



## The 2008 School Bond

On Election Day, November 4, Arlington voters will be asked to approve \$99.4 million in school bonds to renew and expand our schools. Here are answers to some frequently asked questions about the 2008 bond.

### 1. How will the school bond funds be used?

The 2008 school bond funds will be used by Arlington Public Schools (APS) to:

- ◆ Complete the construction of Yorktown High School (\$82.975M),
- ◆ Complete the design of Wakefield High School (\$11.1M), and
- ◆ Address capital needs at the Career Center (\$5.35M).



*Yorktown High School—Artist Rendering*

### 2. Why does Yorktown High School need to be renovated? What does the project include?

In September 2004, Yorktown High School Phase I, a 3-story, 55,000 square foot, 30 classroom addition opened to alleviate crowding at this comprehensive high school serving over 1,600 students. The addition was the first phase of a Master Plan to renovate or replace the remaining Yorktown facility, a building that originally served Arlington as an elementary school. Phase II will include the reconstruction of the remaining portions of the original Yorktown building. The current building's systems are past their useful life, and their poor performance hinders the educational process. This is particularly true with respect to the increasing use of educational technologies. The existing building does not provide adequate space or infrastructure for current or planned educational needs. The completion of the renovation and replacement of Yorktown High School will occur over 55 months beginning in the Spring of 2009. The project will be funded with \$24.8 million from the 2006 bond and \$82.975 million from the 2008 bond. Additional information about the Yorktown project is online at [www.apsva.us/CIPprojects](http://www.apsva.us/CIPprojects).

### 3. What is happening with the Wakefield High School project?

The Building Level Planning Committee has completed a preliminary conceptual design for Wakefield High School. Funding from the 2008 bond will be used to advance the Wakefield project through the remaining design phases culminating with the completion of the final construction documents in late 2010. The cost

*Continued on Page 2*

## Arlington Public Schools Capital Improvement Plan –1988 to Present

The following APS projects have been funded with School Bond proceeds since 1988.

### 24 Renewals and/or Expansions

- ◆ Abingdon ES
- ◆ Arlington Science Focus ES
- ◆ Arlington Traditional ES
- ◆ Ashlawn ES
- ◆ Barcroft ES
- ◆ Barrett ES
- ◆ Campbell ES
- ◆ Claremont ES
- ◆ Glebe ES
- ◆ Gunston MS
- ◆ H-B Woodlawn Secondary
- ◆ Henry ES
- ◆ Jamestown ES
- ◆ Key ES
- ◆ Long Branch ES
- ◆ McKinley ES

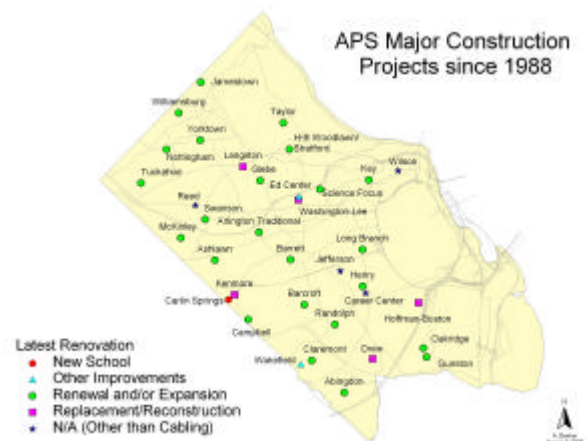
- ◆ Nottingham ES
- ◆ Oakridge ES
- ◆ Randolph ES
- ◆ Swanson MS
- ◆ Taylor ES
- ◆ Tuckahoe ES
- ◆ Williamsburg MS
- ◆ Yorktown HS Phase I

### 6 Replacement/Reconstruction Projects

- ◆ Drew ES
- ◆ Hoffman-Boston ES
- ◆ Kenmore MS
- ◆ Reed/Westover
- ◆ Langston HS Continuation
- ◆ Washington-Lee HS

### 1 New School

- ◆ Carlin Springs ES



estimate for this project will be developed and refined with the completion of the design. Construction is slated to begin in late 2013 or early 2014.

#### **4. How are you planning to address other existing capital needs?**

The CIP also addresses needs at other facilities, including :

- ◆ **Arlington Career Center** — The 2008 bond includes \$5.35 million to address the capital needs of the Career Center. The County will be providing an additional \$820,000 for its share of the facility. These funds will allow us to upgrade the mechanical systems, primarily heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning (HVAC), and fire and life safety systems as well as replace the roof.
- ◆ **Jefferson Middle School** — \$3.66 million from current revenues has been provided to address most of the capital needs of Jefferson. The County will be providing an additional \$1.27 million for its share of the facility. The primary use of these funds will be to upgrade the HVAC and fire and life safety systems at the school.

#### **5. How was the money from previous bonds spent?**

Our countywide efforts to improve facilities throughout all of the County began in 1988 with the first Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) when Arlington County began issuing bonds for the school system. Over the past 20 years, the Arlington community has provided more than \$409 million for school construction. The major improvements over the past two decades include 24 schools that have been renewed or expanded, construction of one new school, four schools that have undergone replacement or reconstruction and the reconstruction of Washington-Lee which is in its final year of construction. In addition, construction is underway to redevelop the Reed facility in collaboration with Arlington County.

#### **6. How do bonds work? What projects are earmarked for bond funding?**

Bonds are long-term loans that function much like the mortgage on a home. Paying for long-term investments, such as school construction, with bonds spreads the cost among current and future taxpayers.

#### **7. Aside from their use for instruction and school programs, are APS facilities available for community use?**

Yes, school facilities are used extensively by the entire Arlington community. Use by community groups accounts for more than 40,000 hours per year. Additionally, school facilities are used many hours extensively for Arlington County recreation programs. APS welcomes the community's use. Information about building use and forms to make a request are available online at [www.apsva.us](http://www.apsva.us)—click on "Community Resources."

#### **8. I've heard that some buildings have had problems with HVAC and other mechanical systems. How are these needs being addressed and funded?**

The School Board appointed a Task Force to review our HVAC systems this Spring. The Task Force reported its findings to the Board on July 1. The Task Force found that the current classroom environment at many school sites is characterized by frequent equipment failures and long delays in repairs resulting in classrooms and learning spaces that fail to meet teacher, student and parental expectations for comfort. The Task Force attributed this state of affairs to a variety of factors that included vacancies among HVAC technical personnel and too little preventive maintenance. While recommending a number of immediate steps to meet the suggested goals of providing a comfortable working/learning environment at least 95% of the time, and correcting uncomfortable conditions within 48 hours, the group indicated that it will still take a number of years to phase-in the necessary changes. The School Board has set aside \$2.6 million in the current budget as a down payment to address HVAC concerns. Staff is preparing implementation plans and time lines for each of the Task Force recommendations.

#### **9. How much will the 2008 school bond cost taxpayers?**

Applying the 2008 tax rate to the 2008 assessed value of the average single family home in Arlington (\$530,800), the 2008 school bond would cost the owner of the average single family home approximately \$70 this year.

#### **10. How can I find more information on the school bonds or the APS Capital Improvement Plan?**

For information on school bonds or the Capital Improvement Plan, call 703-228-6125 or review the 2009-2014 CIP on the APS Web site at [www.apsva.us/budget/2009-14cip](http://www.apsva.us/budget/2009-14cip).

To comment, e-mail [schoolbd@arlington.k12.va.us](mailto:schoolbd@arlington.k12.va.us)

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**2008 SCHOOL BOND ON THE BALLOT - TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4**