

BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

DATE: July 10, 2012

TO: **BOARD OF EDUCATION**

FROM: S. Dallas Dance, Ph. D., Superintendent

SUBJECT: **CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED INSTALLATION OF NEW PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT AT WESTCHESTER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

ORIGINATOR: Ms. Verletta White, Assistant Superintendent, Elementary Zone 3

RESOURCE PERSON(S): Marguerite DeCrispino, Principal, Westchester Elementary School

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board of Education approves the installation of new playground equipment at Westchester Elementary School.

In accordance with Superintendent's Rule #7330, Westchester Elementary School is proposing the installation of playground equipment at the school be approved.

The playground equipment at Westchester Elementary School is being purchased with donations from parents, friends, and families of the Catonsville community. All donations were given freely to the Playground Improvement Fund.

Westchester Elementary School opened in 1998, and had a designated playground. In 2003, Baltimore County Department of Recreation and Parks worked with BCPS facilities to install six play items. In 2011, only one of those items remains standing.

The benefits of free play are important for children to reach important social, emotional, and intellectual milestones. Having a safe, engaging playground is beneficial to the social development and interactions of students and community members alike.