not on the budget list. He would like to see the auditorium included on the priority list for FY06 capital budget request.

Mr. Kennedy was glad to see both track replacement and resurfacing tennis courts in the budget. He was troubled that the Carver Center auditorium was not in the priority list. Mr. Kennedy stated this is a performing arts schools and an auditorium is

essential for their program. He stated that if the school system cannot place the item in this year's budget proposal, perhaps it can be added next year.

Mr. Janssen inquired about a bus washing facility. Ms. Rita Fromm, Chief of Staff, responded the school system does not have a bus washing facility.

Mr. Janssen asked that the "beginnings" of a new high school in the central/northeast area be added. He believes that adding seats to existing buildings is not fostering the appropriate education to the students of this county. Mr. Janssen also noted his support of an auditorium for Carver Center.

With regards to new construction, Dr. Hayman stated the Board should ascertain whether BCPS can meet the outlined criteria and utilize strength for a new high school in the northeast area of the county. Once the Board has all the items needed, then the Board can make a determination. Dr. Hayman stated the school system needs to make sure everything is in place so that we can move forward in the process.

Mr. Hayden stated he is very interested in a new high school in the northeast area, but he does not think enrollment projections will meet criteria for State funding.

Mr. Borunda suggested the Carver Center auditorium would be a project that a corporation may partner with BCPS to develop. Mr. Hayden informed the Board that state legislation existed between private partnerships and schools to develop school properties but with significantly smaller sums of money. Mr. Borunda stated a high school of this caliber needs an auditorium and asked whether this type of partnership would be feasible.

Mr. Borunda noted that several individuals and communities outside of the northeast area supported a new high school in the northeast area. He stated to not move forward in some manner would be a "slap in their faces." Mr. Borunda suggested the school system begin looking for available land.

Mr. Grzymiski concurred. He was encouraged to see the site acquisition item on the list. Mr. Grzymiski stated the system needs to be prudent in its strategy and not place projects on the list that would not be approved.

Ms. Johnson inquired about parking lot expansions and possible safety issues.

Ms. Shillman completely supports the land acquisition issue and that land can be held 10, 20, or 30 years until needed. She stated there could be other alternatives and sees the population decreasing within 7 to 10 years.

Mr. Janseen commented that if land is available and not in the budget, there is no opportunity to move forward. He agrees with Dr. Lever's comments in that "let us not fail because we did not try; let someone else come tell us we are wrong and let them come back to us." Mr. Janssen also questioned the data regarding the age of Parkville High School and Parkville Middle School.

Mr. Kennedy stated the Board needs to make decisions based on information, statistics, and data, and balance the discussion with the needs of the community. He was pleased that the school system is looking at land acquisition.

At 9:50 p.m., Ms. Harris moved to adjourn the work session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Janssen and approved by the Board.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe A. Hairston
Secretary-Treasurer

bls