

BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

DATE: April 5, 2011

TO: **BOARD OF EDUCATION**

FROM: Dr. Joe Hairston, Superintendent

SUBJECT: **CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF AN OUTDOOR CLASSROOM AREA AT REISTERSTOWN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

ORIGINATOR: Verletta White, Assistant Superintendent, Elementary Schools – Zone 3

RESOURCE PERSON(S): Barbara Shields, Principal, Reisterstown Elementary School

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board of Education approves the construction of an outdoor classroom area at Reisterstown Elementary School.

Reisterstown Elementary School is proposing that the construction of an outdoor classroom area be approved. The proposed classroom area is 35' wide x 15' deep – with a 4' path leading from the sidewalk to the classroom area.

The outdoor classroom at Reisterstown Elementary School is being erected with monies raised by the Pikesville Eagle Scout Troop.

The construction of the classroom area will serve as the outdoor project requirement for the Maryland Green School application for the 2010-11 school year and will provide students with authentic instructional opportunities, particularly in the area of environmental science. The construction of the outdoor classroom is directly aligned with Baltimore County Public Schools *Blueprint for Progress* - Performance Goal 6, Indicator 6.3 and Key Strategies a and h.

The construction of the outdoor classroom will engage parents/guardians, business, and community members in the educational process. Additionally, this project is aligned with the mission of the BCPS PreK-12 Outdoor Science Education Program which is to enhance overall achievement in science subjects while fostering a deeper understanding of environmental concepts for local and global environmental stewardship by providing engaging, authentic and hands-on field study experiences that are aligned with the Maryland State Curriculum and are an integral part of the BCPS Essential Curriculum.

Participation in activities in the outdoor classroom will be logged and monitored by the school administration, teachers, and staff. One means of evaluating the enhancement to the science curriculum will be the use of formative science assessments. Administrators, teachers, and staff will be monitoring all school and community events in the outdoor classroom to allow for the most effective use of this designated space.