

# LOUDON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

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## INITIAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR BUILDING PROGRAM November 13, 2008

These recommendations are based on developing a Pre-K – 8 building concept. If the Board does not agree with this concept, then a different set of recommendations will need to be developed. Costs estimates are very general and are strictly for discussion. Once we decide on architect(s) and the engineering aspects of the projects, very accurate estimates can be determined.

I recommend our building program proceed in stages. Certainly our most pressing needs should be addressed first. With this in mind, the first stage should begin with the Loudon Elementary/Fort Loudoun Middle School area. Fort Loudoun Middle School has the most need if we are truly looking at academic achievement. These facilities can easily be combined into a Pre-K – 8 configuration. Estimated costs would be in the \$13.4 million range. This area will need an additional facility to relieve/reduce the population of students. I recommend a new Pre-K – 8 to be built in the area of Highway 72 toward Interstate 75. Also Steekee Elementary can also be converted into another Pre-K – 8. This would also reduce the population size. The costs for this construction would be approximately \$18 million and \$2 million, respectively. They would be part of a second and third stage.

Included in the first stage would also be a new Pre-K – 12 facility in Greenback. Justification is based on the inadequacy of the present facility. The costs to build a Pre-K – 8 and renovate the present building would be larger than one facility. The configuration would allow better utilization of staff – some teachers would be instructors in both the high school and middle school areas. Two buildings would add additional administrative and operating costs. The present gymnasium would allow for better efficiency for school and community activities. An estimate of cost would be \$30 million.

Philadelphia Elementary is included in this first stage. This school needs a new kitchen and cafeteria. A need also exists for 5-6 classrooms. Space is an issue here. The estimate would be for less than \$2 million. The total for this first stage would be an estimate of \$45.4 million.

The next stage would be to build the new Pre-K – 8 close to Interstate 75. An estimate for this new school would be in the neighborhood of \$18 million depending on type of facilities provided and the cost of land. Also I recommend converting Highland Park into a Pre-K – 8. The availability of land might be an issue here, but by adding facilities here and changing traffic patterns, this school will take some pressure off on the numbers at North Middle and Eaton Elementary. Costs would be in the \$16 million dollar range. A new school should also be constructed in this end of the county. I think we should investigate the availability of land on or near Highway 11. This would also help the number crunch in the northern end of the county. Costs for the new school would again be in the \$18 million range depending on the actual facility and land costs. The second stage would be \$52 million.

The third stage would include major renovation to Loudon High. The new property beside the school would be incorporated to include classroom and athletic fields. An estimate would be \$12 million. Upgrades at Eaton and North Middle, especially a cafeteria/kitchen at North Middle, would then proceed. The actual costs here would be based on the new population numbers after the other projects have been completed in the northern part of the county. Steekee Elementary would be converted into another Pre-K – 8 facility. The costs for Eaton, North Middle, and Steekee should be around \$7 million. Updates to LCTC would be considered here as well. At this point, I would recommend the Highway 321 property be “saved” for the construction of a new high school if the need arises in the future.

The Board does need to address the architect issue and consider funding for the engineering/design/drawings, etc.

This proposal is presented for your study. Modifications can be made after everyone has had time to study and consider. Thank you for all you do for kids!

Yours in education,

M. Wayne Honeycutt  
Director