

GREATER OLNEY CIVIC ASSOCIATION

PO Box 212
Olney, MD 20830
www.goca.org

November 8, 2006

Montgomery County Board of Education
Carver Educational Services Center
850 Hungerford Dr. Room 123
Rockville, MD 20850

Re: Sherwood Elementary School Addition

Dear Board of Education:

The Greater Olney Civic Association ("GOCA") submits this letter to endorse the efforts of the Sherwood Elementary School PTA ("SES PTA") to obtain a much needed addition to Sherwood Elementary School ("SES"). GOCA strongly supports the SES PTA's request that you include it in the Capital Improvement Program ("CIP") and the amended Capital Budget this year.

GOCA is an umbrella civic association that has represented the interests of more than 30 neighborhoods in the Olney area for nearly 30 years. Children from many of these neighborhoods attend SES, and GOCA is well aware of the serious overcrowding that has become an unfortunate and persistent characteristic of an otherwise outstanding school, and that shows no sign of abating in the foreseeable future. As an advocate for the greater Olney community, GOCA believes that the time has come for the Board of Education to address overcrowding at SES by taking definitive steps to construct the proposed addition.

Based on information provided by the SES PTA, GOCA understands that current enrollment at SES exceeds the building's capacity by 25%, and that the county estimates that SES enrollment will exceed capacity by 40% within five years. Today, SES depends on seven "portable classrooms" parked in the field behind the main building to mitigate current overcrowding. It is anticipated that six more of these trailers will be installed. GOCA understands that portable classrooms are a necessary evil to relieve temporary overcrowding. However, portables have been in use at SES for more than fifteen years and cannot be viewed as "temporary" under any definition of the term.

GOCA believes the situation at SES is wholly unacceptable and will get worse. GOCA has no doubts that funding for the proposed addition to SES is critically necessary and long overdue, and that by benefiting SES children it will have a positive impact on the entire Olney community. The county must now move forward with architectural

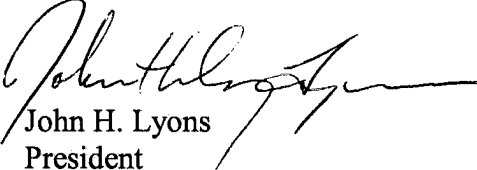
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planning and construction of the much needed addition. Funding for these next steps must be included in the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) and the amended Capital Budget this year.

Consequently, GOCA respectfully requests that the Board amend the current CIP and FY07 Capital Budget to include the proposed addition for SES.

If you have questions concerning this submission, please call the undersigned during regular business hours at 202-371-7333.

Respectfully submitted,



John H. Lyons
President
Greater Olney Civic Association

cc: Karen Nelson, SES PTA
1401 Olney Sandy Spring Rd.
Sandy Spring, MD 20860