

# Buena Vista City Public Schools



REBECCA G. GATES, ED.D  
*Division Superintendent*

MARY S. HOLM, PH.D  
*Director of Instruction*

DARRYL KNICK  
*School Board Chairman*

MARY KAYE BUCHANAN  
*Clerk of the School Board*

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The Honorable Governor McDonnell  
Office of the Governor  
P.O. Box 1475  
Richmond, VA 23218  
January 31, 2012

Dear Governor McDonnell,

A request has been made for Buena Vista City Public Schools to waive the opportunity to use the \$510,000 from the QSCB funds that we were designated for in Executive Order 110 (2010) in order to update the energy efficiency systems for Parry McCluer Middle School. On behalf of the school system I am requesting that the Governor's Office reconsider their decision based on several critical factors:

- Due to our city charter, we organized a successful bond referendum. Our citizens clearly sent the message on November 2, 2010, that the condition of our middle school is unacceptable and the 56 year old boiler needs updating.
- Our composite index has decreased again to .1895. We are now one of the 3 poorest localities in the state due to decreased property values, total gross income and decreased sales tax.
- We paid for an energy efficiency study and were more than "shovel ready" for our performance contracting plan.
- The City of Buena Vista has devised a plan to decrease their debt and \$510,000 out of the large bond pool would not affect the credibility of the bond pool.
- The condition of our middle school was documented by Spectrum Design through a feasibility study which indicated: structural damage which resulted in closing off part of the building, the lack of a sprinkler system, a roof in poor condition which leaks through the ceilings that need abatement, a gym floor replacement due to extensive steam leaks and lighting which is below IES lighting standards.
- The QSCB application cover page includes a statement regarding projects with "significant extenuating circumstances" or "health and safety issues". Parry McCluer Middle School meets both of these requirements.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. I'll be anxious to hear from you. This project was discussed with Governor McDonnell behind the middle school before the 2010 Labor Day parade.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Gates Ed.D.  
Superintendent

CC: Mr. Kent Dickey, Finance Dept. VDOE

2329 Chestnut Avenue • Suite A  
Buena Vista, Virginia 24416  
Phone: (540) 261-2129  
FAX: (540) 261-2967  
Website: [www.bvcp.net](http://www.bvcp.net)