

**Northwest Area Education Council Report
Capital Pre-Budget Hearing**

April 17, 2007

The North West Advisory Council met on Tuesday, April 17, 2007 to hear testimony from the public. This is the second year of these hearings and we had four people testifying.

Three of the four people spoke on behalf of Owings Mills High School athletics. They are very concerned with their fields and specifically the track and lack of fencing for their games. The track is in such deplorable condition that they cannot hold home meets because the track is not up to code. There is no fence to keep charge of the crowds at games so anyone has access to the field and surrounding areas. This is a cause for concern about safety of our athletes and students attending the games. These items have been put in the capital budget and it is our recommendation that they are indeed funded.

The second request comes from Randallstown Elementary School. They have the wiring and duct work for air conditioning but not the chiller. They would like to see a chiller put in the budget for their school because the second story of the school in particular gets very hot. We are aware that there are other schools with this same issue just awaiting a chiller. We would encourage the Board to try and fund these units as soon as possible as money comes available in future capital budgets. The quality of learning is impacted by these adverse conditions for our schools.

We have reported in the past our concerns with the communications with the community and the need for a more far reaching way of getting our meeting dates and topics out to the public. We would like to be able to contact community groups using US Mail and emails. To start we would need the postage, envelopes, etc. to make this a possibility. We do have lists of organizations and contacts in our area. We would like to make sure that we can make this a reality during the next school year. To that end we are asking for the funding for this venture. The entire cost at most should be \$2000. That figure would be decreased substantially as we get viable emails from the organizations and would no longer need postage and paper. We are hoping to send an initial mailing for our first meeting in the fall and progressively send out less and less postal mail and more and more email to keep our community informed. As your eyes and ears in our community, we want to get the best possible input for you. We hope you can fund our request.

Respectfully submitted,
Abby Beytin, Chair North West Advisory Council and
The entire North West Advisory Council