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## CHESTERFIELD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Marcus J. Newsome, Ed.D. Superintendent

**Growth Task Force  
May 29, 2008 • Meeting 1  
School Board Conference Room  
9900 Krause Road  
Chesterfield, VA 23832**

**Task Force Members Present:** Co-chairs David Wyman and Dr. Jo Lynne DeMary, Glenn Larson, Dr. Edward Pruden, Dr. Lyle Evans, Alan Carmody, Cliff Bickford, Dr. Sharon Thomas, Tim Bullis, Stella Edwards, Matt Alexander, Lois Stanton, David Saunders, Otis Jones, Victor Branch, Joe Lenzi, Fred Carreras

**Task Force Members Absent:** Danny Smith

**Staff Present:** Kathy Kitchen, Cynthia Richardson, Bill Bridgforth, Wayne Kitchen, Mike Packer, Dr. Mike Etienne

### **I. Welcome and Introductions**

Dr. Jo Lynne DeMary thanked everyone for their participation and asked members to introduce themselves.

### **II. Overview of the Process**

David Wyman gave an overview of the task force process and explained why the task force was created. He stated that the school system has been growing by about 1,000 students per year, causing many students to attend class in more than 300 trailers. He mentioned that two new elementary schools opened this year, two new middle schools will open in the fall of 2008 and the replacement Clover Hill High School on Genito Road will open in 2010. The division is looking to add 13 new schools over the next 10 to 15 years at a cost of \$500 million to \$600 million. He emphasized that the task force will be focused and thoughtful and that its work moving forward will be as transparent as possible. To show the task force's work, a web page has been established on the Chesterfield County Public Schools web site (go to [chesterfield.k12.va.us](http://chesterfield.k12.va.us), then click "Growth Task Force" on the right side of the screen). Citizens may e-mail comments or suggestions about the work of the task force to [ccpsinfo@ccpsnet.net](mailto:ccpsinfo@ccpsnet.net). He also encouraged citizens present to write comments and questions on the white board.

Mr. Wyman then reviewed the charge of the task force, which is to review existing information concerning assumptions that form the basis of functional capacity and the efficient use of current school facilities; student enrollment trends and county demographics; and best practices for school construction, design, maintenance and financing. The task force will conclude its work by developing a report with targeted recommendations for the School Board's consideration relative to the capital improvements budget process, comprehensive facility planning and further study needs.

Dr. DeMary emphasized the importance of the task force's charge. She stated that staff spent a

considerable amount of time drafting the charge because it will serve as the beacon for the task force's work. She asked if any task force members had recommendations relative to the charge. Hearing none, she began the presentation portion of the agenda.

### **III. Student Enrollment Trends**

Cynthia Richardson, director of planning for Chesterfield County Public Schools, gave a presentation on existing school facilities, functional capacity, current student enrollment and projections and location of proposed new schools. PowerPoint slides from the presentation are available on the Growth Task Force web page at [chesterfield.k12.va.us](http://chesterfield.k12.va.us).

Task force member Victor Branch asked whether trailers will go away if and when 13 new schools are constructed. Mr. Wyman answered that trailers provide flexibility to address increases in student enrollment and that trailers will not go away because the county is continuing to grow at a steady pace. Mr. Branch then stated that if one of the outcomes is that we will always have trailers, then the task force needs to address that issue as part of its work. Mr. Wyman answered in the affirmative and asked staff to provide additional information on the methodology and underlying assumptions for calculating functional capacity and how Chesterfield's enrollment and capacity compare to the surrounding jurisdictions.

### **IV. Chesterfield County Demographics and Planning**

Bill Handley, county demographer, gave a presentation on Chesterfield County demographics and residential growth. He stated that Chesterfield is a high-growth locality with an estimated population of 311,000. People ages 40-49 make up the largest group in the county, and there are more non-family households than there are families with children. PowerPoint slides from the presentation are available on the Growth Task Force web page at [chesterfield.k12.va.us](http://chesterfield.k12.va.us).

