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POLICY

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Related Entries: FAA, FAA-RA
Responsible Office: Chief Operating Officer
Facilities Management

Sustaining and Modernizing Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) Facilities

A. PURPOSE

To affirm the Board of Education's (Board) commitment to maintain all school facilities in conditions that maximize learning opportunities for every student in the county. Sustaining Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) facilities is accomplished by pursuing systematic maintenance programs that renew facilities on a life cycle replacement basis. Modernizing MCPS facilities is accomplished by pursuing the systematic assessment of older facilities that have reached the end of their useful lifecycle, and placing these schools in a queue for modernization based on their relative condition.

To establish a systematic approach for replacement of building systems and facilities for MCPS. The approach is intended to address changing educational program standards and aging of building systems at reasonable cost while providing appropriate spaces for educational programs and services and maintaining a safe, secure, and healthy physical environment for students and staff.

Many schools were built in the decades between 1950 and 1980. Since that time many code requirements have changed and construction methods have been improved, resulting in facilities that are capable of being sustained in good condition over a longer period of time than was the case with older school facilities. A rigorous maintenance program for well-built schools is critical to ensuring that the substantial taxpayer investment in school infrastructure is preserved. This policy recognizes that maintenance and systemic replacement activities need to serve as the primary means for keeping all schools in good condition over the extended life of a facility. At the same time, the policy recognizes that at some point the useful life-cycle of a facility has been reached and major modernization is necessary.

B. ISSUE

School facilities, building systems, and equipment all require various and continuing levels of attention to achieve their expected life-cycle. MCPS views facility maintenance as being on a continuum ranging from routine repairs to replacement of building systems to complete modernization of facilities.

The Board of Education (Board) should determine when funds will be spent on school facilities:

- a) To sustain facilities through routine maintenance of building systems.
- b) To replace building systems on a systematic schedule based on the anticipated life-cycle of these systems.
- c) To modernize facilities in accordance with an established queue when overall physical limitations of the facility can no longer support the educational program or comply with applicable building codes and regulations.

C. POSITION

The pursuit of the systematic life-cycle replacement of building systems and facilities will:

1. Enable school facilities to remain in good condition for a long period of time through the coordinated scheduling of building system repairs and replacements. These activities are based on routine maintenance protocols and anticipated life expectancies of various building systems. Examples of the buildings systems that lend themselves to replacement include heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems (HVAC) and mechanical systems, roofs, restrooms, information technology systems, safe access to schools, and school security systems. In addition numerous other building systems, covered under the Planned Life-cycle Asset Replacement (PLAR) and Building Modifications with Program Improvements (BMPI) capital programs, lend themselves to replacement.
2. Allow the Board to dedicate appropriate levels of funding for systemic projects that ensure all MCPS facilities stay in good condition.
3. Allow the Board to dedicate appropriate levels of funding to complete modernization of school facilities on an established queue when overall physical limitations of the facility can no longer support the educational program or current building codes.

4. Determine when a facility needs to be modernized based on the ability of systemic projects to sustain the facility in good condition. If it is determined that systemic maintenance is no longer viable for a school, then it will be added to the next group of schools to be assessed for modernization using the Facilities Assessment with Criteria and Testing methodology.
5. Maintain all school facilities at consistently high operational levels and maximize the life-span of existing physical plant asset.

D. DESIRED OUTCOME

In order to support its educational programs, MCPS will sustain the life of MCPS facilities through a balanced approach of maintaining and replacing building systems, while also providing for modernization or replacement of facilities when physical limitations of a facility can no longer support the educational program. MCPS will provide sufficient holding facilities so as to allow modernization of facilities to be scheduled.

E. REVIEW AND REPORTING

The *Educational Facilities Master Plan* will constitute the official reporting on the annual funding of systematic life-cycle replacement of building systems and facilities. This document will reflect facilities actions taken by the Board, and funds approved by the County Council for systemic capital projects needed to sustain schools in good condition.

This policy will be reviewed in accordance with the Board of Education’s policy review process.

Policy History: Adopted by Resolution No. 835-91, October 8, 1991; amended by Resolution No. 571-10, December 7, 2010.