

Capital Projects Update Meeting | April 3, 2025

Questions & Answers

I'm so pleased to see us investing in Camp Schmidt and environmental education. Thank you - and please continue!

Thank you for your comment! We are excited to work on and complete these much needed upgrades to Camp Schmidt.

What programs will Crossland CTE offer?

As of this meeting, the new Crossland CTE Addition will include spaces for the Welding, Construction Development, Auto Body, Cosmetology, and Dentistry programs.

Can you review the phases for Suitland HS again?

Suitland High School is a three-phase project. Phase 1 consists of the construction of the general education high school building and is targeted for completion in April 2026. Phase 2 consists of the construction of the CVPA building, which includes the new auditorium, and is scheduled for completion in February 2028. Finally, Phase 3, which includes the athletic fields, stadium, and campus site work, is now occurring simultaneously with Phase 1 thanks to a revised swing plan and is targeting an earlier completion date of August 2027. Additional information on the Suitland High School project can be found on the project page at www.pgcps.org/offices/capital-programs/projects/suitland-hs.

How will the budget cuts from the federal Department of Education have an impact on these proposed projects?

The recent federal budget cuts do not directly affect these capital projects because they are funded through bond sales, placing our funding cycle slightly behind those revenue changes. Every item we discussed in this meeting has either approved appropriations currently on the books or forecasted. Therefore, at this moment, everything is progressing as planned. While we acknowledge that the economic landscape is shifting, all of the topics we covered today appear secure based on our current approvals.

Douglass HS has been promised a new field for five years; hopefully, that will finally happen. Also, the gymnasium floor has not been replaced since 1975. Our student-athletes deserved better.

We completely agree. Throughout the entire county, there is a clear need for funding to improve all of our facilities, particularly our athletic facilities. Unfortunately, the state does not provide much support for these athletic projects, especially for stadium renovations, which means the county must fully fund them. Recently, we have been fortunate to receive support from various council members and senators, who have helped us secure grants and bonds from the state to advance these projects. We are extremely grateful for their assistance. Thanks to this support, we were able to move forward with Douglas, which received a significant grant of \$9.2 million. We are excited to proceed. We had hoped to start construction sooner, but we encountered considerable delays during the permitting process due to the project's location and its floodplain.



conditions. Now, we are at the final stages of permitting and are looking forward to delivering a stadium that the entire community can be proud of.

It is quite reassuring that more schools will be available to accommodate our growing Prince Gorgeous County residents.

Thank you for your comment! PGCPs and the Department of Capital Programs are committed to serving our Prince George's County communities and providing safe, 21st-century schools and facilities that they deserve.

Will there be an update on Suitland HS and the renovation of Forestville

We held a comprehensive Swing Information Session for the Suitland community on March 25. You can view the meeting recording and presentation on the Suitland High School project page at www.pgcps.org/offices/capital-programs/projects/suitland-hs.

Can you please address how funding works and the security of State and County dollars? As seen in Cool Spring-Adelphi PPC today, the mention in news media of school construction as a potential cut due to the Trump Executive Order has many constituents nervous, including Built to Learn/Blueprint Phase 2 school communities.

Our funding primarily comes from general obligation bonds, with 98% sourced from both the state and the county. Currently, there is considerable discussion in the news about revenue cuts, which subsequently impact our debt limits. Since selling bonds equates to financing and incurs debt, both state and county capital debt limits are forecasted to decrease. This situation has led to a complex prioritization process that the administration, board members, and others are collectively addressing. There has been a strong emphasis on transparency and advocacy throughout this process.

When we examine our major projects, we can identify some that seem secure, like Cool Springs, which is advanced in development and at the top of our priority list. However, there is significant uncertainty regarding what comes next for the system. Projects already under construction, like William Schmidt, feel stable, but the future remains unpredictable. Additionally, there are projects that fall into a sub-threshold category. We continue to address essential needs such as replacing fire alarms, roofs, windows, and doors, which are important projects. However, if our focus remains solely on these tasks, we fail to address the broader needs of our entire inventory. This raises several important questions, many of which remain unresolved, especially considering potential tariff impacts. Ongoing discussions are essential. Our Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) will be presented in August and September, and we will engage in more detailed conversations at that time. We will also discuss these issues during our master plan talks in June, and we plan to keep the public updated through various forums. Please continue to stay informed and engaged with us.

