

STATEMENT BY COUNCIL MEMBER HOWARD DENIS BEFORE THE FULL  
COUNTY COUNCIL,

November 22, 2005

The Council had agreed to fund a replacement school rather than a modernization/ addition project premised on the belief that the replacement school was significantly less expensive than the combined cost of the modernization, addition and gymnasium project.

I am OK with allowing the project to remain on the list of requested projects, since we will need State Funding for some Seven Locks project. However, I think it is critical to receive a more current cost comparison between the two options – modernization/addition versus the replacement school. Clearly the costs of both projects have increased, but it's not clear how the costs of the two projects now compare.

I would hate for the Council to set a precedent for replacing a school, rather than modernizing and adding to a school, UNLESS it truly is a less expensive option.

We need to be able to completely justify our decision to the community and to the State.

The Council had previously approved a series of projects – a modernization, a classroom addition, and a gymnasium addition – that would accomplish the same goal. We must be certain that in this time of rising costs and limited State funding that we are choosing options that meet our needs at the least cost.