

FY 2025-34 SCHOOL BOARD CIP QUESTIONS

cl#	QUESTION	DEPT.	RECEIVED	RESPONSE	DISTRIBUTED
1	On slides 32-34, does FN 2 need to be updated? It has the same text about the \$25M placeholder per year, but the slides appear to indicate \$50M per year. (MT)	Finance	5/13/2024	5/13/2024	5/17/2024
2	The line toward the bottom, in the secondary chart, that is titled Debt Service Ratio: minor, but the full title needs to be shown; substantively, what is the denominator used to calculate the ratio? I can back it out math-wise, but I don't know what the number is supposed to represent. For example, for FY 2025, 8.15% divided by \$46.18M equals \$566.63M. What does the \$566.63M represent? (MT)	Finance	5/13/2024	5/13/2024	5/17/2024
3	In the proposed budget, at page 33, there is an All Funds Expenditure Summary reflecting a proposed \$67.3M proposed debt service amount, which would be an increase of \$2.4M or 3.7%. If the proposed CIP figure of \$2.64 is used, should that proposed debt service amount be updated to \$67.54M? (MT)	Finance	5/13/2024	5/13/2024	5/17/2024
4	Can I get please the charts reflected at pp. 401-03 of the proposed budget updated to how they would look if the borrowing reflected in the proposed CIP were adopted? (MT)	Finance	5/13/2024	5/13/2024	5/17/2024
5	I would also like to know in the feasibility studies which schools would have been chosen if the three with asterisks are taken off the list (those that have had more recent roofing and HVAC work). Not for Thursday, but submitted as a CIP question for the running list from board members. (MK)	D&C/Facilities	5/13/2024	5/14/2024	5/17/2024

FY 2025-34 SCHOOL BOARD CIP QUESTIONS

cl#	QUESTION	DEPT.	RECEIVED	RESPONSE	DISTRIBUTED
6	Additionally, I'd point out that I don't believe the MPSA numbers should be as high as you've made them. I really don't think that prevailing wage adds 15% as the consultant study suggests, at least not in Northern VA. Since prevailing wage has not been adopted, I think it's appropriate for us to note that prevailing wage will add cost that is TBD, but we can note that studies done in adjacent localities have estimated that prevailing wage has added anywhere from 0-5% to total project costs. The 15% estimate that was done at the state level is more reflective of the added costs in other VA counties where labor was getting paid far less than prevailing wage rates, which is not the case in Northern VA... I think you've overshot the actual project costs for MPSA by quite a bit by including it, though I appreciate the reason why you wanted to do so. (MK)	D&C/Facilities	5/14/2024	5/14/2024	5/17/2024
7	At one point it was stated that once the Henry building was demolished, a geothermal field for the new ACC building could be installed. Approximately how much would that cost? Could that also serve MPSA in the legacy ACC building as well? (MK)	D&C	5/21/2024	5/22/2024	5/23/2024
8	How do we envision those who travel to the Grace Hopper Center from the parking garage will walk to the building from the garage—what will be their route? (MK)	D&C	5/21/2024	5/22/2024	5/23/2024
9	How many accessible parking spaces are we required to have for the Grace Hopper Center and how proximate must they be to the building? What is the plan for this? (MK)	D&C	5/21/2024	5/22/2024	5/23/2024
10	How does the size of the MPSA playground (the main playground at the back of the building) compare to the size of the playgrounds of other schools at the 700+ ES spec? (e.g., Cardinal, Fleet) in square footage? (MK)	D&C	5/21/2024	5/22/2024	5/23/2024
11	For MPSA, the new field adjacent to S. Highland St would be shared with students at the Grace Hopper Center, correct? (MK)	D&C	5/21/2024	5/22/2024	5/23/2024

FY 2025-34 SCHOOL BOARD CIP QUESTIONS

cl#	QUESTION	DEPT.	RECEIVED	RESPONSE	DISTRIBUTED
12	For MPSA it looks like in Option 3 there is a lot of unlabeled (unused?) space in the center of the second floor. Can you provide more info about that? (MK)	D&C	5/21/2024	5/22/2024	5/23/2024
13	Feasibility Studies: Can you confirm that a) these studies can be conducted concurrently, and b) that these will include information about costs associated with renewable energy options (e.g., solar, geothermal)? (MK)	D&C	5/21/2024	5/22/2024	5/23/2024

