

APPROVED  
32-2010

Rockville, Maryland  
November 4, 2010

The Board of Education of Montgomery County held a work session at the Carver Educational Services Center, Rockville, Maryland, on November 4, 2010, at 6:00 p.m.

Present: Mrs. Patricia O'Neill, President  
in the Chair  
Mr. Christopher Barclay  
Ms. Laura Berthiaume  
Ms. Shirley Brandman  
Dr. Judy Docca  
Mr. Michael Durso  
Mr. Philip Kauffman  
Dr. Jerry Weast, Secretary/Treasurer

Absent: Mr. Alan Xie

# or ( ) indicates student vote does not count. Four votes needed for adoption.

Re: **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

RESOLUTION NO. 512-10 Re: **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

On recommendation of the superintendent and on motion of Mr. Barclay seconded by Ms. Brandman, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

Resolved, That the Board of Education approve its agenda for November 4, 2010.

Re: **OVERVIEW OF THE SUPERINTENDENT'S  
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM (CIP)  
AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Dr. Weast and staff presented an overview with highlights of the recommendations for the off-year Capital Improvements Program. Those highlights included:

1. School Projects Adopted for the FY 2011–16 CIP (completed)
2. School Addition Projects Included in the Adopted FY 2011–16 CIP
3. Elementary School Modernization Projects Included in the Adopted FY 2011–16 CIP
4. Secondary School Modernization Projects Included in the Adopted FY 2011–16 CIP (5 middle schools; 8 high schools)
5. 2010–11 Facility Planning Projects (4 modernizations; 7 additions; 4 new schools)

6. Recommended FY 2012 Facility Planning Projects (4 modernizations; 11 additions)
7. Superintendent's Recommended Amendments Total \$8.64 Million
8. Facility Recommendations for the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Cluster, Richard Montgomery Cluster, Northwest Cluster, Poolesville Cluster, Upcounty Holding School

### **Superintendent's Recommendations**

1. Maintain the completion dates for all individual school projects, modernizations, and systemic countywide projects that are currently in the adopted CIP;
2. Provide funding for eight new elementary school additions and one new high school additions;
3. Provide funding for a new elementary school and middle school in the Clarksburg Cluster;
4. Provide funding for the Restroom Renovation project for schools identified in the second round of assessments;
5. Construct a new middle school in the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Cluster with an opening date to be recommended in fall 2011 as part of the FY 2012–18 CIP;
6. Construct additions at Bethesda, North Chevy Chase, and Rosemary Hills elementary schools with an opening date recommended as part of the FY 2013–18 CIP;
7. Reassign Grade 6 students from Chevy Chase and North Chevy Chase elementary schools to the middle school level when the middle school opens;
8. Construction a new elementary school in the Richard Montgomery Cluster at the site of the former Hungerford Park Elementary School with an opening date to be recommended in fall 2011 as part of the FY 2013–18 CIP;
9. Conduct a feasibility study for the new school this year and request planning and construction funds in fall 2011 as part of the FY 2013–18 CIP
10. Conduct feasibility studies for additions at Beall and Twinbrook elementary schools this year;
11. In fall 2011, recommend which elementary school(s) should have addition(s): Beall, Ritchie Park, and/or Twinbrook;
12. Conduct site selection for a new Northwest Cluster elementary school in winter 2010–11 and a feasibility study in spring 2011;
13. In fall 2011, as part of the FY 2012–18 CIP, determine whether to construct a new elementary school in the Northwest Cluster, or rebuild Germantown Elementary School for larger capacity;
14. Maintain Monocacy Elementary School as an operating school in the Poolesville Cluster;
15. Expand option for students in Poolesville Elementary School service area to attend Monocacy Elementary School at any grade level;
16. Conduct a feasibility study this year for a holding center at the Waring Station Road school site in the Seneca Valley Cluster;

17. Conduct a roundtable advisory committee process to explore options for the relationship between Wheaton High School and the Edison High School of Technology;
18. Establish service area for Downcounty Consortium Elementary School #29 (McKenney Hills site) with Oakland Terrace and Woodlin elementary schools involved in the study; and
19. Conduct a roundtable advisory committee process to explore the possible collocation of the Carl Sandburg Learning Center at Maryvale Elementary School when Maryvale is modernized.

The CIP is funded through bonds, state aid, school impact tax, recordation tax, and current revenue.

Re: **DISCUSSION**

The Board of Education asked the following questions:

1. Mr. Kauffman asked for a yearly cost estimate to replicate the middle school experience at the two elementary schools prior to the building of a new middle school. What is the fiscal impact of moving all sixth graders to Westland Elementary School?
2. Mrs. O'Neill asked that staff review the immersion program at Westland Middle School.
3. Ms. Berthiaume inquired about the oversight and quality control over construction projects.

