

## **OVERVIEW OF THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM**

The Board of Education of Harford County is currently preparing its FY2009 -2016 Capital Improvements Priorities. The Board faces numerous challenges as it plans its capital program, among them are:

- Elementary Capacity – there is an immediate need for a new elementary school to help relieve the Prospect Mill, Hickory, Fountain Green, Forest Hill and Forest Lakes attendance areas. There is also a need for a second elementary school in that same region, and, a third elementary school in the next three to five years.
- BRAC – the real impact of BRAC has not yet been determined as it relates to the public schools because there are no definite figures as to how many people will actually relocate to Harford County. This is really a Harford County community issue as it will affect not only the public school system, but also housing in general, roads, transportation, and other resident services.
- Aging Schools – approximately 55% of our 51 schools are 30 years old or older. As the buildings age, the infrastructure and equipment required to operate the facilities on a daily basis becomes more of a challenge. These issues must be addressed in the capital program.
- Magnet Programs- the Board is considering the whole concept of magnet programs, their locations, and their affect on programs throughout the County. The expansion of Harford technical High School and its programs is contained within that discussion.
- John Archer School Relocation- This school is in need of a major modernization. There are complicating circumstances related to the configuration and program requirements of a specialty school such as this one. The State of Maryland has certain requirements that require that the building be placed in proximity to a secondary facility, making it likely that the school will be relocated. At the present time, consideration is being given to the Bel Air Middle School as a viable location.
- Site acquisition- The Board will continue to pursue various locations in the County for the acquisition of potential school sites. This is a cooperative effort between the Board of Education and the Harford County Government.

### **The Capital Schedule:**

The Board of Education will deliberate throughout the summer months regarding the development of the program. Ultimately the plan will be approved by the Board in September 2007. The plan will be submitted to the State in October 2007, and to the County in December 2007. Funding for elements of the plan will become available on July 1, 2008.