

November 28, 2005

Dr. David Lever, R.A., D.A.
Executive Director
The Interagency Committee on State School Construction
200 West Baltimore Street
Baltimore, MD 21201

Dear Dr. Lever:

The purpose of this joint signature letter is to substantially endorse the Prince George's County Board of Education's proposed FY 2007 capital budget request and to specify the County's construction projects that we consider critical. The Board's amended FY 2007 funding request totals \$99.3 million. It includes \$28.3 million to increase high school seating capacity, \$36.8 million for renovations, \$6.3 million for elementary school seats, and \$27.2 million in forward funding reimbursements.

The County endorses a State request of \$99.7 million, which demonstrates our shared vision with the Board. When the County announced the implementation of a monumental systemic replacement plan-\$126 million over three years, the Board modified its initial FY 2007 State request to reflect the inclusion of this new initiative. Similarly, the County and the Board of Education have jointly decided to pursue discussions with two developers that would potentially expand the scope of the Greenbelt Middle School renovation project to provide for an academic center inclusive of an elementary school and a middle school. As such, the County does not support a request for State funds or planning in FY 2007 at this time. However, the County and the Board of Education remain committed to the projects' development for the Greenbelt area. The remainder of this letter summarizes the elements that the County endorses and provides a detailed justification of the endorsements. In all but one instance, the County endorses the Board's request.

County Endorsement of the Board's FY 2007 Request

The Board of Education is requesting State construction funding in FY 2007 for the projects listed below in the enumerated amounts. The County endorses the Board's request as illustrated below:

	Board's Revised Request	County Endorsement
High Schools		
Regional HS	15,000,000	4,000,000

Classroom Addition @ DuVal	1,253,000	1,253,000
Classroom Addition @ Parkdale	8,062,000	8,062,000
Classroom Addition @ Potomac	3,986,000	3,986,000
High School #1-Oxon Hill Replacement	0	0
Renovations		
Systemic Replacements	19,915,000	19,915,000
Science Classroom Renovations	2,088,000	2,088,000
Adelphi ES Renovation	3,667,000	3,667,000
Major Renovations	9,000,000	9,000,000
Open Space Pod Conversion	2,229,000	2,229,000
Greenbelt MS Renovation	0	0
Elementary Schools		
Laurel-Beltsville ES	6,300,000	6,300,000
Other		
Forward Funding Reimbursement	27,223,000	39,207,000
Calverton Elementary	553,000	0
TOTAL	\$99,276,000	\$99,707,000

This endorsement is consistent with the County's highest priorities – additional seating capacity at the high school level, completing projects that are currently under construction, and systemic replacements/renovations that will extend the life of our buildings. Attachment 1 summarizes the County's funding endorsement by project and contains a tentative 6-year outlook of school construction projects.

Endorsement Justification

High Schools

Our highest priority continues to be additional seating capacity in our high schools. Since FY 2005 the County Executive, County Council, and the Board of Education have worked cooperatively to review alternatives to address this high school capacity. A plan that provides 3,800 seats by FY 2011 has been developed and is supported by each entity. The plan includes two high schools and three high school additions. The first high school, the Oxon Hill Replacement, will provide 2,300 seats, which includes 400 new seats. High School #2 will be located in Bowie and will provide an additional 1,800 seats. The high school additions will provide 1,600 seats (600 seats at DuVal High School, 400 seats at Parkdale High School and

600 seats at Potomac High School). Also, the addition projects include funding to make necessary modifications to ensure that there is a seamless flow between the current school building and the new wing. Further, the Parkdale and Potomac addition projects each include \$4.5 million of renovations to improve the condition of the schools. In the future, the County may build a third high school that will provide for additional seats depending on enrollment trends.

In light of this agreement and the timing of the proposed occupation of these new structures, it is critical that the State approve planning and funding for the High School Classroom Additions at Potomac, Parkdale, and DuVal. With regard to the first new high school, the County requests solely the planning approval by the State. Given the County's large funding request and the current status of the project, the County does not request any State funds for this project in FY 2007. However, we will seek significant State funds in FY 2008 for this project. Similarly, the County only requests the planning approval by the State for the Laurel High Auditorium/Annex project.

The Regional High School is set to open in August 2006, and the Board is requesting State funding of \$15.0 million for FY 2007. The County's endorsement is slightly different from the Board's request. During the FY 2006 budget process, the approved funding level for this project was reduced to \$78.5 million. A pending amendment to the FY 2006 Capital Budget will return the approved funding level back to \$85.5 million. This approved funding level is \$6.5 million short of the \$91.9 million that the Board has shown in its request. The Board will seek alternative funding for the remaining \$6.5 million. Therefore, the County has endorsed a request of \$4 million for this project. To date, the County has provided \$65.9 million for this project and has exceeded our full share of funding by \$22.7 million. A partial request for reimbursement of these funds is part of the Forward Funded Projects request.