Glenn Larson, the county's assistant planning director, provided an overview of the Comprehensive Plan revision process. He stated that staff is looking at the Comprehensive Plan from a countywide perspective. Staff has drafted the Scope of Work for the proposed comprehensive plan revision. The scope was developed based on input from members of the Board of Supervisors, Planning Commission and the School Board. The county wants to establish a blueprint that will guide land use in the county, and it is important that school recommendations be incorporated in the plan.

Steve Haasch, principal planner with the Chesterfield County Planning Office, provided an overview of the Public Facilities Plan. He stated that the PFP is a component of the county's Comprehensive Plan. The document seeks to aid county and school staff when considering site selection and acquisition of property, facility location and timing of facility development. The plan also helps in the site selection, substantial accord or consistent with the county comprehensive plan and the Capital Improvement Program processes. The 2004 Public Facilities Plan is being updated and is scheduled to be presented to the Board of Supervisors in September. The draft plan identifies 13 new schools between 2012 and 2022.

### **V. Major Maintenance Needs**

Dr. Lyle Evans, assistant superintendent for human resources and administrative services, gave an overview of the school system's Facilities Maintenance Department. He mentioned that there is a comprehensive list of items that need replacing, including HVAC, lighting, gym floors and ADA improvement. He then introduced Wayne Kitchen, director of school facilities, who distributed a handout to the task force. He reported that staff recently completed a school-by-school review of unfunded maintenance needs. The review revealed that 53 of the 61 school facilities inspected have major maintenance requirements. Of those requirements where a cost has been quoted or estimated, the total is more than \$60 million. The majority of these needs are associated with the heating, air conditioning and

ventilation systems and physical security.

According to Mr. Kitchen, next year 41 schools will be more than 30 years old. Three of the 41 schools are more than 70 years old. The order in which the Facilities Department will prioritize repairs will be based on several factors, including the age of the building, the number of major repairs performed in recent years and growth patterns and required projects.

Task force member Alan Carmody asked if replacing aging schools factors into the major maintenance needs category. Staff answered that it does not factor in because of space needs. The steady growth of student population has compelled Chesterfield County Public Schools to re-use school facilities, even though they are old.

#### **VI. School Security**

Tim Mallory, security coordinator for Chesterfield County Public Schools, gave a presentation on efforts to improve security in the schools. He mentioned that the school system recently received two grants to develop new security initiatives in the schools. The first grant is the Readiness and Emergency Management Grant for \$326,957, which will provide training and emergency planning and for evaluating current procedures and developing new strategies. The second is the COPS grant for \$565,807. The grant will be used to purchase equipment such as cameras, DVRs and an electronic visitor management system that will be linked to the Virginia's sex offender registry. PowerPoint slides from the presentation are available on the Growth Task Force web page at [chesterfield.k12.va.us](http://chesterfield.k12.va.us).

Task force member Fred Carreras asked how parents are notified in case of an emergency. Staff answered that there is an automated parent notification system that can notify parents within minutes of an emergency. The system includes telephone calls and e-mails. Staff members have also been attending PTA meetings to educate parents about school security.

#### **VII. Comments from the Superintendent**

Superintendent Marcus Newsome thanked task force members for their participation. He stated that when he accepted the superintendency, he was told that the looming challenge is accommodating the county's high residential and student enrollment growth. He stated that there is exciting work ahead with many challenges, but he is confident that the task force will provide the leadership to address this matter.

#### **VIII. Conclusion**

Dr. DeMary thanked the members for participating and reiterated how important it is for the task force to stay true to its charge. Mr. Wyman then asked task force members to e-mail at least five things that they learned from the meeting and any issues that should be addressed at the next meeting to Dr. Mike Etienne, task force facilitator.

The meeting adjourned at 1:20 pm. The next meeting will be held on June 26, 2008, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Elizabeth Scott Elementary School, 813 Beginners Trail Loop, Chester, VA 23836.