

## **Maryland School for the Deaf**

### **Fiscal Year 2017 Capital Budget**

**Report to:  
House Capital Budget Subcommittee**

**Senate Capital Budget Subcommittee**

#### ***Background Information***

The Maryland School for the Deaf (MSD) provides educational and developmental services for the State's deaf and hard-of-hearing children and youth. The School, founded in 1867, serves this population through its two campuses located in Frederick and Columbia.

The School's instructional programs operate on a 180-day school year, from late August through mid-June. Extended School Year (ESY) programs and enrichment camps are offered at MSD during the summer months. Approximately 32% of the Frederick campus students reside at the School during the week, returning to their homes on weekends and during school breaks.

MSD's Frederick campus provides a comprehensive elementary/secondary school program, with separate departments for Elementary (pre-K through Grade 5), Middle (Grades 6-8), and High School (Grades 9-12). The Frederick Campus also offers a Career and Technology program, which provides students with career skills, including computer and technical courses. The Special Needs program is also offered at Frederick for students with additional learning and behavioral disabilities.

The Columbia Campus also provides a comprehensive elementary/secondary school program for Elementary and Middle School-age students that include Special Needs educational programs.

MSD's Family Education/Early Childhood Department (FE/EC) works with families of deaf and hard-of-hearing infants and toddlers to develop early language skills for their children. Because the optimum time for language development is from birth to age three, children given early communication training have a much greater opportunity for social and academic development in later years.

**MSD is requesting funding for the following project:**

#### ***Water Main Replacement Project – Frederick Campus***

The existing water system on the main Campus was installed at the time the old steam plant was constructed in 1947 and the water lines at Veditz and Benson Gymnasium Buildings were installed in 1974. At the time of the construction of the new Cafeteria Building (2010), existing water pressure was tested and found to be insufficient to supply the fire sprinkler system

in the new Cafeteria Building. A new and larger line was installed to address the needs of the new cafeteria building. A portion of the existing line was removed and, upon inspection, it was determined that tuberculation on the inside of the pipes was a contributing cause of the insufficient water pressure problem.

The current Facilities Master Plan for the School includes improvements to the existing Ely Academic Building, Ambrosen Administration Building, Veditz Vocational Building, and Benson Gymnasium and Natatorium, and construction of new residential cottages on the main Campus. These buildings will require the installation of fire sprinkler systems, for which the existing water pressure will be insufficient. Increased water pressure will be needed to accomplish that safety goal. It would also be beneficial to have the capability to isolate certain water lines to make repairs or to work on individual buildings without having to shut down the water supply system to the entire Campus.

### **Recommended DLS Actions**

The School concurs.

### **Future Projects in the Capital Improvement Program**

#### ***Renovation of the Veditz Building – Frederick Campus***

The School's Master Plan included renovating existing buildings for life safety and to meet changing needs of academics. The Veditz Building was constructed in 1975 as a vocational training building that included large spaces and high open ceilings for large equipment. The types of career technology education that occur today require a classroom setting. The changes in curriculum have also required more classroom spaces. The School has utilized movable walls to divide the open spaces to classrooms. Though usable it does not create an optimal educational environment.

This project is a renovation of the upper floor from open space rooms to classrooms with acoustic ceilings, better lighting, walls for white boards, and improvement to the HVAC system. When completed, the middle school will relocate to the Veditz Building with the career technology education classes.

#### ***High School Boys' and Girls' and Middle School Residences – Frederick Campus***

The Maryland School for the Deaf Frederick Campus was originally designed as a residential campus. Currently three buildings house the dormitories on the Frederick Campus, Foxwell-Moylan Hall, Faupel Hall, and Klipp-Redmond Hall. The buildings were built between 1964 and 1973. Each building is built with the same basic design. A fourth building, Barry Hall was demolished to accommodate the new cafeteria building.

The design of the original dormitories is barracks style with gang bathrooms and difficult to supervise. The dormitories were built at the largest period of enrollment of school and are now over capacity for current enrollment needs. All buildings have the same design and foot print.

The existing dormitory buildings are inadequate by today's standards. The buildings do not meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. To be fully ADA compliant, the buildings would need elevators. In addition, they need to be updated to meet current requirements for fire alarms, fire suppression and sprinklers, and egress from the building. They do not meet requirements for insulation and energy efficiency and need to be upgraded with lighting and energy efficient windows. There is no central air conditioning in the buildings. Some of the rooms have individual window units but the electrical capacity of the buildings will not accommodate a unit in every window. Individual units are not energy efficient.

The School has been operating under the existing deficient conditions for the past decade, but has made every effort to attain its mission to provide quality educational services, including a safe environment for its students and staff. These problems, however, have become increasingly critical due to the shift in local demographics, and present an immediate situation that needs to be addressed. If nothing is done, the stated deficiencies would jeopardize the School's mission.