

APPENDIX B: ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY CONCERNS

**A comprehensive list of environmental
quality concerns ranked by priority**

APPENDIX B1
Dr. Rayner Browne Elementary School #25
Environmental Quality Issues Ranked by Priority

Issue No.	Issue Title	Issue Description
<u>High Priority Issues</u>		
1.	Poor Outdoor Lighting	Outdoor lighting is poor, especially during evening events such as PTO meetings in the winter months. Lighting is poorest along the north side of the building where teachers walk to the parking lot. In addition, there is no lighting on the east side or south side at all.
2.	Poor Air Quality	There are problems with dry air, poor air flow and ventilation experienced by many teachers in the school. Some teachers are aware that air borne bacteria could infect students and teachers. Some teachers have complained of irritated red and itchy eyes and aggravated allergies.
3.	Playground Safety	Although custodians do an excellent job of cleaning up the grounds, glass and needles are still found in the grass and on the playground by students. The problem is ever present. The basketball hoop and the remains of the monkey bars were recently removed to discourage use of the grounds.
4	Concern over Neighborhood Quality	The overall neighborhood quality exerts an overall negative affect on all activities within and around the school. Teachers fear for student safety, and several drug related incidents in the surrounding neighborhood during school hours have reminded them of the need to be vigilant. Crime has seemingly gotten worse around the school -- there are more shootings and strangers are found walking through the parking lot and around the school entrance during the day. Teacher concerns over neighborhood quality are associated with the problems and frustrations they see children bringing into the school.
5	Lack of Adequate Cafeteria Storage	There is a lack of space for storing cafeteria supplies and food. Recently, some storage has been shared with the custodial staff.

Moderate Priority Issues

6. Noise in Pods Pod (open plan) teachers regularly complain of noise from other classes. Some classes are required to move past those classes nearest the corridor to get to their instructional areas, thereby disturbing activities. Talking over other pods escalates the noise problem. It was recognized that this is as much a classroom management issue as it is an environmental quality issue.
7. Lighting in Pods Lighting in the pods is satisfactory, but could be better. The pods are not always as bright as other areas in the building such as self-contained workrooms and the main office. Lighting on the second floor seems to be too high and diffuse. The opportunities for supplementing artificial lighting with natural daylighting is limited due to the frosted Plexiglas windows and further reduced by the need for curtains on the first floor windows to discourage potential intruders from looking in and inventorying equipment in instructional areas.
8. Open Plan versus Self-Contained Teachers feel that in open plan instructional areas it is hard to manage student behavior due to noise and distractions from other classes. Sometimes more time is devoted to discipline and classroom management than teaching and learning. This is a source of frustration for many teachers. Special education students seem to be most affected by these distractions.

Low Priority Issues

9. Additional Storage Space Options Some teachers felt that cabinets under sinks and against walls are not enough for the entire pod. Shared storage space is unorganized and over-packed with various materials and books that have not been used in years. Most teachers felt that the problem could be resolved by carefully organizing shared storage rooms.
10. ADA Accessibility There are currently no building codes or ADA regulations that would require the school to provide disabled accessibility unless a building experiences major renovation, addition or alteration. However, the issue of providing access is of concern to the school. The school has no means of vertical transportation for the disabled, nor does it provide any appropriate bathroom stalls.

APPENDIX B2
Coldstream Park Elementary School #31
Environmental Quality Issues Ranked by Priority

Issue No.	Issue Title	Issue Description
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High Priority Issues

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| 1. | Multiple Points of Entry | <p>Although multiple points of entry have a positive impact on reducing bottlenecks at the main entry and lobby, it also poses a security problem in that more entrances must be monitored for intruders. Most of the concern over intruders comes from teachers in the Kindercourt Wing where the entrance is often propped open due in part to people not completely closing the doors and also to improperly functioning door closers.</p> <p>In addition, although the main entry has been unlocked and welcoming for visitors, recently a buzzer system had to be installed like many other schools in BCPS due to a series of recent daytime intruder incidents including one incident in which A/V equipment had been taken from a classroom.</p> |
| 2. | Unsafe Kindercourt Playground | <p>The Kindercourt playground has not been used other than for semi-annual cook-outs due to its perception by teachers as being an unsafe outdoor area. Playground equipment is broken, fencing has been damaged or stolen, there is a lack of direct visibility of the playground from within the school, and drug paraphernalia and broken glass is found routinely by custodians in both the playground area and the surrounding grass play areas.</p> |
| 3. | Parking Lot Safety | <p>Parking lot safety is a continuing concern for teachers. Staff cars are regularly broken into. The existing camera is not functioning and a lack of adequate lighting exists on both sides of the building.</p> |
| 4. | Cross Traffic Safety Issue | <p>Parents and visitors attempt to park along and drive fast through the drive access in front of the building entrances, causing potential cross traffic safety problems with exiting students. The problem has been resolved temporarily during final dismissal through the use of student crossing guards and orange cone markers, but parents still routinely disregard these signs, increasing the potential for accidents.</p> |

