

Magruder Cluster  
CIP Comments  
November 10, 2010

Good evening, President O'Neill, Vice President Barclay, Dr. Weast, and Members of the Board.

My name is Annie Foster Ahmed, one of three Magruder Cluster Coordinators.

Thank you for the attention and support that the Magruder Cluster has received in recent years. Redland Middle School is on schedule for completion of its modernization in FY2012. Flower Hill has been approved for restroom renovations and is undergoing a feasibility study for consideration of an expansion project due to capacity issues. We are hopeful that renovations to the front entrance to improve security can also be considered at this time. We anticipate that Judith Resnik will undergo its feasibility study for expansion next year. And finally, Candlewood has begun planning for its modernization project. The project is scheduled for completion in 2015. Our biggest concern with this project, however, is that students and staff may need to be bused out to the Grosvenor facility, when they have to move out of their school, which is quite a distance away from its local school site. I urge the board to take a look at their schedule and available facilities, in hopes of coming up with a better solution for the students, staff and parents. All that said, we are pleased in the Magruder Cluster and urge the board to approve the funding at the levels recommended in this CIP to ensure that the aforementioned projects are completed on schedule.

The Magruder Cluster supports the testimony and recommendations of the MCCPTA President, Kristin Tribble. We truly believe that a quality education should always be our first priority even in these tight budget times. Our school environments, the look and feel of them, contribute heavily to the learning process of our children. For these reasons, we are pleased to see that the "Recommended Capital Improvement Program" is consistent with the CIP priorities adopted by MCCPTA. We are especially pleased to see an increase in funds to address the heating and air conditioning improvements. In an effort to contribute to the collegial atmosphere of the evening, we especially encourage the board to pay close attention to and address the planned additions and HVAC concerns of our colleagues in the county, in a timelier manner. You should know that it is not a pleasant experience to enter a building where the HVAC system is not working properly. Not one of our children should have to endure poor building conditions if we want to be a premiere public school system.

As you work on the Renewal and Modernization Policy, our cluster encourages the Board to include meaningful goals that will guide MCPS's activities. As my colleagues will also testify, "the policy should identify the specific targets for maintaining schools in good working condition. It should identify the major system components that will be replaced on a periodic basis and should identify a target useful life for replacement of the assets. Further, the policy should establish clear criteria for determining when modernization, as opposed to systemic maintenance, would be appropriate. Our Board of Directors has authorized comments on the draft Renewal and Modernization Policy, which will be submitted for your consideration."

In addition, "with respect to the FACT criteria for the next round of schools to be modernized, we appreciate the inclusive approach MCPS has followed in developing the revised FACT criteria. Input from a broad range of stakeholders – including MCCPTA – has been helpful in the process. We appreciate that you have accepted our request for an additional round of public

comment on the criteria after the scoring methodology and weighting criteria have been developed. MCCPTA and our schools will be reviewing the final methodology and scoring rubric and will provide our comments later this month."

Thank you for your support and attention. The Magruder Cluster looks forward to working with you.