## Bethesda-Chevy Chase Cluster

RESOLUTION NO. 513-10 Re: **BOARD ALTERNATIVES #1 AND #2**

On motion of Mrs. O'Neill and seconded by Ms. Berthiaume, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present:#

WHEREAS, The superintendent of schools has proposed convening a group to identify a site for a second middle school for the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Cluster; and

WHEREAS, Chevy Chase and North Chevy Chase elementary schools are the only elementary schools in Montgomery County Public Schools with sixth graders; and

WHEREAS, Members of these communities have expressed concerns about parity of educational programs with those at Westland Middle School; and

WHEREAS, The *Gazette* newspaper has reported that some members of the community expressed an interest in pursuing litigation over the lack of parity; and

WHEREAS, The superintendent of schools has expressed concerns over the fiscal situation in providing additional resources for these two schools; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Education desires public input in its Capital Budget decision-making process; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Education will hold Public Hearings on November 10 and November 11; now therefore be it

Resolved, That two alternatives be placed on the table for the Hearings:

- 1) That a liberal transfer policy, including transportation, be provided for rising sixth graders from North Chevy Chase and Chevy Chase elementary schools to Westland Middle School, beginning with the 2011–2012 school year; and
- 2) That all sixth graders from Chevy Chase and North Chevy Chase elementary schools be assigned to Westland Middle School, beginning with the 2011–2012 school year.

### **Summary of Alternative #1**

Alternative #1 would allow students in Chevy Chase and North Chevy Chase elementary schools to enroll for Grade 6 at Westland Middle School through the Change of School Assignment process. A liberal transfer provision would take effect for the 2011–2012 school year, and bus transportation to Westland Middle School would be provided for these students.

### **Alternative #1 Background**

#### Chevy Chase and North Chevy Chase Elementary Schools

Under this alternative, the number of Grade 6 students at Chevy Chase and North Chevy Chase elementary schools would be reduced. This would be beneficial in regard to reducing overutilization at these schools. However, the size of Grade 6 at these schools already is a constraint to providing program offerings available in middle schools; a reduction in the number of students would further impact program offerings. The alternative would limit the ability of these elementary schools to create a consistent program from year to year, because the number of students who would be enrolled would be less predictable than currently is the case.

#### Westland Middle School

Under this alternative, students from Chevy Chase and North Chevy Chase elementary schools who choose to enroll in Westland Middle School would benefit from the full middle

school program available at the school. The addition of more students at Westland Middle School would increase capacity shortages that are projected for the school and could require that additional relocatables be provided over time.

## **Summary of Alternative #2**

Alternative #2 would reorganize Chevy Chase and North Chevy Chase elementary schools from the current Grades 3–6 to Grades 3–5, with Grade 6 students reassigned to Westland Middle School, beginning in the 2011–12 school year.

## **Alternative #2 Background**

### Chevy Chase and North Chevy Chase Elementary Schools

Under this alternative, the reorganization of Chevy Chase and North Chevy Chase elementary schools to Grades 3–5 would be beneficial in eliminating the overutilization at Chevy Chase Elementary School and reducing the overutilization at North Chevy Chase Elementary School.

### Westland Middle School

Under this alternative, Grade 6 students previously enrolled in Chevy Chase and North Chevy Chase elementary schools would benefit from the full middle school program available at Westland Middle School. The addition of approximately 200 students at Westland Middle School would result in an enrollment exceeding 1,500 students at Westland Middle School in the next few years.

If Grade 6 students from Chevy Chase and North Chevy Chase elementary schools are reassigned to Westland Middle School next fall, the school would be 270 students above capacity and would require 10 relocatable classrooms. It has been determined that these units could be placed in a portion of the parking lot that is adjacent to the school, where four relocatable classrooms were located in the past. As enrollment increases, it will be necessary to add six more relocatable classrooms. Preliminary work suggests these units could be placed on the north side of the school where three basketball courts currently are located.

The cost of installing 10 relocatable classrooms next fall is approximately \$750,000. This would require an amendment to the FY 2012 Capital Budget for relocatable classrooms. In addition to the costs to install the relocatable classrooms, there are annual leasing costs for the units at \$6,000 per unit.

When Westland Middle School was modernized in 1997, its core capacity was designed for 1,000 students. The projected enrollment of more than 1,300 students—without the Grade 6 students from Chevy Chase and North Chevy Chase elementary schools—will considerably exceed this core capacity. The enrollment of more than 1,500 students—with

Grade 6 students from Chevy Chase and North Chevy Chase elementary schools—would create additional impact for Westland Middle School's core facilities.

One of the primary impacts of an enrollment of 1,500 students at Westland Middle School concerns the lunch period schedule. Currently, the school runs three lunch periods—as is the case in most middle schools—with each grade level assigned to a different period. The additional enrollment would require a shift to four lunch periods, with some changes in how each period is organized. In addition, the first lunch period currently begins at 10:51 a.m., and there are 19 minutes between lunch periods. Allowing for the additional students, the first lunch period would need to begin earlier and the time between lunch periods would be reduced.