- 5 Old Carpeting The carpeting in most classrooms is over a decade or more old, is lifting up in spots, shows a multitude of stains, and even after cleaning often emits odors. Carpeting is most critically a problem in the pre-kindergarten and kindergarten classrooms since most of the time is spent on the floor. Children often get sick on the floor and the carpeting needs to be cleaned much more often than in upper grade levels.
- 6 Thermal Control There are different degrees of control teachers experience with respect to thermal conditions in their classrooms. Some teachers have the ability to control their univents, while a number of teachers do not. Operable window provide some local control of thermal conditions, albeit inefficient.
- 7 Emergency Lighting There is a lack of emergency lights in stairwells.

Moderate Priority Issues

8. Upkeep of Grounds The upkeep of grounds has been a reoccurring issue for the school: the grass is not regularly mowed, and garbage collects along the fence lines of the school property. The responsibility for the grounds upkeep belongs to Baltimore City, and is not contractually a school task. In the desire to maintain the grounds at a minimum level of quality, the school custodian has unofficially assumed this task.
9. Teachers' Lounge The teachers' lounge could be more inviting and currently is not the kind of place teachers can go to relax or unwind. The couch wood frame is damaged and in need of repair, they need additional seating and table furniture, and the room needs to be better cleaned, organized and managed.
10. ADA Accessibility There are currently no building codes or ADA regulations that would require the school to provide ADA accessibility unless a building experiences major renovation, addition or alteration. However, the issue of providing access is of concern to the school. The school has no means of vertical transportation for the disabled, nor does it provide any ADA bathroom stalls.

Low Priority Issues

11. Cafeteria/
Auditorium Divider
Partition The divider partition between the cafeteria and the auditorium is in functional disrepair and is in need of replacement.
12. Need for Additional
Electrical Outlets Some teachers felt that there were not enough electrical outlets (currently three to a room) and special outlets in anticipation of special equipment and computers to make the classroom adaptable (recently twelve computers were donated for classroom use). A cable wiring project started and stopped without being completed.

APPENDIX B3
Mildred Monroe Elementary School #32
Environmental Quality Issues Ranked by Priority

Issue No.	Issue Title	Issue Description
<u>High Priority Issues</u>		
1.	"It's Too Hot!"	Within the school building it can be very hot and humid from late April to early May continuing until school ends in June. Often it can also be hot into the month of September. Students do not seem as affected as adults; they adapt, but at what cost? During test taking periods at the end of the year some classes are moved to more comfortable rooms.
2.	Urban Services Dumpster	The Urban Services dumpster and the landscaping adjacent to the school parking lot presents both an appearance and a health and safety issue. Children regularly play on old bed mattresses, chairs, and other large items left there by neighborhood residents. The school has had only minimal success dealing with several city agencies to get the trash removed. School custodians have responded by voluntarily removing larger items from around the Urban Services Dumpster, but this is only a short-term solution to a long-term problem.
3.	City Alley	For several years, a large mound of heaved pavement at the north end of the city alley has made it difficult and unsafe to access the school parking lot. The alley is in desperate need of repaving. In the meantime, teachers have adapted by entering the site from the south which is intended as a exit not an entrance to the parking lot.
4	Playground Safety	The existing playground is a liability issue for the school. Glass, condoms and other items are regularly found on the playground. Play equipment is old and damaged, while some of the equipment has been vandalized or stolen. As a result of the lack of playground equipment and space, for example, children often use the paved hillside on Urban Services property to slide down trays in the winter. Minor accidents have occurred in the past, but the school is concern that something more serious could happen. Replacement of damaged or missing equipment has not been possible.
5	Child Safety & Vehicular Traffic	There is an overlapping of functions on the site between the parking lot and playground area. Service vehicles and other visitors routinely cross traffic in the playground with children playing. Although there has never been an incident, there is a concern that there is the potential for accidents.

