

## **APPROVED MINUTES – 10/7/08**

### **REPORT OF THE WORK SESSION ON THE PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2010 CAPITAL BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS**

Tuesday, September 16, 2008  
Greenwood

The Board of Education of Baltimore County, Maryland, met in open session at 7:00 p.m. at Greenwood. President JoAnn C. Murphy and the following Board members were present: Ms. Frances A. S. Harris, Mr. Rodger C. Janssen, Ms. Ramona N. Johnson, Ms. Mary-Margaret O'Hare, Mr. Joseph J. Pallozzi, Mr. H. Edward Parker, and Ms. Valerie A. Roddy. In addition, Dr. Joe A. Hairston, Superintendent of Schools, and staff members were present.

Ms. Murphy stated the purpose of the work session and thanked staff for its work in preparing the information presented at the meeting.

Ms. Barbara Burnopp, Chief Financial Officer, reviewed the project priority order and provided background information on the capital budget process noting that there are two requests to the state: planning and funding. She stated that the Board will take action at its September 23 meeting on the state capital request. However, projects involving county funds will be discussed in December and action taken at a January Board meeting. The superintendent recommends requesting \$117,151,000 in state funding. Ms. Burnopp provided Board members a summary of capital budget funding for FY 1997 through FY 2010. She noted that item 29, State Relocatable Movement, is where Baltimore County Public Schools' (BCPS) needs to remove all state relocatables.

Ms. Michele Prumo, Executive Director of Planning and Support Operations, reviewed with Board members the capital planning priorities and recommended timelines for FY 2010 through FY 2013. This list indicates where BCPS may need increased capacity including planning, funding, and additional seats. Ms. Prumo stated that a "cluster" is the grouping of schools based on geography and feeder-school patterns.

Ms. O'Hare asked whether air conditioning was incorporated into the limited renovation projects. Mr. Sines responded that air conditioning is incorporated in the scope of work. Mr. Sines also noted that once funding is available and the contract is approved by the Board, air conditioning will be included in limited renovations. Ms. O'Hare asked for the definition of "systemic renovation." Mr. Sines responded systemic renovation means "single system" renovation, such as roofs, windows, and electrical items. Ms. O'Hare asked if replacement windows can open sufficiently to get air into the classroom. Mr. Sines stated replacement windows are more energy efficient and are equal to the existing window systems in operable mass. All schools that have undergone renovations have had an increase in the movement of air through the mechanical system. BCPS is routinely increasing the percentage above the existing mass structure of future window design. Mr. Sines stated that the Department of Physical Facilities will provide a report to the Board in November on the status of physical facilities with a focus on air conditioning.

Ms. Roddy asked what is included in the five limited renovation projects. Mr. Sines responded limited renovations include a minimum of five major systems, such as plumbing, electrical, roof, and/or windows. It is site specific and is based upon the feasibility study for that particular school. Ms. Roddy reiterated that she would like a more detailed description of the schools listed for limited renovations.

Ms. Roddy asked if the school system is continuing to use the Perks-Reutter study from the 1990's, with Mr. Sines responding negatively. Ms. Roddy asked which schools currently have partial or no air conditioning. Mr. Sines responded that information regarding air conditioning would be provided to the Board in November. He also noted that every project that is eligible for air conditioning is included in the scope of work. Any local project not listed would require local funding. Ms. Roddy stated that she hopes the report includes an estimate or range of the cost for air conditioning these schools. Mr. Sines stated that since the Perks-Reutter program, BCPS has invested over \$1 billion in infrastructure. The high schools program currently underway is projected to cost approximately \$1 billion. For the school system to revisit half of the buildings that do not have air conditioning, and to regroup and pick up where the Perks-Reutter program left off, it could easily cost \$1 billion.

Ms. Johnson asked that, if the school system receives less funding than requested, will the items on the list be reprioritized. Mr. Sines responded that Catonsville High School did receive state planning approval and partial funding; therefore, it would remain first on the priority list. Ms. Johnson stated that the Board may need to eliminate other projects to address the air conditioning issue. Mr. Sines noted that feasibility studies are being conducted on the high schools and that, as recommendations are received, the school system will move towards school-need bases. In the case of Dundalk High School, item 11, Mr. Sines stated that the school system must address the structural defects and mechanical deficiencies. If the issues are not addressed, it is possible that BCPS would go from a renovation project to razing the building. He stated that the feasibility study showed the building was not worth rebuilding, which is the reason for being on the priority list. Ms. Johnson stated that the Board needs this type of information to make the tough decisions.

Mr. Pallozzi asked for clarification on future funding for other projects. Mr. Sines stated that this exhibit is for state funding and that county funding would come before the Board later this year. Mr. Pallozzi asked whether county projects would include air conditioning for other schools. Mr. Sines responded that there are no county projects slated for air conditioning that are not part of the state funding.

Mr. Janssen asked if the Dundalk High School feasibility study would include razing the school. Mr. Sines responded that the feasibility study for Dundalk High is under review by staff and that the study recommends razing portions of the building. Mr. Janssen asked whether that option would be presented to the Board. Mr. Sines responded that part of the feasibility study makes a determination as to the best solution for that school.

Mr. Janssen asked whether the school system would replace seats once the state relocatables were removed. Mr. Sines responded that these relocatables were units from the state in order to execute construction projects. BCPS no longer will need the seats.

Ms. O'Hare asked whether a policy needs to be developed related to when schools should be renovated. Mr. Sines responded that the state has an administrative manual to address this issue.

Ms. Murphy asked how the school system will continue to look at the clusters to ensure accurate projections. Ms. Prumo responded that BCPS can project out firmly for five years based on how the number of kindergarten students. The school system also has ten-year projections; however, those are soft numbers.

Ms. Johnson asked if "green" standards would be a cost savings to the system. Mr. Sines responded that "green" building principles does have cost benefits. He also noted that legislation requiring certification will cost money with no return or benefit.

Ms. Roddy asked, that since the Perks-Reutter report is outdated, how were high schools assessed, how were the schools prioritizing, and is there a preliminary list of those schools. Mr. Sines responded that BCPS is in the best position to executive the high school projects. High school feasibility studies are being conducted based on age, adjusting the prioritization based on needs and the study. To date, seven feasibility studies are complete, and the school system is anticipating conducting five to seven more this school year.

Ms. O'Hare asked how large would Stoneleigh Elementary School following this addition. Ms. Prumo stated Stoneleigh Elementary would go from 490 seats to 690 seats. Ms. O'Hare asked whether Stoneleigh Elementary would have sufficient common space. Mr. Sines responded that, if the school system goes into this project as an addition, the goal would be to eliminate relocatables and bring the building up to standard.

Mr. Janssen asked whether this document is the final product. Mr. Sines responded this is a "living" document and that the school system would continue to ensure accuracy of the numbers.

With respect to the Hampton Elementary School addition, Ms. Roddy asked whether 300 seats are needed. Ms. Prumo responded that BCPS is looking at the entire Towson overcrowding issue. She stated that by 2012 the school system would need approximately 600 to 700 seats along this cluster.

Ms. Johnson asked if the Board would receive a revised priority list should state funding change. Mr. Sines responded that, should the state modify the capital budget funding, the revised priority list, along with funding amounts, would come back to the Board for review and approval.

ADJOURNMENT

The work session adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Joe A. Hairston  
Secretary-Treasurer

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