

**JOINT BOARD OF EDUCATION / BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OF CARROLL COUNTY MEETING
COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING, COMMISSIONER'S MEETING ROOM
WESTMINSTER, MARYLAND
APPROVED MINUTES – APRIL 23, 2008 AT 1:00 P.M.**

Attendance

CCPS Board Members:

Cindy Foley, President

Virginia R. Harrison

Barbara Shreeve, Vice President

Charles Ecker, Superintendent

County Commissioners:

Julia Gouge

Dean Minnich

Michael Zimmer

At 1:00 p.m., Board of Commissioners President Julia Gouge welcomed everyone to the April 23rd joint meeting between the County Commissioners and the Board of Education.

Commissioner Gouge requested an update on the core borings and excavation of rock at the Manchester Valley High School construction site. Ray Prokop, Director of Facilities for the school system, noted that the recent request for approval of a change order for rock removal was for trench rock. Removal of trench rock is for utilities and a different issue than the rock identified through core borings. Our bid process is designed so that we only pay for the rock that is removed. Construction projects have built-in funds for contingencies. Mr. Prokop noted that the identification of additional rock, as the project moves forward, is possible. Currently, the project is on schedule.

**MANCHESTER VALLEY HIGH
SCHOOL**

Commissioner Gouge asked about the design of Ebb Valley Elementary School and what was behind this particular choice. Mr. Prokop stated that the architect took into consideration the surrounding land and designed a building with a rural area feel like the area where it is located. It is a geothermal building and includes several non-typical school building construction materials in the use of vertical siding and roofing materials.

**EBB VALLEY ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL**

Mr. Prokop stated that the scope study currently under way is the result of the Commissioners' request at the last joint meeting. This scope study is being conducted to determine whether Mt. Airy Middle and Sykesville Middle schools can have additions or whether a new middle school is necessary. Mr. Prokop noted that a feasibility study would be the next step if a modernization is indicated. Commissioner Zimmer asked about the suitability of the current core facilities if an addition was recommended. Dr. Ecker noted that both of these schools were built at a time when the capacity was much larger than it is now. They were built as high schools and offered a much larger capacity.

**SOUTH CARROLL AREA MIDDLE
SCHOOLS**

Dr. Ecker stated for clarification that the Board of Education and the school system have never considered moving Mt. Airy Middle School out of the Town of Mt. Airy as was reported on a recent local cable television show. When the need for an additional elementary school in the area was identified, sites on the edge of town were considered for what is now Parr's Ridge Elementary.

The Board of Commissioners received the Carroll County Public Schools Education Facilities Master Plan 2008-2017 at this meeting.

**EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES
MASTER PLAN 2008-2017**

The Report on Physical and Functional Assessment of Schools Constructed Prior to 1980 was distributed to the Commissioners. Appropriate instructional personnel analyzed each of the identified schools. Instructional personnel utilized a scoring system to rate the physical and functional state of each school. Schools received a score that was used to line up the schools in the area of need. This report is the basis for the Educational Facilities Master Plan. Some schools moved up and others moved back as the result of this assessment. This is the first time a physical and functional assessment of schools has been conducted for Carroll County Public Schools.

**REPORT ON PHYSICAL AND
FUNCTIONAL ASSESSMENT OF
SCHOOLS CONSTRUCTED PRIOR
TO 1980**

Mrs. Foley noted that the Carroll County Career and Technology Center was not part of the recent assessment. The school system is asking for planning money in FY2010

for a new Career and Technology Center. A new facility is projected to cost upwards of \$80 million. Commissioner Zimmer requested information on possible state participation. Mrs. Foley reiterated her strong support for career and technology education for our high school students. The Commissioners agreed that economic development in the county requires workers able to step right into the jobs that service and manufacturing businesses will bring to the county.

**CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY
CENTER**

Dr. Ecker respectively requested that the Board of Commissioners provide a bottom line budget figure and allow the Board of Education to determine budget fund category balances.

FY09 OPERATING BUDGET

Dr. Ecker asked for an update on the change in the way the sports fields in the county are reserved. After complaints, it was noted that organizations were reserving fields for blocks of days/times and often there were no games scheduled for part of that scheduled time. This practice kept other teams from utilizing the fields for other sports teams. Jeff Degitz, Director of the Department of Recreation and Parks for County Government, explained the new field scheduling policy that started in the fall in the following four communities: Deer Park, Westminster, Charles Carroll, and North Carroll. Permits and site visitations were started in the fall and good information is coming in to county staff. They are finding that more field use time is being requested than is actually being utilized. Of concern is priority status groups taking advantage of their priority status and overbooking fields. After a complete year's cycle, the new policy will be evaluated and changes will be made as problem areas are identified. Starting this summer, four new areas of the county will start using the new field scheduling policy.

**RECREATION FIELDS USE
AND MAINTENANCE**

Mr. Prokop noted sports fields mowing at schools is done on a rotation schedule that includes all of our school sites. This makes it difficult for sports fields to be mowed just prior to playing time. Sports fields that are in demand often require maintenance and mowing by volunteers.

Steve Horn, Planning Director for County Government, told Board of Education members that the proposed changes to Progress Way and the impact to Liberty High School playing fields has been postponed for further consideration. After much planning and identification of the many road improvements needed in that area of the county and the cost associated with those improvements, it was decided to not implement these plans at the present time. There is a comprehensive review of the county transportation system that will take place in the next couple of years. This review will give people time to look at this area in total and not just the Liberty High School area.

**PROGRESS WAY / LIBERTY
HIGH SCHOOL**

Cynthia L. Foley, President

Charles I. Ecker, Treasurer