- 6 Classroom Tables Tables, provided as a component of the previous educational program, are felt to take up valuable space in the self-contained classrooms. It was felt that six tables do not give teachers as many configuration options as the 28 desks. With the tables there are no places for students to put books and therefore they are stacked on tables, limiting the effective use of the working surfaces. In addition, there is very little elbow room when eight students are sharing a table designed for six, especially with older students.
- 7 Lack of Personal Space for Students Students do not always get the personal space they need, and as a result, several fights occur each week. Students have few options for personalizing their space. They have no desk to call their own, in many cases they share lockers with other students, and materials and supplies are stored in shoe boxes and placed in the corner of the room.
- 8 A "Quality Zero" Carpet Rugs were given to all classroom teachers as part of the Tesseract program. One teacher, however, did not receive a rug, and was left with an old one that is difficult to clean. Students of this teacher spend many hours of their day on this carpet and therefore the need to replace it was seen as a high priority.

Moderate Priority Issues

9. Reoccurring Insect Problem Although the insect problem has been addressed by the school it is still a reoccurring problem. Steps have been taken to resolve it.
10. Locked Storage for Teachers' Personal Belongings Not all teachers have keys to lock personal belongings in closets, nor do all teachers have keys to their classrooms. As a result, they have a sense of a lack of control in securing their belongings.
11. Wall Hanging Problems Due to the often high humidity in the building it can be difficult to secure wall hangings to painted concrete block walls. The desire for a tackable linear cork strip surface was discussed to resolve this problem.
12. Developing Relationship with Custodian Although several custodians respond quickly to requests, a few in the recent past have not. Counters are not washed. The work is not always seen as consistent. Teachers felt that there was too much turnover of employees at the school in the past few years. One teacher acknowledges that perhaps in the past, the teachers have not been specific in stating their needs.

Low Priority Issues

13. Acoustic and Noise Problems in Bathrooms and Corridors The noise in the bathrooms on both the first and second floors was seen as being louder than normal. Teachers have acknowledged that the noise is not all the students' fault. It is suspected that the noise problem is partly a result of the reverberations of students' voices against the hard surfaces in the building in general. Acoustical treatment in the bathrooms and hallways poor (tile, concrete and metal lockers).
14. Acoustic and Noise Problems in Classrooms Classrooms can be loud at times. Acoustical treatment in classrooms, similar to hallways and bathrooms, is poor: walls as well as ceilings are constructed of painted concrete block, while floors are tile with a small amount of carpeting. This issue was seen to be more easily addressed as a classroom management issue.
15. Street Noise The city sidewalk and street are close to all east classrooms. People can be heard outside causing some distractions for teachers and students. Playground noise can also be a problem for some, but not all classes. It was agreed that street noise is not something the teachers have much control over, and many schools have problems with street noise.
16. Unsightly Windows The existing shatter proof frosted Plexiglas windows are very unsightly. Occupants cannot see through them and get only minimal diffuse natural daylighting. Due to the metal bar cages on the first floor, the opportunity to open windows for ventilation in the hot and humid months is eliminated, causing much discomfort for both teachers and students.
17. Unused Teachers' Lounge The teachers' lounge is not used due primarily to its remoteness to classrooms, unappealing appearance as well as simply having a lack of adequate time for lunch. Currently, teachers eat their lunches in the air conditioned computer room or in their own rooms. It has been acknowledged by the administration that the teachers' lounge is in need of some renovation and possibly relocation, and steps are underway to improve these conditions for teachers.
18. Stair Safety The north stairwell is open to below and is seen as a bad design with respect to safety. There have been no major accidents, but the north stairwell has an open drop which could be unsafe for children. The staff has to watch that children do not fall.

19. Threat of Intruders A door buzzer and mirror help with security and incidents have dropped off in the past year, but often intruders still get by. Parents do not always stop in the office to receive passes since they feel they have special rights. Sometimes students may open doors for people. As a result, the school often experiences unknown people wandering the building. In many cases, intruders are known by individuals in the school.
20. Problems with Computer Installation In a few classrooms, computers were installed in such a way as to block valuable bulletin board space. Computers could be placed back to back instead of along the wall.
21. Difficulty in Conducting Interclass Projects The building design does not allow for as much team teaching as the principal would like. However, the structure of building that would allow for team teaching might not be the structure that most teachers would be comfortable teaching [open plan]. Team teaching is not a high educational priority of this school.
22. Cooperative Learning in Self-Contained Classrooms In self-contained classrooms, there is often no room for "activity centers" and true cooperative learning. One teacher remarked that the school was built for row and column classrooms, not cooperative learning.
23. Handicapped Accessibility There are currently no building codes or ADA regulations that would require the school to provide handicapped accessibility unless a building experiences major renovation, addition or alteration. However, the issue of providing access is of concern to the school. The school has no means of vertical transportation for the disabled, nor does it provide any ADA bathroom stalls.