Are there any capital plans for elementary schools, specifically Melwood Elementary? If yes, could you please go over those plans.

At the moment, there are no specific plans for Melwood Elementary School. However, the Department did renovate four out of the five pods at Melwood in 2016. So, all the classrooms were updated during that period. Additionally, in conjunction with the Maryland State Highway Administration we were able to move forward with the expansion of Woodyard Road, providing sidewalks in the area. Finally, there is a bus loop and the parking renovation project scheduled



for Melwood that will begin once permits are received. In terms of other elementary schools, we do have the Cool Spring-Adelphi project as well as the eight Blueprint Schools Phase 2 projects which are all elementary and K-8 schools.

In terms of athletic upgrades, mainly athletic football/soccer fields/Lacrosse. It seems this list keeps moving from schools that may be #2 and then drop, or another school #5 and moves to another number. Is there a reason why?

Our priority list has been established since 2015. This list has served as the basis for how we deliver our projects. I understand that there was a time when funding was not available, which may have led some to believe that certain projects were shifted in priority due to timing issues. However, we have consistently used the same priority list, as reflected in our annual Capital Improvement Program (CIP) requests to the county. This master list is what we are currently using and will continue to reference as we move forward with the stadium renovation projects.

Will the new Camp Schmidt sleeping quarters have additional restrooms and showers added to the design?

The restrooms and showers that were removed from the pavilion we demolished will now be located in the individual cabins. Each cabin will have restrooms for both students and adult chaperones. These cabins are spacious and can accommodate approximately 24 students. Adults will have their own restrooms, while students will have separate restrooms and showers.

Can you confirm the timing adjustment for the Frederick Douglas High School field project?

We are currently finalizing a couple of easements, after which we will proceed with the recordation of those easements. We expect to receive permit approval in May of this year. Simultaneously, we are finalizing our contract for the construction aspect of the project and anticipate that construction will begin in May 2025. Our target for project completion is spring 2026.

Is Calverton Elementary among the 8 elementary schools?

Calverton Elementary is not one of the Phase 2 Blueprint Schools, but it is a Cycle 1 school in the CIP, so it is high up on the priority list.

Just for clarity, should schools on the list for Blueprint Phase II expect projects to move forward, or are we waiting to see if federal funding will impact the projects?

Not at all. You're in construction. There's no threat to the Phase 2 projects.

Are schools that have not begun construction, such as Spring Hill Lake Elementary, in danger of not being built?

No. This is a Blueprint project. It would take a lot for the Blueprint P3 schools not to be built because of the funding structure, which is extremely secure. So, those projects are not in danger.

Are there any plans to add a proper playground to Melwood Elementary School?

Currently, the school only has a basketball hoop, nothing else for kids to play on during recess.

Yes! Melwood Elementary will be getting a new playground. Director Jackson recently signed a Notice of Award for the project, so it will begin soon.

I heard about Priority Schools, what is that, and where are they located?

On our website, we have a master plan document known as the EFMP, which prioritizes schools for replacement or renovation. When we discuss the priority list, we are typically referring to Cycle 1, which consists of about 37 schools that were identified and approved in 2016 for replacement or modernization. As we discussed regarding the turf fields, we have been progressing down our priority list, despite facing many funding challenges. You can view this document at <https://www.pgcps.org/offices/capital-programs/facilities-planning/cip/>.

As the proud principal of Fort Washington Forest, I would like to advocate for much-needed renovations, including central air.

The PGCPs Maintenance team handles many of our HVAC renovation projects, and its planners prioritize that work. However, we understand and agree with you because that school just has hot water radiators throughout and window AC units. We will check on the plans for this school.