

RESOLUTION

OVERCROWDED CONDITIONS OF THE HARFORD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

WHEREAS, safety experts have presented evidence that the overcrowded conditions of schools present an unsafe learning environment for our children and unsafe teaching environment for our educators; and

WHEREAS, the safety of our children is our highest priority; and

WHEREAS, overcrowded schools present a hardship on the educational program and extracurricular activities; and

WHEREAS, overcrowded schools present an additional strain on the maintenance of school buildings and further exacerbate the aging of our public schools; and

WHEREAS, the Harford County Public Schools cannot control the number of incoming students, but must provide resources to educate all students; and

WHEREAS, the Adequate Public Facilities legislation was written to define specific level of service standards for determining facility adequacy, and school adequacy was determined by utilizing the State Rated Capacity which is defined by the number of students that a school facility can accommodate without significantly hampering delivery of educational programs; and whereas resolving overcrowded educational facilities takes years to correct; and

WHEREAS, several schools in Harford County are significantly overcrowded

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Harford County Council of PTA, Inc. recommends that the Harford County Board of Education immediately move forward in developing a plan to resolve the overcrowding in Harford County Public Schools, and present this plan for public comment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Harford County Council of PTA, Inc. recommends that the Harford County Board of Education move forward in its plan to resolve overcrowding in the Harford County Public Schools and include in its plan open enrollment magnet programs, a method to advertise these magnet programs, and provide transportation to and from those schools to make the participation in the magnet programs feasible for all students; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Harford County Council of PTA, Inc. recommends that the Harford County Council amend the Adequate Public Facilities legislation by changing the adequacy standard on school capacity from 120% to 105%.

ADOPTED 11.08.01