

CLARKSBURG CLUSTER

Clarksburg High School
Rocky Hill Middle School (split articulated)
Neelsville Middle School (split articulated)

Clarksburg Elementary School
Fox Chapel Elementary School
Little Bennett Elementary School
Capt. James E. Daly Elementary School
William B. Gibbs, Jr. Elementary School
Cedar Grove Elementary School (split articulated)

Good evening. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on the Amendments to the FY 2011-2016 Capital Improvement Program (CIP). My name is Marcia Tivoli and I represent the Clarksburg cluster schools this evening.

First, we'd like to congratulate those of you who recently ran and retained your seat on this Board, and look forward to continuing our collegial relationship. We'd like to express our appreciation for the following activities that occurred in our cluster this past year:

1. The Board of Education's proactive steps to approve the reassignment of Rockwell Elementary to Baker Middle School in the Damascus cluster, reducing some of the overcrowding at Rocky Hill Middle School, while helping Baker increase its utilization.
2. The Board of Education's recognition of the rapid growth of our communities, and recommendation for the construction of our new schools and additions in the six-year CIP.
3. Work towards the addition at Fox Chapel Elementary School, scheduled to be completed for the start of the 2011-12 school year, which will take the school from **162% utilization** to 100%, allowing us to finally remove all 10 portables that have been accumulating for more than 10 years.

With a direct impact on our children and communities, these actions are vital to provide an environment conducive to learning. However, even with these steps, there is more to be done.

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- Community Overview
- Overcrowding at Cluster Schools

Community Overview

1. Community Growth - Did you know that even in this challenging housing market, Clarksburg continues to experience robust growth? **In the last 18 months, more than 320 homes have been built and occupied in just two of the 11 growing and planned communities in our cluster.**
2. Established Communities – Did you know that excluding our 3 newest schools, the average age of the remaining 6 schools is 35 years? We need to be certain that the Renewal and Modernization Policy identifies specific targets for maintaining these schools in good working condition. It is essential that the major system components be replaced on a periodic basis and therefore, a target useful life for the replacement of the assets is established.

It is because of the continued growth in our community that we wish to highlight several points about our schools that you may not be aware of...

Overcrowding at Cluster Schools

1. Clarksburg High School – Did you know that Clarksburg High has a 113% utilization rate, and is in the fastest growing community in the county? We now have 7 portable classrooms that are split into two separate groups on campus, and require the monitoring of 3 school entrances throughout the school day.
2. Rocky Hill Middle School – Did you know that Rocky Hill Middle has a 106% utilization rate, making it the most overcrowded middle school in the county? We now have 8 portables that are fully utilized for instruction, and still have 3 teachers operating on carts. Due to our size, we are desperately looking for a location for

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our 8th grade promotion. We've outgrown Rocky Hill's gym, Clarksburg HS's gym and auditorium. Suggestions welcome!

Rocky Hill also has the two CIP amendments we request... First, some exterior paneling was ripped away during a wind storm last year, exposing the underlying wood to the point that birds have nested in the school's walls. Whenever it rains, the exposed wood absorbs moisture and huge water streaks are apparent.

Numerous work orders have been submitted, but absolutely **NO** repair work has been done. Lastly, the HVAC system is still not operating correctly despite repeated requests and work orders from the administration to have it repaired. We have a photograph of the thermometer reading 102 degrees in the media center last month.

3. Little Bennett Elementary School – Did you know that Little Bennett Elementary has a 124% utilization rate on one of the smallest footprints in the county? Little Bennett's site size is 4.8 acres, meaning there are only 7 elementary schools in the entire county with less land, and with our 6 current portables, there is no ability for more without occupying more instructional space.
4. William B. Gibbs, Jr. Elementary School – Did you know Gibbs Elementary, only in its 2nd year, is **already** at capacity with no empty classrooms available?

We are pleased to be a part of Montgomery County's top notch education system, where collegiality isn't only a buzzword, but a way of life. We know this Board will help us keep up with the educational infrastructural needs of Clarksburg as we continue to grow. Our legacy in Montgomery County is our children – please help us equip them with facilities worthy of a Montgomery County education.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Clarksburg Cluster Coordinators
Todd Powell, Janet Sanchez & Marcia Tivoli