



MARTIN O'MALLEY  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MARYLAND  
**PUBLIC SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM**

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INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION

DAVID G. LEVER  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
NANCY S. GRASMICK  
CHAIRPERSON

March 4, 2009

The Honorable Barry Glassman  
Miller Senate Office Building, Room 401  
11 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Harford County Public Schools: Status of Red Pump Elementary School and Campus Hills Elementary School

Dear Senator Glassman:

You have requested an update on the status of the site and IAC recommendations for two projects submitted by Harford County Public Schools in the FY 2010 Capital Improvement Program, Red Pump Elementary School (former Vale Road Elementary) and Campus Hills Elementary School (named as the Schuck's Road Elementary in the CIP). Please find below summaries of our current evaluation of these two projects.

**Red Pump Elementary School (former Vale Road Elementary)**

When the Interagency Committee on School Construction (IAC) approved the site for the Red Pump Elementary School on November 16, 2007, it indicated that site approval was conditional on connection of the school to a public sewer system by December 2010. It was understood by the IAC that the area to be served by the new elementary school is currently closed to new development due to the County's Adequate Public Facility Ordinance (APFO), and that the capacity of the new school would open the area for residential development. A new pumping station is needed to provide public sewer service to the new school. However, the County has a policy of not building pumping stations, instead requiring developers to provide them when needed to serve new development. These policies generated a dilemma, in that neither the new school nor the new residential development could proceed since each was dependent on the prior presence of the other. The proposed solution was to construct a temporary onsite sewage disposal facility at a cost of \$1.5 million so that the school could open on schedule, and to then connect the school to the public sewer once it was built by the developer and placed in service. Harford County Public Schools provided assurances that the pumping station and public sewage system would be available to the school no later than the end of 2010 or the beginning of 2011.

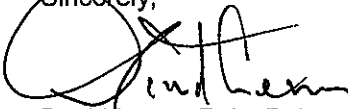
The State has policies to target new growth to Priority Funding Areas (PFAs) served by public water and sewer service and to protect the State's water quality and natural resources. It was only with the assurance that the sewer would be complete by December 2010 that the IAC recommended approval of the site. This condition was placed on the site approval to ensure that public sewer service would be provided to the school in a timely fashion and that once the school opened it would not continue to be served by septic indefinitely.

Because of the decline in the housing market, it now appears certain that the developer will not provide the permanent sewer service by December 2010. Given the great uncertainties in executing the sewer connection, no extension of the December 2010 deadline is warranted. Even if the project were funded by the County today, the time required for design and construction would extend well past December 2010. Consequently, although the project was approved for planning by the Board of Public Works in the FY 2009 CIP based on then-current enrollment projections and the conditional site approval, the request for funding is not currently considered eligible for approval, pending resolution of the sewer connection issue.

**Campus Hills Elementary (named as Schuck's Road Elementary)**

This project is currently eligible for both planning approval and funding approval in the FY 2010 CIP. The site was approved by the IAC on June 26, 2008, making it eligible for planning approval, and the project is eligible for funding based on the projected seven-year student enrollments and the anticipated date of bid. Schematic design documents were received by the Maryland State Department of Education Facilities Branch on February 6, 2009, and were approved by Dr. Nancy S. Grasmick on February 25, 2009. Because this is a repeat design based on a prototype, the review process can be accelerated and there is a very high level of assurance that State funds which may be approved in the FY 2010 CIP will be expended for the benefit of the project. However, due to statewide fiscal constraints, the project was not brought forward as a recommendation for either planning approval or funding approval at the recent meeting of the IAC on February 23, 2009. A recommendation by the IAC for planning or for planning/funding will depend on the statewide level of funding that is available for public school construction at the time of the next IAC meeting on April 23, 2009.

Please feel free to contact me at the telephone number above if you have further questions about the status of either project in the FY 2010 CIP.

Sincerely,  


David Lever, R.A., D.A.  
Executive Director, Maryland Public School Construction  
Program

cc: The Honorable David Craig, Harford County Executive  
The Honorable Billy Boniface, President, Harford County Council  
Dr. Nancy S. Grasmick, Chair, Interagency Committee on School Construction  
Mr. Alvin C. Collins, Member, Interagency Committee on School Construction  
Mr. Richard Hall, Member, Interagency Committee on School Construction  
Mr. Timothy Maloney, Member, Interagency Committee on School Construction  
Mr. Frederick Puddester, Member, Interagency Committee on School Construction  
Ms. Patricia L. Skebeck, Interim Superintendent of Schools  
Mr. Joseph Licata, Chief of Administration, HCPS  
Mr. Cornell Brown, Assistant Superintendent for Operations, HCPS  
Mr. Robert Cooper, Harford County Director of Public Works