The physical education (PE) program also would be impacted by additional enrollment. Currently, Westland Middle School is able to conduct five PE classes at one time with two in the gym and three on the fields. The additional students would necessitate restructuring the PE schedule and would require the use of other instructional spaces such as the auxiliary gym and the weight room.

Currently, there are 1,224 student lockers at Westland Middle School. As enrollment exceeds this number, it would be necessary to have students share lockers or install additional lockers. There also would be similar shortages of PE lockers.

Finally, with additional enrollment, the number of staff at Westland Middle School will increase. Currently, there are 120 staff members at Westland Middle School. There are 10 disability parking spaces and 122 regular parking spaces. The use of some parking areas for relocatable classrooms will reduce the number of parking spaces available. Providing adequate parking at the school would be a challenge as enrollment tops 1,500 students.

\*\* Mr. Barclay left the meeting at this point.

RESOLUTION NO. 514-10Re: **BOARD OF EDUCATION ALTERNATIVE #3**

On motion of Mr. Kauffman and seconded by Ms. Berthiaume, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present:#

WHEREAS, To address the overutilization and to simplify the articulation patterns of the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Cluster, the following action is recommended as part of the FY 2012 Capital Budget and Amendments to the FY 2011–2016 Capital Improvements Program (CIP); now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board of Education seek

- A boundary study to evaluate reassignment of the eastern portion of the Bethesda Elementary School service area (residents east of Wisconsin Avenue in the neighborhoods of East Bethesda and the Paddington Square Apartments). Representatives from Bethesda, North Chevy Chase, Chevy Chase, and Rosemary Hills elementary schools in the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Cluster and the communities of East Bethesda and Paddington Square will participate in the Boundary Advisory Committee.
- The boundary study will take place in spring 2011 for Board of Education action in November 2011.
- The results of the boundary study will be used in fall 2011 to help establish the number of additional classrooms required, and the location for these additions, needed to address the overutilization, and for recommendations for design and construction funds for additions to Bethesda, North Chevy Chase, Chevy Chase, and Rosemary Hills elementary schools determined as part of the FY 2013–18 CIP.

### **Summary of Alternative #3**

Alternative #3 would authorize an elementary school boundary study among Bethesda, Chevy Chase, North Chevy Chase, and Rosemary Hills elementary schools to be conducted in spring 2011, with the superintendent's recommendation and Board of Education Action in fall 2011.

### **Alternative #3 Background**

The intent of this alternative is to establish new school boundaries in advance of requesting additions at the elementary schools. The projected enrollment for the schools—with the future boundary changes factored in—could then be used to determine the size of classroom additions to request in the FY 2013–2018 CIP.

Also necessary to the determination of elementary school additions is progress in the planning for a new middle school for the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Cluster. There are uncertainties in this planning, including finding a site for the new school, securing funding in a timely manner, and establishing a timeline for reassigning the Grade 6 students from Chevy Chase and North Chevy Chase elementary schools to the middle school level.

The timing of implementing elementary school boundary changes is another factor to consider in this alternative. In one scenario, the boundary changes could be implemented as soon as the additions can be built. This is the usual approach to boundary changes tied to additions. The earliest that elementary school additions can be opened is August 2015, given a request for planning and construction funds next fall in the FY 2013–2018 CIP. In a

second scenario, the implementation of elementary boundary changes could occur at the same time as the opening of the new middle school. The earliest possible date for the new middle school to open is August 2016. In either scenario, implementation of elementary school boundary changes would be at least four years from the date of Board of Education adoption in fall 2011.

Re: **BOARD OF EDUCATION ALTERNATIVE #4**

On motion of Ms. Berthiaume and seconded by Mr. Durso, the following resolution failed with Ms. Berthiaume voting in the affirmative; Ms. Brandman, Dr. Docca, Mr. Durso, Mr. Kauffman, and Mrs. O'Neill voting in the negative:#

WHEREAS, The Superintendent has proposed a feasibility study for a Julius West Middle School addition; and

WHEREAS, Julius West Middle School is projected to have an enrollment of 1,357 students in 2016–17; and

WHEREAS, The maximum recommended middle school enrollment is 1,200 students; and

WHEREAS, The county has planned significant development in the relevant geographic area with the Shady Grove Sector Plan; and

WHEREAS, There is an available middle school site at King Farm; and

WHEREAS, Projected enrollment in the Richard Montgomery Cluster at the middle school level may support two middle schools; and

WHEREAS, It is not desirable to have a middle school with nearly 1,400 students; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Education desires public input on its Capital Budget decision-making process; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Education will hold public hearings on November 10 and November 11, 2010; now therefore be it

Resolved, That an alternative be placed on the table for the hearings that a feasibility study be done for a second middle school in the Richard Montgomery Cluster to be located at the King Farm middle school site.

RESOLUTION NO. 515-10Re: **ADJOURNMENT**

On recommendation of the superintendent and on motion of Ms. Brandman seconded by Dr. Docca, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present:

Resolved, That the Board of Education adjourn its meeting of November 4, 2010, at 8:40 p.m.

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PRESIDENT

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SECRETARY

JDW:gr