



## **Better Buildings: Better Schools**

### **Issue 23 (November 2004)**

Monthly news on DC Public School facilities from the 21st Century School Fund (21CSF), a Washington DC based, nonprofit - **working to build the public will and capacity to improve urban public school facilities**. To subscribe or unsubscribe please email: [newsletter@21csf.org](mailto:newsletter@21csf.org).

#### **Board of Education Final FY06-11 Budget Hearing, November 4**

**There will be a final hearing on the FY2006-11 Capital Improvement Budget Reallocation on Thursday, November 4, 2004 from 6:30-9:00 pm** before the Board of Education votes on the reallocation. The hearing will be held at the Board of Education, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Board Room, 825 N. Capitol Street, NE. Please call the Board of Education at 202-442-4289 by 3:00pm November 1 if you would like to be placed on the speakers list.

The proposed DCPS Capital Improvement Plan is available on the DCPS website ([www.k12.dc.us](http://www.k12.dc.us))

#### **Continuing Discussion on School Facilities, October 27**

21CSF convened a general meeting on school facilities on October 27 at the Sumner School. As a follow up meeting to the May 18 meeting, the evening consisted of four small sessions on i) capital budget issues, ii) maintenance and repair issues, iii) school closings, consolidations and co-locations, and iv) senior high school facility issues. The meeting was attended by more than 70 people representing a wide-range of education community members. The sessions generated many suggestions for dealing with these complex issues. Notes from this meeting as well as the May 18 meeting will be available starting November 8 at [www.21csf.org](http://www.21csf.org).

#### **Board of Education FY06-11 Hearing, October 25**

The Board of Education presented three options it is considering for the FY 06-11 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Reallocation at public hearing on Monday, October 25. 21CSF testified on our suggested revisions to the CIP and ways for the school system to more effectively manage its property and real estate.

Much of our testimony (available at [www.21csf.org](http://www.21csf.org)) was a re-submittal of testimony given at the September 9 DCPS FY05 capital budget reallocation hearing. Other testimony on October 25 focused on asking for more attention and funding to be put towards addressing immediate and critical facilities needs. A follow-up Board of Education hearing on the proposed programs (see other item) will be held on Thursday, November 4 to allow people to come back after reviewing the three options.

The proposed DCPS Capital Improvement Plan is available on the DCPS website ([www.k12.dc.us](http://www.k12.dc.us))

## **DC Board of Education Candidate Forum, October 14**

Over 100 people turned out at the Sumner School on October 14 to meet the school board candidates for Districts 1 & 2. Hosted by a collaborative of DC education advocates, including 21CSF, DC Voice, SHAPPE and DC PTA, the forum gave the candidates an opportunity to introduce themselves and respond to important issues raised by community stakeholders. The forum was moderated by Denise Rolark-Barnes of the Washington Informer.

### **District 1**

Eleanor Johnson

Keenan Keller

Christopher McKeon

Jeff Smith

### **District 2**

Mai Abdul Rahman

Hugh Allen

Thomas Dawson, III

David Jordan

Victor Reinoso

Dwight Singleton

Laura McGiffert Slover

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO VOTE ON NOVEMBER 2!!!**

## **New 21CSF Report for the Medical Homes DC Project**

Medical Homes DC and 21CSF have just completed a report based on research into the range of health care services currently offered in the DC public schools, and the national practice of locating health clinics in schools. This report, titled "School-Based Health Care and the District of Columbia Safety Net," was written to support the Medical Homes DC project's mission of expanding access to primary health care for the District's underinsured residents. The report was released at a Medical Homes DC community forum at George Washington University on October 29, and will be available on our website soon.

## **FixOurSchools.net – UPDATE**

FixOurSchools.net has added a new feature to its site: the public can now view all the service orders that schools have entered into the DCPS Office of Facilities Management database as of September 26, 2004. To the extent that DCPS has kept its facilities management database up to date (with completed work actually marked completed), the service orders give an indication of the repairs needed at the individual school level. New photos by parents and students at Stuart-Hobson MS and Wilson SHS have also been added to FixOurSchools.net.

FixOurSchools.net was launched by Marc Borbely, a former Eastern SHS teacher. The site allows the public to document school facilities problems by posting photos. The site's aims are 1) to serve as a tool for parents, students, teachers and advocates in their attempts to seek repairs and physical improvements at their schools and 2) to provide a forum for anyone with access to the Internet to discuss facilities issues on an individual school level.

Marc hopes the school advocacy community, as well as students, parents and teachers at large, will find the site to be a useful tool. He is seeking comments on how to improve the site and, most importantly, needs volunteer photographers. Marc can be reached at [borbely@fixourschools.net](mailto:borbely@fixourschools.net).