FY 2025-34 SCHOOL BOARD CIP QUESTIONS

cl#	QUESTION	DEPT.	RECEIVED	RESPONSE	DISTRIBUTED
14	<p>According to the FCA, how many of our buildings will need some form of major infrastructure system replacement within the next 10 years (within the span of this CIP) according to the assessment conducted and the system's Remaining Useful Life?</p> <p>(When I look at the report, I see the following systems/items that are listed in Red, though I also see that some other things that were Yellow were prioritized for this CIP (e.g., HVAC at Hoffman Boston):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Williamsburg: Roof 2. Taylor: Food Service 3. Randolph: Floors 4. Long Branch: Roof 5. Jefferson: Roof 6. Jamestown: Central Plant Heating, Water Heaters, Ceilings 7. Innovation: Roof 8. Gunston: Walls, Floors, Ceilings, Roof 9. Glebe: Elevators 10. Hamm: Roof 11. Planetarium: Roof 12. Claremont: Exterior Doors, Roof 13. Campbell: Roof 14. Ashlawn: Roof 15. Science Focus: Roof <p>If we were to total up all the major infrastructure projects that we would need to do according to acute need of repair and RUL over the ten-year span of this CIP, how many projects would that total? (I understand there is no way we will be able to afford to do all of them—I am just trying to get a sense of how many of our buildings would be in that queue.)</p> <p>(MK)</p>	Facilities	5/21/2024	5/23/2024	5/23/2024

FY 2025-34 SCHOOL BOARD CIP QUESTIONS

cl#	QUESTION	DEPT.	RECEIVED	RESPONSE	DISTRIBUTED
15	Then in response to #14: How many of those buildings and major infrastructure projects are we able to address in this CIP, through a combination of naming them as major infrastructure projects or putting them on the list for the 3-5 feasibility studies, where presumably the major infrastructure components would also be addressed (am I correct in assuming that)? (MK)	Facilities	5/21/2024	5/22/2024	5/23/2024
16	Trade Center Optimization: “Adequate Parking for Staff” has been a bone of contention for a while for our Transportation team. Does this mean that our bus drivers and bus attendants will be able to park on-site? (MK)	D&C	5/21/2024	5/22/2024	5/23/2024
17	Trade Center Optimization: When will we have an actual dollar figure for this? My understanding is that we’re doing a study together with the County—is that correct? When would actual changes be made to the site? (MK)	D&C	5/21/2024	5/22/2024	5/23/2024
18	If APS were to close an elementary school at some point in the future, what annual cost savings would we expect to realize? (We could assume that a good number of the staff would be needed at other schools where students were rezoned, but we could expect to see savings in other areas, including administration, transportation, utilities, equipment, maintenance, etc.) (MK)	Facilities/ Finance	5/21/2024		
19	Debt Service: Let’s say that instead of increasing the debt service, I wanted to cut our annual debt service payment by at least \$10M by 2027. Is that possible, and how would we do that? (MK)	Finance	5/21/2024	5/21/2024	5/23/2024

FY 2025-34 SCHOOL BOARD CIP QUESTIONS

cl#	QUESTION	DEPT.	RECEIVED	RESPONSE	DISTRIBUTED
20	Can I get please the charts reflected at pp. 401-03 of the proposed budget updated to how they would look if the borrowing reflected in the proposed CIP were adopted? Assuming annual 2.5% increases, and using the debt service ratios reflected in the CIP Assuming annual 2.5% increases, and using the debt service ratios reflected in the CIP. In other words, comparing to the debt service chart in the super's proposed budget, it looks to me that our debt load would remain essentially the same from 2025 through 2026, go up \$1M in 2027, then go up \$6M in 2028 and \$10M+ in the years after that. Am I interpreting this correctly? (MT)	Finance	5/23/2024	5/23/2024	5/23/2024
21	Could I please get information about expected delivery date for Options 2 and 3 for MPSA actually moving into the legacy ACC building? (MK)	D&C	5/23/2024	5/23/2024	5/23/2024

