

## **MCCPTA Capital Improvement Program Committee Report**

March 2007

The CIP committee is watching the budget proceedings in both the state and the local governments. Shortfalls and increased costs in both the operating and the capital budgets may affect even planned construction projects if there just isn't enough money. Continue to write/call/meet with state legislators and encourage them to support education by funding the school construction needs throughout the state and in Montgomery County AND fully funding our operating budget including Thornton money.

Locally, the County Executive's recommended budgets leave gaps on what the Superintendent and BOE have requested. The County Council must now reconcile the budgets and we need to make sure they see and hear parents on behalf of the school children of Montgomery County. They have agreed to separate operating and capital budget testimony (Operating testimony will be on April 9, 10, 11 and 16 and capital budget testimony in early May) but the four days of operating and timing will mean that an increased presence by parents is critical.

The common theme should be full funding for our children. More on capital budget testimony as we see the state situation and finalize a testimony date.

Additionally, we did a little research on the motion before the DA regarding site coordinators for school construction projects at the elementary level and while we support getting appropriate support for schools during their entire project process (from planning to final sign off on the construction) we have several concerns with adding a site coordinator as currently recommended:

- that funding for this position does not reduce the furniture budget or the scope of the project
- that there be criteria developed for the job description and hiring of the site coordinator to ensure designated accountability and appropriate expertise
- that there be criteria developed for when a site coordinator is needed (currently only at the secondary level for modernizations, the rest of the time the MCPS project manager works with the principal, school community and architects and contractors)