

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

After seven months of study, the Board of Education appointed Capital Deficiencies Advisory Committee is presenting a comprehensive report to the Board of Education. The Committee in fulfilling its charge reviewed existing reports and surveys; conducted site visits to each facility; discussed the deficiencies with school administrators and supervisors; catalogued all of the deficiencies; and developed progress reports and a final report to the Board of Education. Capital projects were defined by the Committee according to criteria which included: health or safety risk; estimated cost, State aid potential; and significant improvement of the delivery of the instructional program.

The Committee created a vision of what the facilities needed in order to continue to raise the value of our school district over the next ten to twenty years. The Committee took pains to ensure that all appropriate upgrades were included, while keeping a conscious eye on the ability of the taxpayer to fund the upgrades. The Committee included certain items that were not included in the recommendations but were worthy of development.

This report is advisory in nature to the Board of Education; therefore, the Committee did not attempt to determine costs related to each project. The school district receives 27.3% for State aid for qualified capital projects. The Committee assumes that the district will maximize its State aid. The Committee finds that the root cause for the disrepair and deterioration of our buildings and grounds stems from years of neglect based upon inadequate funding and allocation. Future operation and maintenance budgets must sustain adequate levels of funding and be made available to expend in order to maintain a viable program.

The Committee recommends: architects and engineers review the projects within this report and provide accurate costs; create a Comprehensive Capital Improvement Plan and calculate the total financial commitment of the priority projects detailed in this report; pursue various financing mechanisms designed to pay for the capital improvements, which would be completed by the end of 2010. The Committee has identified various common systemic problems throughout the district which include restrooms, elevators/handicapped accessible, security cameras and recording devices, a Deasy/Middle School exit road, roof replacements, and science labs. The Committee has also identified additional projects which it feels should be considered in order to enhance the overall quality of our educational facilities, although they are not directly related to health and safety issues or cost savings. These items include a refurbished Wunsch Arts Center, a Nature Classroom at the Deasy School, and a Geo-Dome at the Middle School.

The Capital Deficiencies Advisory Committee submits its final report to the Board of Education knowing that the Committee has done its very best in fulfilling the

charge of the Board of Education. We do so with a great sense of pride recognizing that we have put forth our greatest effort, and acknowledging the need to balance the ability for the taxpayer to pay for these projects against the long term benefits of providing a safe, healthy, attractive and quality buildings and grounds for our children to facilitate the best instructional program and educational experiences that we can afford them.