

APPROVED MINUTES

REPORT OF THE WORK SESSION ON THE PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2008 CAPITAL BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS

Wednesday, September 20, 2006
Greenwood

The Board of Education of Baltimore County, Maryland, met in open session at 7:00 p.m. at Greenwood. Vice President Mr. Rodger C. Janssen and the following Board members were present: Ms. Frances A. S. Harris, Mr. John A. Hayden, III, Ms. JoAnn C. Murphy, Mr. H. Edward Parker, Jr., Mr. Joseph J. Pallozzi, and Ms. Joy Shillman. In addition, Dr. Joe A. Hairston, Superintendent of Schools, staff members, and the media were present.

Mr. Janssen thanked staff for its work in preparing the information presented at the meeting.

Mr. Hayden asked Mr. Michael Sines, Executive Director of Physical Facilities, to summarize, during his presentation, the process regarding prerequisites for State contribution to the capital budget for school construction and major renovations.

Mr. Sines reviewed with Board members the breakdown of the FY08 proposed capital budget requests. He also reviewed projects that have been forward funded by local fiscal authorities and the critical need projections.

Next Mr. Sines reviewed the requests by priority order as listed in Attachment I. He noted that previous State funding and partial funding on Deep Creek Middle School and the critical need in replacing Milford Mill Academy's fire alarm system. Mr. Sines stated that the school system has begun renovation on various middle schools using forward funding by the county. The proposed budget requests State contribution for middle schools.

Mr. Sines then reviewed with Board members specific items:

- Construction of a new elementary school at the Vincent Farms site
- Four middle schools' renovations – Deep Creek, Perry Hall, Old Court, and Cockeysville
- Milford Mill Academy – fire alarm replacement
- Greenwood Campus – generator and driveway reconstruction
- White Oak Elementary School – additional parking egress
- Stemmers Run Middle School – locker replacement

Next, Mr. Sines provided an overview of the State government budget process:

1. Project recommendations are made and sent to the Interagency Committee (IAC) for review. The State has given the school system explicit directions to identify the requests in priority order. Baltimore County Public Schools is eligible for 50% funding of the construction costs and renovation projects.

2. Staff meets with the IAC. Once it clears the IAC, the IAC makes a ruling, and sends its recommendations to the Board of Public Works.
3. The Board of Public Works holds a hearing on the IAC recommendations. The school system has the right to appeal the IAC's ruling.

Mr. Hayden inquired about the prioritizing of the boiler replacements. Mr. Sines explained that since the local fiscal authorities forward funded the middle schools, they are looking for the State contribution in order to free up the funds provided in advance. The school system does not want the critical components such as boilers to fall from the radar screen.

Mr. Hayden inquired about the State's requirement regarding percentage over capacity. Mr. Sines responded that the State would not look favorably on a school system that wants to build a new school but has capacity at an adjacent school. Mr. Sines stated he was unsure of the percentage over capacity in terms of a new school. Mr. Hayden expressed concern that planning efforts have been reactionary instead of proactive.

When Ms. Shillman asked about window replacement at Dumbarton Middle School, Mr. Sines explained that the funding was not available during the renovation project and that this request is additional.

Ms. Shillman inquired about the status of Sudbrook Magnet Middle School renovations. Mr. Sines responded that the renovation has State planning approval and available local funds. The bids for this project are due within the next month.

Ms. Shillman asked why the auditorium for the Carver Center for Arts & Technology dropped to number 61 on the priority list. Mr. Sines responded the school system is looking to begin the high school renovation program starting with the oldest schools, Carver is number two. Ms. Burnopp noted there are no funding requests for items 61 and 62; however, the State could still approve.

Ms. Harris asked about land acquisition, and Ms. Burnopp responded that the school system has placed \$6 million in this year's capital budget request for site acquisition.

Mr. Pallozzi asked why Catonsville Elementary School parking lot was not included on the list. Mr. Sines responded that he was also just made aware of the situation but generally all parking lots are in constant need of repair.

When Ms. Murphy asked about dollar figure calculations, Mr. Sines explained: 1) requirements from IAC, which are generated by the IAC each year, and 2) challenges in estimating cost of projects.

Ms. Shillman asked why the Old Court Middle School's gymnasium was listed separately from the school's renovation project. Mr. Sines stated that he would need to investigate and get the information back to the Board.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:34 p.m., Ms. Murphy 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

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