

**SPECIAL REQUEST FOR LETTERS OF SUPPORT FOR FUNDING
OF THE BCPS SW AREA OVERCROWDING PROPOSAL**

Community support is needed to achieve this costly and aggressive project that will net 1000 new seats in our community including three new state-of-the-art schools (Westowne, Relay & Catonsville) and Westchester addition. The community can show their support by contacting various representatives as well as attending all community meetings and/or board of education meetings to publically voice support. WES PTA will keep you posted of all upcoming meetings – please attend with (if you have it) your WES shirt on! In the meantime write a letter and email it to ALL contacts listed below as soon as possible. WES PTA is hoping for at least 50 letters of support! Copy our 10 year plan Liaison, Kara (listed at the end of the list) on your letter so she can keep count of our progress.

Below is a list of representatives to contact in support of funding of the SW Area Overcrowding Solution proposed by BCPS. Funding for this plan is crucial - so a show of support is vital. Remember, we are competing for funds at County and State levels with other projects. Again the plan/proposal is at this website: <http://deliberateexcellence.wordpress.com/2013/09/> Talking points for your letter, if needed, are listed below.

SEND YOUR EMAIL STATING YOUR SUPPORT FOR FUNDING THIS PROPOSAL TO:

BCPS Board of Education. It is now possible to email the Board of Education directly, and our Representative, Michael Bowler by visiting the Board's page at <http://www.bcps.org/board/> and hitting "contact us"

Councilman Tom Quirk council1@baltimorecountymd.gov

County Executive Kevin Kamenetz kevin@baltimorecountymd.gov

Maryland State Senator Edward Kasemeyer, Chair of Budget and Taxation

edward.kasemeyer@senate.state.md.us

State Delegate James Malone delegate.j.malone@house.state.md.us

State Senator Norman Conway, Chair of Appropriations norman.conway@house.state.md.us

Delegate James Proctor, Vice Chair of Appropriations james.proctor@house.state.md.us

BCPS Superintendent, Dr. Dallas Dance ddance@bcps.org

Beverly Coleman, BCPS SW Area Advisory Council Chairperson coleman.beverly@gmail.com

Governor Martin O'Malley <http://www.governor.maryland.gov/mail/>

Copy Kara Goldheim at karag23@hotmail.com

TALKING POINTS: look at the plan for more information: <http://deliberateexcellence.wordpress.com/2013/09/>

-I strongly support funding the BCPS SW Area Overcrowding Proposal as the Catonsville area is experiencing high population growth and will continue to do so.

Regarding the actual plan...Can mention that the plan is a good plan due to the following reasons:

- The proposal aims to solve both the aging infrastructure and the overcrowding issues
- Building new schools on existing school areas minimizes the environmental impact and leaves parkland and open spaces available for the community to enjoy
- The proposal is set to be completed in a timely manner, with all four projects to be completed within the same time frame. Because the proposal uses existing school sites, there is no need to acquire land, which is costly and requires more time.

FYI

WES PTA will keep you posted on community meetings. Check out our website at <http://westchesterpta.weebly.com/> and look under WES PTA & BCPS news often. Also like and check out our Facebook site, <https://www.facebook.com/westchesterpta>. Information will also be provided in our PTA newsletter.

NOTE: WES PTA December meeting special speaker is Beverly Coleman, SW Area Advisory Council Chairperson who will speak and give us information about how the BCPS works and insight on how to advocate our position. (This meeting is Monday December 3rd at 7:00 p.m.) Please attend!