



The following questions were submitted by Chesterfield County citizens attending meetings of the Growth Task Force. Answers are provided by Chesterfield County Public Schools staff.

Questions may be submitted at task force meetings or online at ccpsinfo@ccpsnet.net. This page will be updated as questions are submitted.

MAY 29

Identifying the issues

Can money from the current bond referendum be used to refit Clover Hill High School to a middle school?

On March 11, the School Board adopted a resolution announcing its intent to use the existing Clover Hill High School as a middle school and for other school or school-support purposes. There will not be funds remaining from the 2004 bond referendum, which covered costs associated with 18 new construction, addition or renovation projects. Funding for this project will need to be approved through the Capital Improvements Plan.

In moving forward will the Task Force address upkeep of existing facilities or only focus on new school construction/expansion?

Yes. One of the task force's charges is to review best practices for school maintenance. The agenda for the first meeting included presentations regarding security needs and major maintenance needs for existing buildings. In addition, discussion at future meetings will focus on additions and renovations for existing schools and also on alternatives to bricks and mortar (online learning, alternative scheduling, etc.).

COMMENTS

Dear Sir/Ma'am:

As I am unable to make the 6/26 meeting on school construction, I am emailing my comment. When we had to replace a heat pump 18 months ago, we looked into geothermal. The contractor who came to see if we had enough space for the underground loop with the water, said that new school construction was a sizable amount of his business now, and that school systems were getting much more conscious of how they spent their energy dollars. He said geothermal heating and air conditioning systems can be put into existing schools, but that it is really easy to do for a school under construction. I was told that geothermal systems last 20 years and pay for themselves in five years. This gentleman's name is Cliff Bunn, President of Virginia Energy Services, 2350 Lanier Road, Rockville, VA 23146. His office phone is 804-749-1962, and his mobile is 804-240-6366. If you are unfamiliar with how heatpumps work, traditional ones exchange air. In the summer, it takes the heat out of the air and sends the cooler air into the house and sends the heat outside. In the winter, it takes the cold out of the air and sends the warmer air back into the house and the cooler air outside. This is a lot of work, considering outside temperatures can be 20-60 degrees different from what is desirable indoors. In Virginia, underground water stays about 54 degrees year round. Geothermal exchanges heat and cool from water to make the air the right temperature. In the summer, it uses 54 degree water to cool the air, and in the winter, it only has to warm the air from 54 degrees instead of from outside air that can be 40-20 degrees or less. So, it is obviously a more efficient system. Unfortunately, with a well and septic tank, we did not have enough room for the underground water loop and we are struggling with a conventional heatpump that cannot keep up in the hot weather. I would love to have a geothermal system, but will have to wait until we have more space one day. But with all the playgrounds and athletic fields that schools have, they have plenty of room for the underground loop. Mr. Bunn said that the larger school systems in Northern Virginia have started using these systems in new construction. Mr. Bunn, and a local geothermal dealer, Ray Hoke of Mechanical Heating and Cooling in Prince George (748-8441) say their customers are always happy with the change and very satisfied with the product and their indoor comfort. Sadly, I cannot say that about my traditional heatpump. I sincerely hope the county will look into the possibility of using geothermal heating and air conditioning systems. It would save lots of money in the long run.

Thank you for your consideration of my suggestion.

Sincerely,

Linda Hevener