



ROANOKE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

5937 Cove Rd. Roanoke, VA 24019
(540) 562-3900 x 10112

February 12, 2021

Board Members: Donald T. Butzer
Chairman-Roanoke County School Board
540-553-2380

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Dear Parents of Glen Cove Elementary School,

On January 28, 2021 the Roanoke County School Board sent a letter to the Roanoke County Board of Supervisors asking them to fund the construction of a new Glen Cove Elementary School and a new Burton Center for the Arts, Trades and Technology. Both new schools would benefit the community in providing a high quality Trade and Technology education for Glen Cove's Middle and High School students but more importantly providing a modern facility for our youngest members of the Glen Cove Community who attend PK-5.

Under the existing school construction funding allocated by the County both schools would not be rebuilt until 2031. We are asking the County to move construction up for the Burton Center to 2023 and Glen Cove to 2024.

We believe that the Burton Center should be an integral part of any discussion on economic development in Roanoke County. The Center produces highly skilled workers who graduate with good paying jobs waiting for them. Any business looking at relocating to Roanoke County would recognize the Burton Center as a feed for skilled workers.

Glen Cove Elementary School is one of the only remaining open classroom concept schools remaining in Virginia. Dr. Lane, the State School Superintendent, visited Glen Cove recently and said that he had never seen one in the state. While the Administrative Staff and teachers do a wonderful job in providing the best educational experience they can under the circumstances, the children who attend these schools are at a disadvantage when compared to the experience received at the rest of the elementary schools in the County. We estimate Glen Cove to cost \$19M.

Please contact the Roanoke County Board of Supervisors and ask them to acquire the funds to build these two schools on the accelerated timetable.

dradford@roanokecountyva.gov
pnorth@roanokecountyva.gov
pmahoney@roanokecountyva.gov
mhooker@roanokecountyva.gov
jpeters@roanokecountyva.gov

Sincerely,

Donald T. Butzer, Chairman
Roanoke County School Board