APPENDIX B4
Harriet Tubman Elementary School #138
Environmental Quality Issues Ranked by Priority

No.	Issue Title	Issue Description
<u>High Priority Issues</u>		
1.	Dissatisfaction with Open Space	Open space promotes collegiality among teachers, but noise and distraction continue even with some new portable bulletin boards. There is no wall space so teachers must hang posters from the ceiling, there is also inadequate chalkboard space, and no locked cabinet storage in the classroom for instructional materials or personal belongings.
2.	Inefficient Self-contained Classroom	One self-contained kindergarten classroom on the first floor has a platform in the room that makes layouts awkward: the sink is too high for children to use, there is no room for a dedicated gathering space, and the space on the steps is wasted space and used for storage.
3.	Congested Stair/Main Lobby	There is often congestion as students enter the main lobby stair during the morning and at dismissal. A single-leafed door that leads out from the stair contributes to this problem at dismissal. This congestion could be a problem if a fire occurred. Lighting may be insufficient in the stair tower.
4	Lack of Adequate Playground Equipment	The school does not have adequate playground equipment. Teachers feel that aging monkey bars and one basketball court do not constitute a true playground.
5	Lack of Adequate Tot Lot Area	One teacher explains that she has no tot lot to take her students out to, so she uses the sidewalk on the south side of the building and moves a sandbox outside in warmer weather.
6	Upkeep of Grounds	All occupants in the school are aware of the state of the exterior ground of the school: glass, uncut grass, damaged fencing, peeling paint on of stair towers, graffiti, slow trash pick-up, lack of neighborhood ownership and playground equipment were the main issues mentioned.
7	Psychological Safety While on Building Grounds	Everyone feels safe in the school, but some do not feel safe outside due to open-air drug dealing, misuse of school grounds by adults in the evening, and car thefts.
8	Too Hot, Too Cold	Parts of the building have continual problems with heating in the winter, while other parts of the building suffer from being too cold in the spring and fall months. Teachers have limited perceived control over temperature fluctuations.

Moderate Priority Issues

9. Non-use of Computer Nooks of No use of computers on the second floor computer areas were observed on either side of the building.
10. Bathroom Ventilation Ventilation in the bathroom not operating/ working as they should; fan motors were not operating, although a work order had been placed.

Low Priority Issues

11. Inefficient Use of Open Space of Space utilization is poor on the second floor in one open space instructional area, caused by the loss of a teacher position due to a change in enrollment. The issue was raised to how might left over space be shared among other teachers in the Pod.
12. ADA Accessibility Existing bathrooms do not meet ADA handicapped accessibility code (Note: There are no state of federal regulations requiring ADA compliance in older existing buildings unless there is major structural change)

APPENDIX B5
Robert Coleman Elementary School #142
Environmental Quality Issues Ranked by Priority

Issue No.	Issue Title	Issue Description
<u>High Priority Issues</u>		
1.	Playground Unsafe	The play equipment is very unsafe although there has never been any major accident. There is no facility for younger children to do gross motor activity. The school is writing a federal grant to raise funds to construct a more appropriate playground.
2.	Overcrowded classrooms	Classrooms are overcrowded from 32 to as many as 47 students in a single class. As a result, there is no room to set up learning centers. More class time is devoted to behavior modification than learning.
3.	Too Cold!	Currently, the air conditioning system is much better regulated than in the past, however, some rooms are still much colder than others. Cutting down air in one pod area has the unintended effect of shutting air down in other parts of the building.
4.	Air Quality	Windows do not open by design and therefore teachers and students cannot get fresh air they want. The existing air quality in the enclosed space is not satisfactory to most teachers. The school administration is not sure about the quality of the air, it has never been tested.
5.	Inadequate Lobby Design	The lobby area, not being large enough to accommodate the traffic, becomes a bottleneck at several periods during the day. In addition, there is not enough lighting in the lobby due to incandescent light fixtures and dark unreflective surfaces.
6.	Underutilized Library/Media Center	The library/media center has come under disuse due to the lack of funding for a librarian position and books. The space on the second floor has become an informal instructional space, and is vacant most of the time. Computers are inoperative, books are outdated and in disarray. The school has considered plans to rearrange the instructional space on the second floor to take advantage of this space.
7.	Lack of Adequate Bathroom Ventilation	The custodians are very responsible in keeping the bathrooms satisfactorily clean, however odors in the bathroom are a constant problem due primarily to a lack of ventilation. This problem exists for all bathrooms in the building.