Renovations/Systemic Replacements

Renovation and systemic replacements projects are our next highest priorities. Part of providing the best education for children in Prince George's County is to bestow a learning environment that will allow our children to grow and succeed as students. The State has long recognized the need to replace major building systems and components in our County because Prince George's has one of the oldest school inventories in the State.

In late FY 2005, the County provided \$6.1 million in funding as part of a down-payment on a 3-year, \$126 million systemic replacement plan with projects at three schools – Central High School, Glenridge Elementary School, and High Point High School. During FY2006, the County will spend approximately \$74.0 million on

various systemic replacement projects, including roofs, boilers, and chillers. The County has provided 93% of the funding for this project and will use \$5 million that was provided by the State in FY 2006. County funding sources include general obligation (GO) bonding supported by ten percent of telecommunication tax revenues that are dedicated to school construction and renovation (\$48.5 million), PAYGO Funds (\$15.0 million), FY 2006 Forward Funded State Funds (\$3.1 million) and GO Bonds (\$2.4 million).

In FY 2007, the County endorses a systemic replacement plan of \$28.5 million to be supported by \$19.9 million of State funds. Attachment 2 contains a prioritized list of the systemic projects that will be completed in FY 2007.

The County also endorses the Board's \$2.1 million request for science classroom renovation projects at Suitland High School and High Point High School. Similarly, the County endorses the Board's \$3.7 million request for renovations at Adelphi Elementary School, \$2.2 million for open space pod conversions at Marlton Elementary School and Oakcrest Elementary School.

Elementary Schools

We currently have only one elementary school for which we have requested State construction funding—Laurel-Beltsville Elementary School. This school is the 22nd school in the County's 26-school program to meet the provisions the Memorandum of Understanding and reestablish a neighborhood school program. The Laurel-Beltsville Elementary School will open in August 2008, and is needed to relieve overcrowding in area schools. The County supports the Board's \$6.3 million request for funding in FY 2007.

Forward Funding

Since FY 2003, the County has provided the majority of the funding for our school construction program. During this period, the State contributed \$70.8 million to Prince George's County while the County Government has spent over \$269.7 million on our school construction program. The result of inadequate State funding is that the County has paid both the local share and part of the State formula-driven share for school construction. The chart below summarizes the forward funding provided by the County:

PROJECT NAME	TOTAL FORWARD FUNDED
Regional High School	\$11,000,000
West Hyattsville ES	\$5,384,000
Bowie Area ES	\$3,077,000

Bladensburg HS	\$4,823,000
Port Towns ES	\$1,124,000
Panorama ES	\$2,163,000
M.H. "Mother" Jones ES	\$3,848,000
Lake Arbor ES	\$3,160,000
Suitland ES	\$2,086,000
Dodge Park ES	\$1,526,000
Oxon Hill High Gym	\$1,016,000
Total	\$39,207,000

As such, we endorse the Board's request for the reimbursement of the \$28.0 million plus an additional \$11 million for partial forward funding related to the Regional High School.

We understand that you have a very difficult task the next few months in balancing all of the millions of dollars in requests with available funds. However, we urge the State to provide at least \$250 million in State funds for school construction in FY 2007. Prince George's County appreciates your efforts in the past, and we challenge you to allocate sufficient State resources to us in FY 2007 and beyond. The County stands prepared to provide significant local resources for school facilities. We are hopeful that the State will join us at the table as equal partners.

If you have any questions, please contact members of our staff. We appreciate your past support and look forward to working with the State again this year to ensure that our school construction needs will be met.

Sincerely,

JACK B. JOHNSON
County Executive

Samuel Dean, Chairman
Prince George's County Council

Attachments

cc: Members, Prince George's County House and Senate Delegations
Members, Prince George's County Council
Dr. Beatrice P. Tignor, Chair, Board of Education
Members, Board of Education
Dr. Howard A. Burnett, Interim Chief Executive Officer, Board of Education
Dr. Jacqueline F. Brown, Chief Administrative Officer

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Iris B. Boswell, Esquire, DCAO for Budget, Finance and Administration
Craig Price, Council Administrator
Adrian Howell, Legislative Liaison to the County Council
Robert Kuntz, Director, Planning and Architectural Services
Thomas Himler, Director, Office of Management and Budget