FY 2025-34 SCHOOL BOARD CIP QUESTIONS

22	<p>For our CIP work, it would be really helpful to me to understand what staff members are seeing when they talk about vacating the MPSA wait list as a way to address capacity issues in some of our S Arlington schools. I may be missing something, but here's what I see when I look at wait lists for ES option programs:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. MPSA: 332 b. ATS: 647 c. Campbell: 233 d. Claremont: 130 e. Escuela Key: 132 <p>Then I look at data about which neighborhood schools each option program draws from (supplied last summer to us by P&E) and I look at the percentage of each school's <i>current</i> enrollment that is drawn from neighborhood schools that are over capacity. I see this:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MPSA: 45% of current enrollment drawn from schools over capacity • ATS: 52% • Campbell: 80% • Claremont: 77% • Escuela Key: 28% <p>And I think, "Wow. The two option programs that are really doing the heavy labor of acting as the pressure release valve for neighborhood school capacity right now are Campbell and Claremont."</p> <p>If we add seats at MPSA, I acknowledge that provides *some* relief, but not as much as it would if we were expanding the capacity of the Campbell or Claremont option programs, which proportionately shoulder more of the capacity-relieving burden. (Or if we adjust boundaries across all our elementary schools so that we redistribute students, since we know we have plenty of ES capacity across our county, which is not 200 square miles.)</p> <p>(Generally, I am not a fan of expanding option programs simply because they</p>	Intake Center/F&O	6/3/2024	6/5/2024	6/7/2024
----	---	----------------------	----------	----------	----------

FY 2025-34 SCHOOL BOARD CIP QUESTIONS

cl#	QUESTION	DEPT.	RECEIVED	RESPONSE	DISTRIBUTED
	have a wait list. I would expand an option program if it had a wait list AND it demonstrated compelling evidence of doing something really successful, however we wanted to define success. If we used wait list alone as the criterion, we would have added at least one more HB Woodlawn site by now, since it has a current wait list of about 1,000 across grades 6-12.) I should have clarified that the wait list numbers I referenced are only K-5 (there are separate data for PreK). (MK)				
23	I'd be interested to understand how much of the wait list is for primary Montessori spots. I didn't look myself at the data Mary did, so it may be that the transfer report is only K-5. But, if it's not, then some portion of the WL is arguably attributable to the demand for high-quality preschool (which MPSA absolutely is). (MT)	Intake Center/F&O	6/3/2024	6/5/2024	6/7/2024

FY 2025-34 SCHOOL BOARD CIP QUESTIONS

cl#	QUESTION	DEPT.	RECEIVED	RESPONSE	DISTRIBUTED
24	<p><i>I wanted to follow up to provide some additional context to my remarks last night. When I bring up school moves, closing schools, repurposing schools, etc. etc.—by whatever name we want to call it—it is because I recognize it as a tool that we, like probably every other school board and school division, may have to deploy in certain circumstances.</i></p> <p><i>A critical question is, “In what circumstances would we choose to explore or exercise that option?” I would argue that when our operating budget is seriously constrained, when we know that we have many facilities that need significant attention, and when we have excess capacity, it is a time when we should be preparing to explore that option in a careful and responsible manner.</i></p> <p>As someone whose APS neighborhood school was closed/repurposed, I could easily be the school board member who says, “Absolutely not. Never again.” Instead, I am the person saying, “Hey, we as a community need to talk about this.” I went through it as a parent in that community, and I went through it twice as a student (long ago) in Fairfax County. There should be no reason why I, personally, want to bring this up, but I feel like it’s the responsible thing to do. If I can bring that personal experience to be helpful in this difficult community conversation, I want to do so.</p> <p>In the same way our capital planning has to reckon with capacity shortages, it should reckon with excesses as well. (MK)</p>	Planning/ D & C/ F & O	6/6/2024	6/6/2024	

MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 5, 2024

TO: Members of the School Board

THROUGH: Dr. Francisco Durán, Superintendent

FROM: Reneé Harber, Assistant Superintendent, Facilities and Operations

CIP QUESTION: For our CIP work, it would be really helpful to me to understand what staff members are seeing when they talk about vacating the MPSA wait list as a way to address capacity issues in some of our S Arlington schools. I may be missing something, but here's what I see when I look at wait lists for ES option programs:

