

Dear School Board Members,

The teacher representatives on the Mt. Hebron School Renovation Committee do not support the Mt. Hebron renovation proposal that is being presented to you by Mr. Ken Roey on February 7th, 2008.

While the proposed plan includes much needed additional teaching support spaces, the proposed spending of a minimum of \$54 million will result in:

- A total net loss of three classrooms,
- Required permanent use of four portables.
- Four classrooms allocated for 11 World Language teachers.

The support spaces gained will not function as laid out in the plan but will, out of necessity, be used as classrooms for the ones that are lost. For instance, a tech lab will have to be converted into a classroom because there still won't be sufficient instructional space once the three-to-four year renovation is complete.

While it is customary for schools throughout the county to suffer from some disruption, the disruption that this plan requires is unprecedented. For example, the most expansive renovation to date at Howard High had nine portables.

Mt. Hebron will require 18 portables. Many of those portables will be a great distance from the current school and they will lack much needed restroom facilities. The only proposed alternative to the portables is a temporary modular system that will cost a minimum 1.6 million taxpayer dollars.

There are also numerous plumbing problems, mechanical problems and programmatic deficiencies that are being overlooked.

There is no plan addressing our 43-year old school's serious plumbing issues. There have been two plumbing incidents in the last month, one of which was not recorded in the AZRUS system. There is a long history of documented plumbing problems. The current plan adds five bathrooms to a system that cannot adequately handle current plumbing issues.

Initially the committee was told that a new HVAC system would be included in the renovation. Due to budgetary constraints this was discarded and replaced with an experimental combination of the 13 existing and aging systems. There is no historical precedent that would guarantee the success of the proposed system

Programmatic Deficiencies after completion of proposed renovation:

Guidance

- Career Center Shortage
- Office Size

Cafeteria

- Student Dining Area (there is no expansion of the student dining area)

Staff Lounge

- No Faculty Dining

Student Organization

- No School store
- No Student Organization Room

Professional Development

- No Seminar Room

Custodial

- No General storage

Art

- Sculpture/ Kiln (half size)

Home Economics

- No Food and Nutrition Lab
- No Child Development Lab

Mathematics

- Two rooms at 660sf (73% of Ed Spec Recommended Size)

Social Studies

- No seminar Room
- No Technology Resource Room

PE

- We are currently in need of a significant increase in athletic and PE storage. The plan actually decreases the storage for PE and athletics.

Although this plan will address some of our needs, a comprehensive plan to address all of our needs has not been developed or presented as an option to our committee by Ken Roey's team of architects and planners. We do not believe spending \$54 million to improve some areas while still neglecting numerous deficiencies is demonstrating good stewardship of taxpayer's money. At the Tuesday, January 8, 2008 meeting, Mr. Roey presented four options:

1. To leave the building in its current state
2. To leave the building as it is, modernizing it but not increasing square footage
3. Go forth with the proposed renovation plan
4. Build a new facility

We believe that Mt. Hebron has a unique set of problems unlike any other school in the county that requires a unique solution. The faculty and staff of Mount Hebron High School only want what is in the best interest of the future students of Mount Hebron, our community and the Howard County and State tax payers. If renovating the current facility will not solve the existing problems we ask that the school board think creatively in exploring additional long-term options.