

# Mt Hebron Renovation Recap – January 2008

With the original design solution from 2006 no longer viable due to Howard County Public School System's grossly underestimated costs, another idea was proposed to the Board of Education (October 2007) for the same \$50 million cap. The annex design would use a separate building(s) placed on the campus that would connect to the existing via walkways. The Planning Committee, which includes parent, teacher and student representation, actively sought answers to their questions about the sufficiency of this new solution. HCPSS was unable to present basic and necessary information that would have enabled the Committee to evaluate the proposal. Unknown was how much space was in the building and to what programs it was allocated to, what were the comprehensive, programmatic needs of the school, and what was the standard to be used in determining which program areas are in greatest need.

## Another new solution presented still leaves needs unaddressed

These flaws resulted in another HCPSS solution proposed in mid-December 2007 that would demolish 20,000 square feet of the "English and Performing Arts" area. In the pocket area of the demolition, a new, separate building (3 levels providing about 50,000 gross square feet) would be constructed with a fire wall between the new construction and the existing building. Other portions of the existing building would be renovated after the new construction was finished.

While the latest proposal goes further in addressing Mt. Hebron's substantial space needs, several program space deficiencies remain unresolved. The solution leaves Mt. Hebron about 18,400 gross square feet short of the HCPSS 1999 Educational Specifications. The ramifications of this to program delivery have not yet been presented or discussed. Like the annex plan, this plan does not include a centralized HVAC system. In addition, the latest plan is also likely to be the most disruptive to school operations during the multi-year construction.

Since HCPSS has presented no cost estimate for this latest idea, it is unknown if the demolition and construction can be accomplished for \$50 million cap. It is also unknown whether any of the necessary and proposed renovations to the existing building could be done; with the Board of Education's self-imposed cap on the project, demolition and new construction may consume all the funds. The plans and space analysis will be posted on our website at <http://www.mhhspts.com/8.html>.

## Get Involved!

Let your voice be heard. Share your thoughts and concerns with the Board of Education via [boe@hcpss.org](mailto:boe@hcpss.org) or write a letter to the editor of the Howard County Times at [hcletters@patuxent.com](mailto:hcletters@patuxent.com). Please copy the Help Mount Hebron Committee ([helpmthebron@yahoo.com](mailto:helpmthebron@yahoo.com)) on all your emails so we can track our outreach. The Help Mount Hebron Committee meets regularly and anyone interested is welcome. Please email us with your suggestions, questions and offers of help. This effort takes the whole community!