- a. MPSA: 332
- b. ATS: 647
- c. Campbell: 233
- d. Claremont: 130
- e. Escuela Key: 132

Then I look at data about which neighborhood schools each option program draws from (supplied last summer to us by P&E) and I look at the percentage of each school's *current* enrollment that is drawn from neighborhood schools that are over capacity. I see this:

- MPSA: 45% of current enrollment drawn from schools over capacity
- ATS: 52%
- Campbell: 80%
- Claremont: 77%
- Escuela Key: 28%

And I think, "Wow. The two option programs that are really doing the heavy labor of acting as the pressure release valve for neighborhood school capacity right now are Campbell and Claremont."

If we add seats at MPSA, I acknowledge that provides **some** relief, but not as much as it would if we were expanding the capacity of the Campbell or Claremont option programs, which proportionately shoulder more of the capacity-relieving burden. (Or if we adjust boundaries across all our elementary schools so that we redistribute students, since we know we have plenty of ES capacity across our county, which is not 200 square miles.)

(Generally, I am not a fan of expanding option programs simply because they have a wait list. I would expand an option program if it had a wait list AND it demonstrated compelling evidence of doing something really successful, however we wanted to define success. If we used wait list alone as the criterion, we would have added at least one more HB Woodlawn site by now, since it has a current wait list of about 1,000 across grades 6-12.) I should have clarified that the wait list numbers I referenced are only K-5 (there are separate data for PreK). (MK)

RESPONSE:

Elementary option schools do provide some relief to neighborhood schools experiencing capacity issues. The table below shows the percentage of each option school’s SY2023-24 enrollment that is drawn from neighborhood schools that were overcapacity at the beginning of the school year. Overcapacity is defined as a capacity utilization of greater than 99%. This school year’s enrollment data show that neighborhood schools near option schools seem to draw the most students except for ATS. Students applying to elementary option schools from neighborhood schools that are overcapacity are not given priority in the option school lotteries.

School	% Option School SY23-24 enrollment from Neighborhood Schools with Capacity Utilization > 99%
ATS	21.8%
Campbell	19.6%
Claremont	15.6%
Escuela Key	24.7%
MPSA	17.7%

Sources:

[September 30, 2023, Membership Summary](#)

[Capacity Utilization Tables, School Years 2023-24 to 2033-34](#)

MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 5, 2024

TO: Members of the School Board

THROUGH: Dr. Francisco Durán, Superintendent
Reneé Harber, Assistant Superintendent, Facilities and Operations

FROM: Iliana Gonzales, Director of Student Registration and Language Services

CIP QUESTION:

I'd be interested to understand how much of the wait list is for primary Montessori spots. I didn't look myself at the data Mary did, so it may be that the transfer report is only K-5. But, if it's not, then some portion of the WL is arguably attributable to the demand for high-quality preschool (which MPSA absolutely is). **(MT)**

RESPONSE:

The last published transfer report provides information about student transfers within Arlington Public Schools in SY2022-2023. It does not include any waitlist information for option schools and programs. A transfer student is a student who attends a school but does not reside within that school's attendance boundaries or one who attends a school that does not have an attendance area: that is, it is not a neighborhood school. Please note this report reflects enrollment as of EOY 2022-2023 and includes:

- Kindergarten through grade 12 students
- Students attending countywide and area schools
- Out-of-county students attending through the non-resident staff tuition initiative
- Transfers by disadvantaged status have been discontinued due to small values (1–9) that allow for individual identification.

The tables on the next page show the number of students on the Montessori Public School of Arlington (MPSA) waitlist as of June 5, 2024. Please note that two-thirds (2/3) of the seats in Primary Montessori classes are reserved for families at or below 80% of the median income in Arlington.

1/3 MPSA Primary

Grade	Number of Applicants	Waitlisted Students	Offered Seats	Sibling Seats Offered
PK3	73	46	14	7
PK4	73	58	5	4

2/3 MPSA Primary

Grade	Number of Applicants	Waitlisted Students	Offered Seats	Sibling Seats Offered
PK3	167	103	30	11
PK4	102	51	5	0

MPSA Kinder

Grade	Number of Applicants	Waitlisted Students	Offered Seats	Sibling Seats Offered
K	166	90	12	6