

## **Better Buildings: Better Schools Issue 38 (September/October 2006)**

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/unsubscribe, please email: [newsletter@21csf.org](mailto:newsletter@21csf.org)

### **Public School Construction 1995 – 2004: A Decade of Growth and Disparity**

October 26<sup>th</sup> the Building Educational Success Together (BEST) partnership, a collaborative of local and national groups working to improve public education in urban areas, will release a new report: Public School Construction 1995-2004: A Decade of Growth and Disparity. This report analyzes the record \$304 billion of hard construction costs spent across the United States. The findings are both encouraging and cause for great concern.

**We invite you to join the BEST partners for the release of this important report, Oct. 26, 2006 10:00 AM** in the great hall at the historic Charles Sumner School at **1201 17<sup>th</sup> Street NW**, in Washington, DC. There will be a presentation of the findings, a panel discussion and opportunity for questions and comments.

Please RSVP by email to [sodonnell@21CSF.org](mailto:sodonnell@21CSF.org) or by phone at 202-745-3745 ext. 13.

### **Draft Master Facilities Plan (MFP) Released September 14<sup>th</sup>**

DCPS released the first public draft of the new Master Facilities Plan on September 14<sup>th</sup>. The 1000 page document is on the DCPS website and in DC Public Libraries. A summary of High School recommendations prepared by SHAPPE is available at [www.21csf.org](http://www.21csf.org).

The MFP is the first major re-working of plans for DC Public School buildings since the Master Facilities Plan of 2000. This new MFP proposes a blueprint for the **next** 15 years of school construction to be funded with capital budget authorization from the District and new funding from the School Modernization Bill which was passed by the Council last *March*.

### **Public Comment on the MFP Draft Is Needed Now**

The Board of Education will consider a resolution to adopt the 15 year, \$4.56 billion (in escalated dollars) MFP on Tuesday, October 24, 2006 at 5:30 pm at 825 North Capitol Street, NE, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Board Room. The public is welcome to listen but no testimony will be allowed. There have been no Board of Education hearings on this major planning document. Direct your reactions to Board of Education members and the DCPS administration as soon as possible.

## **Post MFP Comments and Reactions**

Please share your ideas with the community by posting your thoughts, questions, suggestions, concerns or data corrections on the message board at our website [www.21csf.org](http://www.21csf.org). Click on “Hot Topic: Master Facilities Plan” or go to the School Modernization Campaign website at [www.schoolmodernization.blogspot.com](http://www.schoolmodernization.blogspot.com).

Comments from both sites will be reported to the Board of Education and DCPS administration.

## **21<sup>st</sup> Century School Fund Briefs United Nations Development Program on Public-Private Partnerships**

17 UN staffers representing a dozen countries visited Oyster Bilingual Elementary School on September 21.<sup>st</sup> The tour was organized by the National Council for Public-Private Partnerships as part of a program to study whether the UN Development Program can serve as an intermediary for public private partnerships, in a role similar to 21<sup>st</sup> Century School Fund with Oyster and DCPS.

UN staffers from South and Central America, Africa and Southeast Asia walked through the school, stepped into classrooms and looked up at the new apartment building next door seeing the development that generated the revenue for this DC Public Schools’ reconstruction. The group finished their tour with a discussion of how the public-private partnership was developed. After a greeting from Oyster principal Marta Guzman, the group talked with Executive Director of 21<sup>st</sup> Century School Fund, Mary Filardo about how an intermediary can engage the community and the public sector to create ways to leverage land, taxing authority, zoning permission and other public powers and assets to generate public benefits where and when money is scarce.

To find out about the Oyster public-private partnership, go to “Publications” at [www.21csf.org](http://www.21csf.org) and look for “Building Outside the Box”.