

APPROVED REPORT (6/10/08)

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2010 CAPITAL BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS

Wednesday, May 21, 2008
Greenwood

Board President, Ms. JoAnn C. Murphy, called the hearing to order at 7:01 p.m. In addition to Ms. Murphy, the following Board members were present: Ms. Frances A.S. Harris, Mr. Earnest E. Hines, Mr. Rodger C. Janssen, Ms. Ramona C. Johnson, Mr. Joseph J. Pallozzi, and Mr. H. Edward Parker, Jr. In addition, Dr. Joe A. Hairston, Superintendent, staff members, as well as media were present.

The following speakers addressed the Board:

1. Ms. Sharon Principe, PTSA President, Owings Mills High School – Asked the Board to fund repairs to Owings Mills High School's track and tennis courts. Ms. Principe stated that the track has been condemned. There are huge cracks in the tennis courts, which make them unsafe for faculty and students.
2. Dr. Laurie Taylor-Mitchell, Vice President, Chatterleigh Association – Asked the Board to make a request to BCPS and the County Executive to reconsider the proposed Loch Raven High School addition. She noted that during the Board of Public Works' meeting in Annapolis today, funding for the addition was deferred for 30 days, pending further investigation. The 400-seat addition represents a 41% increase in the capacity of the school. Dr. Taylor-Mitchell stated that there is currently not enough parking available onsite or in the neighborhood.
3. Mr. Joe Vales, Track Coach, Owings Mills High School – Asked the Board to fund a new track for Owings Mills High School. The school currently has difficulty recruiting players because of the conditions of the track. Mr. Vales stated that there are little to no relay lines and no markings for hurdles.
4. Miss Julia Rudo, Student, Owings Mills High School – Requested that the Board replace the track at Owings Mills High School. She stated that a petition was created and presented at the Northwest Area Education Advisory Council's pre-budget meeting showing support for a new track.
5. Miss Aly Raphael, Student, Owings Mills High School – Asked the Board to fund resurfacing of the school's track and tennis courts. As a member of the track and tennis teams, Miss Raphael stated it is difficult to play tennis when the ball hits the cracks. Students are embarrassed with having a dilapidated track.
6. Miss Jacqueline Sutton, Student, Owings Mills High School – Requested the Board consider funding in the budget to resurface the track and tennis courts at Owings Mills High School. Cracks exist throughout the tennis courts and students lose footing during intramurals. Miss Sutton stated that the track and tennis courts are used by the entire community and need to be safe.

7. Mr. Dan Marcus, Student, Owings Mills High School – Asked the Board to fund resurfacing the track and tennis courts at Owings Mills High School. Mr. Marcus stated that the tennis courts have not been repaved in the school’s 30-year history. More students would try out for track and tennis teams if the track and tennis courts were resurfaced or repaired.
8. Ms. Sistina Murray, Former Student, Hebbville Elementary School – Requested that the Board budget for air conditioning at Hebbville Elementary School. It is difficult for students to focus on their studies when the classrooms are hot.
9. Ms. Sheila Harris, Parent, Hebbville Elementary School – Asked the Board to consider funding air conditioning for Hebbville Elementary School. A speech written by Philip Harris, a former Hebbville Elementary School student, was read.
10. Ms. Fay Davenport, Teacher, Hebbville Elementary School – Asked the Board to place funding in the capital budget for air conditioning at Hebbville Elementary School. Ms. Davenport stated that staff and parents attended the Southwest Area Education Advisory Council pre-budget meeting and had a petition signed requesting air conditioning. She noted that good indoor air quality contributes to a positive learning environment for students and high performance of teachers and staff.
11. Mr. Devon Jones, Athletic Director, Owings Mills High School – Asked the Board to budget for resurfacing the track and tennis courts at Owings Mill High School. He noted that others within the community use these facilities. Mr. Jones stated that this capital budget request has been on the list for a few years; however, no funding has been available.
12. Ms. Laura Thacker, Teacher, Hebbville Elementary School – Strongly urged the Board to place in the capital budget funding for air conditioning for Hebbville Elementary School. Statistics show that hot classrooms decrease a student’s ability to learn. Classrooms do not have fans, and the county does not provide portable fans. The sun beats through the windows and heats the classrooms to temperatures well above the outdoor temperature. Seven people in the audience stood to support this request.
13. Ms. Cindy Standinger, Parent, Hebbville Elementary School – Asked the Board to fund air conditioning for Hebbville Elementary School. She stated that while her son would be leaving this school next year, she believes the school needs air conditioning. Ms. Standinger stated students have asked why offices and technology rooms are air conditioned and the remainder of the school is not.

14. Ms. Helen Marcus, PTA Member, Owings Mills High School (OMHS) – Strongly urged the Board to add funding in the budget for the repair or resurfacing of the track and tennis courts at Owings Mills High School. She stated that matches have to be scheduled at New Town High School because the track at OMHS has been condemned.

The hearing was concluded at 7:38 p.m.

ADMINISTRATIVE FUNCTION

At 7:45 p.m. the Board went into administrative function. Board President, Ms. JoAnn C. Murphy, and the following Board members were present: Ms. Frances A.S. Harris, Mr. Earnest E. Hines, Mr. Rodger C. Janssen, Ms. Ramona C. Johnson, Mr. Joseph J. Pallozzi, and Mr. H. Edward Parker, Jr. In addition, Dr. Joe A. Hairston, Superintendent, the following staff members were present: J. Robert Haines, Esq., Deputy Superintendent; Ms. Kara Calder, Chief Communications Officer; Margaret-Ann Howie, Esq., General Counsel; Edward Novak, Esq., Assistant General Counsel; and Ms. Brenda Stiffler, Administrative Assistant to the Board

Board members received an update concerning negotiations about the fiscal year 2009 budget.

At 8:05 p.m., staff members exited the room.

Board members discussed the Superintendent's evaluation.

The Board ended its administrative function session at 8:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe A. Hairston
Secretary-Treasurer