

Southeast Area Educational Advisory Council
Pre-Capital Budget April 16, 2012
Minutes

Meeting called to order: 7:15 PM

Advisory Council Members: Jackie Brewster, Bonnie Saul, & Sandra Skordalos

Attendees: Joyce Cummings (Colgate Assistant Principal), Carolyn Drzewiecki (Colgate PTA), MaDonna Kahl (Colgate PTA), Dana Krug (Colgate Teacher), CD Saia (Colgate PTA), & George Sarris (Director Budget & Reporting)

Speakers:

Wendy Piniecki (Colgate ES PTA Treasurer)

Colgate ES has two areas of need: classroom lighting and a ramp for the first floor hallway at stairwell number two on the exterior part of the building.

Mr. Kevin Connelly (Colgate Principal)

Mr. Connelly gave some of the history of Colgate ES. The original building was opened in 1924 to educate factory workers children. In 1965 an addition was made to the building which included the library, additional classrooms and a cafeteria. They are in a very unique building and it would be interesting to return to tour their facility. Their building cannot be adapted to meet wheelchair accessibility, so they have a partnership with Eastwood ES. Eastwood takes any wheelchair bound Colgate zoned students and in return Colgate takes some of the Eastwood students. The principal is very proud of his students. They have moved from tier one to tier two while having 83% free and reduced lunch and made AYP. He is very appreciative of the repairs and maintenance of his school. He also gave us some history of the community and the houses in their neighborhood

Amy Taylor (Charlesmont ES PTA Secretary)

Today is a perfect day to show why every school should be air conditioned. At Charlesmont ES our building sits beside a creek and even when you can open the windows the 4-5" that they open; you get the smell of the stagnant water in the building. All BCPS schools should have air conditioning. It is not fair to have students work under these conditions. There are so many students who have allergies and breathing problems.

Jackie Brewster (Patapsco HS & CFA PTSA Secretary)

- Ceiling mounted projectors and Promethean boards or similar equipment in all our classrooms. Technology is ever changing and a separate budget account needs to be added to all schools for maintenance and upgrades to all buildings. The type of technology is vastly different between schools. It is unfair for one school to be state of the art while at other schools teachers need to share equipment.
- New seating, sound system and curtains for our auditorium
- New serving lines for our cafeteria
- Plumbing replaced, so we have clean water in our building
- Lights and stands for our athletic fields because we cannot charge admission as other high schools can do
- Air conditioning throughout our building."

I have heard that our parking lot is scheduled to be resurfaced over the summer, so thank you very much.

I heard that there will be some upgrades done to the auditorium, but I do not believe that it includes a full sound system upgrade or seating.

Jackie Brewster (Speaking on behalf of Stacy Baker of Dundalk MS)

“I will tell you Mr. Barish our principal is requesting the rear parking lot to be resurfaced. After speaking with the head custodian Mike, I found out that the list is a little longer.

Mike said we are in need of new pavement to the Main Entrance of the building as the water is pooling in front of the doors when it rains. Mike also informed me that after some lights were taken out in the awning over the main entrance the holes were never patched and birds are now nesting and that is definitely how the water is getting to the main entrance.

Mike also requests to be heard on possibly repaving or surfacing the teacher parking lot and also getting a light or lamp post on that lot as it is very dark in the winter months. I myself can vouch for that as coming out in the dark after board meetings in the evening is a little scary.

Lastly, Mike said the sidewalks could use a little attention as they are becoming hazardous.

I thank you in advance if you could kindly submit these requests to the committee on behalf of myself and DMS.”

Thank you

Stacy Baker

PTSA President for Dundalk Middle School

Jackie Brewster (Battle Monument)

Battle Monument is in need of more parking spaces. I am not sure if their parking lot can be expanded, but their staff is forced to park all along the East/ West Collingham Drive. This also creates a problem for cars exiting Charlesmont Elementary School’s side parking lot. It is very difficult to see cars coming down the street.

Advisory Council Discussion:

We discussed the list of the next 10 schools slated to get air conditioning in the future. The schools are: Catonsville ES, Fort Garrison ES, Sudbrook MS, Timonium ES, Franklin ES, Hebbville ES, Woodmoor ES, Middleborough ES, Middlesex ES and Sussex ES. It is very unfortunate that BCPS had a plan to air condition buildings in a certain order based on the ease of adding air conditioning and the cost. Unfortunately, it appears that a school that has never attended a meeting of this advisory council or the board of education (even when the meeting occurred at their school) will be receiving air conditioning. We are curious where they were listed on the original list. This list should be a matter of public record and available for all concerned parents to view. It appears as though one should not waste ones time going through appropriate channels and just go to Mr. Peter Franchot’s office to have air conditioned added to their building. Baltimore County chose the schools

not BCPS. The air conditioning will be part of a bond item on the November elections.

We would also like the list of the high schools that need to be renovated and the order that they are listed for renovation. If there is a schedule for those renovations, then that should be available for public review as well. A concern was raised over whether air conditioning these additional schools will push back the schedule of renovating our high schools. Our high schools are in desperate need of repair. Many of our high schools including Patapsco HS are operating with poor water quality, inefficient electrical wiring, outdated classrooms, etc. Although everyone would love to see all building air conditioned, it is imperative that basic needs are addressed first.

It was discussed that 4% of the BCPS operating budget is for magnet schools. How does one put a higher value on one student's education over another student's?

It was asked how the company that was hired by the Board of Education came up with a candidate for Superintendent that did not meet the basic qualifications. Was the pool of candidates that small?

We appreciate the attendance of Mr. Sarris. We welcome board members to attend any of our meetings.

Special thanks to Mr. Connelly, Ms. Cummings and the PTA of Colgate ES for welcoming us to their school and hosting our meeting.

Meeting adjourned: 8:08PM