



## FY 2017 Recommended Budget Budget Question

**Board Question #: 84**

**BUDGET QUESTION:** What was the reason for the removal of islands and repaving at Spotsylvania High School? How much did the project cost? How was this work paid for? What is the thought process behind completing projects like this when there are so many other instructional needs of the children and school system?

**RESPONSE:** The overall condition of the parking lot at Spotsylvania High School had deteriorated to a point it needed to be repaved. The islands in that parking lot were a major hindrance to snow removal operations and required undo maintenance. Therefore, they were removed during the repaving project.

The project consisted of two different parts, both funded from the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP).

The improvements made that consisted of removing the islands, changing drainage, and allowing for more open space cost \$158,672. Paving, which consisted of installing base gravel, paving for high traffic use, and lining came to \$121,971 for a total project amount of \$280,643.

Capital projects are funded from the CIP, which is bond money that was originally approved by voter referendum. By definition, recurring expenses associated with Instruction cannot be funded by the CIP, including personnel costs. The CIP and Instructional budget are separate funding sources for separate purposes.

Paving parking lots at Spotsylvania High School had been previously identified in the CIP. The front parking lot has been completed and the other lots still need to be repaired and overlaid. The front parking lot had other issues other than needing to be overlaid. Water was not draining properly which caused water to stand and freeze during cold weather, resulting in a safety issue. Some of the islands originally had trees planted on them. Over time, the root system had spread and damaged the asphalt causing it to be uneven and again causing potential safety concerns. The lot also has become a popular place for visitors to stop coming to/from Lake Anna. Visitors often caused a litter problem as trash was being dumped in the bushes on the islands. On two different occasions, fires occurred on the islands from people discarding cigarettes into the bushes. By removing the islands Maintenance was able to allow for proper drainage and take away a place for trash to be dumped. It also allows for better visibility across the lot. As an added result, the open parking lot has added a space for outside functions when school is not in use.