

# MARIEMONT CITY SCHOOLS

## Superintendent and Treasurer's Recommendation To the Board of Education

### Financing Request: Facilities Master Plan and District Operations

Natalie S. Lucas, Treasurer/CFO and Paul W. Imhoff, Superintendent

The Mariemont City School District remains committed to our mission of preparing the Scholars of Today and inspiring the Leaders of Tomorrow. Maintaining the district focus on the excellent academic program is essential as we address the realities of our facilities needs. This document will serve as a formal recommendation to the Board of Education and is submitted respectfully by the Superintendent of Schools and District Treasurer/CFO on December 15, 2009.

### COMBINED FINANCING REQUEST

We recommend placing a combination Bond Issue and Operating Levy on the May 4, 2010 ballot.

**Bond Issue:** To finance new construction, additions, renovations and improvements to school facilities and sites, we recommend a 5.28 mill bond issue (collected at 3.6 mills) repaid over 37 years that would finance the entire \$39,800,000 Board approved Facilities Master Plan. This issuance will allow the district to take advantage of historically low interest rates and construction costs and to attract lower bids with a multiple-site project.

**Operating Levy:** To finance continued operating expenses of the district, we recommend a new continuing operating levy of 5.15 mills.

The combination bond issue and operating levy will appear on the May ballot as a 5.28 mill bond issue and a 5.15 mill operating levy. The bond issue will be collected at 3.6 mills but must be placed on the ballot as a 5.28 mill bond issue due to state requirements concerning bond issue request language. The actual collection affecting property owners would be based on a total increase of 8.75 mills.

**Cost to Property Owner:** These additional monies will be collected beginning in 2011, with an estimated annual cost of \$268 per \$100,000 of tax valuation.

### FACILITIES MASTER PLAN

Implementing the Facilities Master Plan protects the operating dollars that support our academic program with comprehensive, long-term improvements to our school facilities:

#### Mariemont Elementary

- Combine new construction with renovation to keep historic façade and auditorium
- Will serve K-6 students who reside in Mariemont and Fairfax communities.
- Site of Board of Education office
- Estimated enrollment of 580; approximately 75,000 square feet

#### Terrace Park Elementary

- Combine new construction with renovation to keep historic façade of original entrance.
- Estimated enrollment of 370; approximately 54,100 square feet

#### Mariemont Junior High School

- Build a new junior high to serve grades 7-8 on the current Fairfax Elementary site, integrating the historic cupola into the new structure
- Estimated enrollment of 260; approximately 49,000 square feet

Improvements to all three facilities include efficient, flexible classroom spaces and common areas; new, updated infrastructure systems (electrical, plumbing, HVAC); modern science facilities; secure, healthy learning environment; support systems for technology resources.

### TIMELINE

The estimated timeline of the proposed plan would be as follows:

- Feb 2010 – Form Programming Teams (staff, community members, facilities specialists) to detail space and design needs for each building;
- Feb 2010 – Form Transition Teams (staff, community members, facilities specialists) to determine how best to accommodate students during construction and to honor history of closed/changing buildings;
- Aug 2010 – Consolidate K-6 Fairfax & Mariemont students at Mariemont Elementary; preparation begins at Fairfax site;
- June 2011 – Begin required demolition work at Mariemont Elementary and Terrace Park Elementary and start subsequent construction;
- Aug 2011 – June 2012 – Modular classrooms at Mariemont Elementary and Terrace Park Elementary will accommodate students during construction;
- Aug 2012 – Newly constructed Mariemont Junior High and newly renovated Mariemont Elementary and Terrace Park Elementary welcome new students home.