

July 5, 2006

District of Columbia Board of Education
825 N. Capitol St., NE, 9th Floor
Washington, DC, 20002

Re: Immediate Release of the Master Facilities Plan

Dear Board Members:

DCPS' Master Facilities Plan is crucial to the implementation of the Master Education Plan. It will be the framework for the most massive investment in infrastructure that the District has undertaken independent of federal or regional control.

It is very important that this is the best plan possible for the future of the District's educational facilities. It must be understood and supported by the public and this requires thorough public review. Debate and controversy are to be expected but should be welcomed. Political discussion is integral to this process but will strengthen the plan and eventually hasten its execution.

We are requesting that the draft Master Facilities Plan be released immediately so the necessary public review and comment can begin. We understand that it is lengthy and comprehensive and will require time for busy parents and community members to digest. Its density is one argument for immediate release.

Just as important is the confidence of the Council and the public in DCPS. The original delivery date was June 30; delay reduces public perception that DCPS can effectively manage implementation.

The public's desire to get all DCPS school facilities up to standard has been recognized for years. It most recently culminated in the efforts of numerous individuals and groups who pushed for passage of the Council's School Modernization legislation. The decade or more of sustained public support necessary until all DCPS buildings are modernized requires broad consensus on the Master Facilities Plan. The Board should act now to start public review.

Sincerely yours,

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