

MEMO

Date: February 3, 2014

To: The Albemarle County School Board &
Dr. Pam Moran, Superintendent

From: Long Range Planning Advisory Committee

Re: Oversight Committee's Recommendation

The Long Range Planning Advisory Committee (LRPAC) recently reviewed the Oversight Committee's (OC) recommendations for the FY15-FY19 CIP. In their recommendations, the School Board's top ten ranked projects are fully funded. These include all multi-year projects (the maintenance/replacement program, all technology projects, the school bus replacement program & the contemporary learning spaces project). We are grateful that the Board of Supervisors has consistently funded such projects. In addition to these projects the recommendations also include three larger capital projects:

1. School Security Improvements
2. Agnor-Hurt Addition
3. Henley Auxiliary Gym Addition (with a modified scope).

The LRPAC appreciates the OC's ongoing commitment to schools as reflected in these recommendations.

We do note, however, that the OC did not include many other projects requested by the School Board. The LRPAC would like to highlight the impact of not funding these requested capital projects.

- ***Red Hill Modernization***

An expansion of this school has been a part of the School's CIP request for over 20 years but has yet to be fully funded. While enrollment has decreased at this school, the school needs to be modernized. The LRPAC feels strongly that this project cannot continue to be ignored. As we wrote in our justification for the project, critical areas of the school are undersized (media center, gym, administration area) and classrooms need updating. We urge the School Board to continue its advocacy for this school and the need for this capital project. Parity projects are just as critical as projects that address overcrowding. Long delayed parity projects affect generations of students and cannot continue to be indefinitely postponed.

- ***Henley Media Center Renovation***

The original scope of the Henley project included the auxiliary gym addition & the renovation and expansion of the media center. The scope was reduced by the OC to include only the gym portion of the project. Per state standards, the media center is sized for 655 students whereas the school's current enrollment is 810. This under sizing of the media center is not a safety issue as is the case with the gymnasium but the LRPAC believes that expanding and renovating the media center remains a priority and should be included in this project.

- ***Other Modernization Projects (Western & Yancey)***

While the LRPAC understands the rationale for the lower priority given to modernization & parity projects, such projects cannot be delayed indefinitely without long term implications to building conditions and instructional programs that require updated spaces.

- ***Crozet Addition***

Current student enrollments and five year projections indicate the growth in the Western portion of the county is lower than was the case when this CIP was developed. It is highly likely that this addition will be needed in the future but not as soon as previously proposed.

- ***Western Albemarle Kitchen Renovation***

This project was prioritized to address safety & efficiency concerns in this kitchen. Absent approval of this project, the school system will have to continue in a piecemeal approach which means that existing unsafe and inefficient conditions will continue.

- ***Yancey Addition***

This school will continue to utilize trailers until an addition is built. Furthermore, investment in this project would support the recently appointed Citizen's Advisory Committee's recommended for an intergenerational learning center at Yancey.

- ***Stony Point Addition***

Absent a redistricting or an unexpected reduction in enrollment, the absence of an addition project will require that this school continue to utilize four trailers as full time classrooms.