

**NORTHEAST AREA EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL
COMMUNITY MEETING
FEBRUARY 1, 2006**

Walter Hayes, the chairman of the Northeast Area Educational Advisory Council, opened the meeting at 7 p.m. at McCormick Elementary School. The following members of the council were present: Ron Zimmerman, vice-chairman; David Marks, secretary; and Bart Manguno and Justin Wandres. The following school officials were present: Cathy Gantz from the office of the Area Assistant Superintendent; Kevin Lindsey, principal at McCormick Elementary School; Sherri Backoff, principal at Rosedale Center; Marilyn Audlin, principal at Shady Spring Elementary School; Nancy Klein, assistant principal at Shady Spring Elementary School; Victoria Layman, principal at Joppa View Elementary School; Amy Grabner, principal at Essex Elementary School; and Jay Ward, principal at Stemmers Run Elementary School. Walter Hayes noted that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss school overcrowding, and that the guest speaker was County Councilman Joseph Bartenfelder.

David Marks summarized two recent community meetings in which school overcrowding was discussed. At the January meeting of the Perry Hall Improvement Association, Board of Education President Thomas Grzyski noted that the school system is actively looking for land for a new high school, and that the budget includes \$3 million for land acquisition. At the recent Community Roundtable, Baltimore County Executive James T. Smith, Jr., indicated that enrollment statistics do not support a new high school and that he believed these statistics would make it unlikely to acquire state funding.

County Councilman Bartenfelder spoke about his perspective on school overcrowding. He completely supports the construction of a new high school, both to accommodate current student enrollment and to plan for future growth in White Marsh. He noted that his legislation to enact a tougher adequate facilities law had been blocked earlier, but that he was still pursuing strategies to reduce overcrowding and eventually get a new school built.

Board of Education member Fran Harris echoed her support for a new school, but she noted that the school construction process is very difficult and complicated. In response to questions from the audience, she pledged to look into the problem of drainage at Middlesex Elementary School.

More than 30 parents from the Chapel Hill Elementary School PTA attended the meeting to express support for both a new high school and the construction of Vincent Farm Elementary School. Walter Hayes promised to pass along the contact information for state and county officials so they could directly express their support.

The meeting adjourned at 8:44 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

David Marks, Secretary