

Northwest Cluster

NORTHWEST HIGH SCHOOL

Kingsview Middle School
Lakelands Park Middle School (shared)
Roberto Clemente Middle School (shared)

Clopper Mill Elementary School
Darnestown Elementary School
Diamond Elementary School (shared)
Germantown Elementary School
Great Seneca Creek Elementary School
Ronald McNair Elementary School
Spark M. Matsunaga Elementary School

FY 2011-2016 CIP Testimony to Montgomery County Council February 8, 2011

Good evening, President Ervin and Members of the County Council. My name is Beth Kennington and I am one of the Northwest Cluster Coordinators.

In the Northwest Cluster, we understand the tight fiscal climate that we find ourselves in, however, **we urge you to take maximum advantage of the opportunity to address overcrowding in our cluster** and reiterate that we cannot afford to fall behind. As such, we encourage you to fund the Superintendent's recommendations for the 2011-2016 CIP.

The Northwest Cluster had several schools mentioned in the plan, all of which should to be funded as recommended.

In the current economy, the schools mentioned in this CIP cycle would all benefit from additions, renovations and new school construction to be performed in the next five years while construction bids continue to come in at lower rates, enabling the County and MCPS to do much more with less.

With Darnestown ES currently operating at 42% over its intended capacity, Great Seneca Creek ES at 19% over capacity and Spark Matsunaga ES over capacity by 58%, it is clear that additions and new school construction projects are desperately needed in the Northwest Cluster during this CIP cycle. The enrollment projections at the end of this CIP forecast the following: Spark Matsunaga – 60% over capacity; Darnestown – 50% over capacity; Diamond

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– 33% over capacity; Great Seneca Creek – 22% over capacity; and Ronald McNair – 20% over capacity. It is already and will be increasingly difficult to educate students while simultaneously coping with staggering over-utilization rates which average 26.7% across the Northwest cluster. The Cluster fully supports the Superintendent's CIP recommendations to address overcrowding through potential new school and additions construction.

At a time when WSSC infrastructure is showing significant wear, it is incumbent on local governments to update facilities and to conserve water in ways that will save usage funds for water and sewage. Funding "green" construction has proven to save on operating costs in the long run, allowing funds in later years to be paid forward as savings on new projects. With that we urge the Council to fund this budget cycle to enable MCPS to continue restroom renovations that will accomplish this goal within the cluster and, more broadly, across the County in all of its public education facilities.

Please help us address the significant overcrowding and operating inefficiencies in our cluster by funding this CIP budget.

The Northwest Cluster would like to offer its appreciation to Montgomery County for the wisdom and foresight it continues to show in regard to the education of our children.

*Respectfully submitted by:
Beth Kennington, Susan Burkinshaw and Bob Murphy
2010-11 Northwest Cluster Coordinators*