

December 2009

Please join EBCA on Wednesday, December 16 at 8:00 p.m. at the Lynnbrook Community Center on Newdale Drive to welcome our special guest, Montgomery County Public School (MCPS) official Mr. Bruce Crispell Director, Division of Long Range Planning.

Mr. Crispell will describe the potential impacts MCPS capital planning actions might have on our community, outline next steps for our community, and address questions concerning how East Bethesda elementary school transfers will be handled for the 2010-2011 year.

Student enrollment at elementary schools in the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Cluster has increased dramatically over the past two school years causing the cluster to be placed in a housing moratorium according to the county Growth Policy. To address the overutilization, housing moratorium, and articulation patterns of the cluster, a series of actions are recommended as part of the FY 2011–2016 Capital Improvements Program (CIP). These include:

- A boundary study to evaluate reassignment of the western portion of the Bethesda Elementary School service area (that articulates to the Walt Whitman cluster secondary schools). The boundary study will take place in winter 2009 for Board of Education in March 2010.
- Capacity studies for Bethesda, Chevy Chase, North Chevy Chase, and Rosemary Hills elementary schools will be completed by spring 2010 and will determine the maximum number of classrooms that can be added to each school.
- Following the completion of the capacity studies, a roundtable discussion group will be conducted in spring 2010 to address concerns regarding school overutilization, and the unique pairings and grade organization at Bethesda, Chevy Chase, North Chevy Chase, and Rosemary Hills elementary schools. Information developed from the capacity studies will be used to develop approaches to address space shortages and school articulation issues.
- Planning input received from this process will be considered when the superintendent makes recommendations in October 2010 as part of the Amendments to the FY 2011–2016 CIP.

It is suggested that you review the MCPS CIP prior to the meeting. It can be found on the home page of www.ebca.org and at the link below.

The FY 11 MCPS CIP has been released and is available online here:

http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/planning/CIPMaster_Current2.shtml

Click on Chapter 4: BCC Cluster pdf

Questions? Contact education@ebca.org.