8. Computer Problems A third of the computers in the building do not function properly. No one staff member has been assigned the responsibility of maintaining them, nor does anyone have the knowledge to address computer related problems.
9. Problems with Parents Finding Way Parents tend to get confused when they come up the stairs to the second floor when looking for their child's classroom. Much of this problem stems from the way in which they are directed by staff, however, the confusing layout only adds to the problem.
10. Storage Unorganized Teachers feel that they have adequate storage, it is just not properly organized or managed as it could be. As a result, it is hard to do an inventory of books and supplies, and there is no room for additional storage needs. Books and supplies stored in open instructional areas are routinely stolen or misplaced.
11. Safety in the Parking Lot Many teachers do not feel safe in the parking lot after school hours. Cameras were installed as part of an effort to make the parking more secure, but the cameras are not often monitored as expected. As a result, staff cars are still being broken into on a regular basis.
12. Ventilation for Science Projects Some teachers are precluded from conducting science projects due to a lack of ventilation to the outside.
13. Open Space versus Self-Contained Most teachers are using traditional educational styles of teaching appropriate in self-contained classrooms, not the styles appropriate for open space school such as team teaching, group work, and planning together. The disordered open plan configuration of the school has contributed to endless distractions from other classes and from constant traffic flow, as well as problems of privacy. The arrangement of instructional areas has been compromised further by a number of column obstructions that severely limit classroom adaptability.
14. Safety from Intruders Custodians monitor doors periodically, but still there are problems. Teachers do not bring personal items to school for fear of theft, and visitors do not always get a pass from the office or sign the log book: Some intruders still get through the cracks.
15. Visibility & Surveillance Teachers cannot always see children in stairwells near exists.
16. Vision of One Stop Shop Interagency Approach The desire for further structural changes follows closely with the vision of a one-stop shop interagency facility that provides a variety of community services.

17. **First Floor Instructional Area Layout** There is a desire on the part of teachers to capture existing space between the pods in order to increase the workable open instructional space.
18. **Crowded Administrative Area** Due to the influx of new functions, the administrative area has become overcrowded, the waiting room is inadequate for the amount of traffic, the principal has moved into the conference room, and other rooms have been taken over by administrative computer systems.

Moderate Priority Issues

19. **Landscaping Projects** Landscaping is minimal on the school site. Teachers suggested that students could get involved in planting trees as a science project to provide a sense of ownership in the school. A similar project, a garden, was attempted before with some positive results.
20. **Sharing Lockers** Students are forced to share lockers which reduces their sense of privacy over personal belongings, although it encourages them to learn to share. As a result, many things are stolen or lost such as coats, bags, books, and tennis shoes among other items.
21. **No Views out Windows** Windows were designed to be shatter proof, but, due to the frosted quality of the Plexiglas material, provide no views to the outdoors. Most windows cannot be opened for reasons of security, thus limiting the use of windows for fresh air. Windows deliver very little natural daylighting to the classroom spaces.
22. **Signs of Academic Unity** Although some signage is present, the demarcation between academies is not entirely clear. Suggestions included different color schemes, and more elaborate signs of entry into an academy.
23. **Student Work Displays** Improvements could be made in the student work displays. Some rooms are more chaotic and disorganized than others. More coordination is needed between decor and themes within and between academies.
24. **ADA Accessibility** There are currently no building codes or ADA regulations that would require the school to provide ADA accessibility unless a building experiences major renovation, addition or alteration.
25. **Plumbing & Flooding** Plumbing has on several occasions backed-up and flooded the hallways during severe storms. The question of responsibility was raised as to whether it is the city's backed-up drains or the school's older supply lines?

Low Priority Issues

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| 26. | Non-use of Teachers' Lounge | The teachers' lounge is not used by teachers. The lounge is used for periodically working with disabled children and functions as an informal day-care center in the afternoon. |
| 27. | School-wide Assemblies | There is a low priority need for a larger auditorium space for school-wide assemblies. |