

# Seneca Valley Cluster

Seneca Valley HS  
Roberto Clemente MS  
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. MS

Lake Seneca ES  
S. Christa McAuliffe ES  
Dr. Sally K. Ride ES  
Waters Landing ES

---

## Testimony before the County Council February 8, 2011

Good Evening President Ervin and Members of the County Council. My name is Kevin David and I am one of the Seneca Valley Cluster Coordinators.

I am here tonight to recommend that you fully fund the County Executives FY12 Capital Budget. This budget includes funding for the three big capital projects that are now the focus of the Seneca Valley Cluster.

1. The modernization of Seneca Valley High School.
2. The addition to Waters Landing Elementary School, and
3. The feasibility study for S. Christa McAuliffe Elementary School.

### **Seneca Valley High School Modernization**

Nothing gives our cluster more hope then continuing to see the Seneca Valley Modernization on the Capital Budget. As the fourth elephant in the modernization program behind Paint Branch, Gaithersburg and Wheaton High Schools we remain hopeful that the modernizations stay a high budget priority and remain on track. Our problems continue to be lead in the water, asbestos in the ceilings and floors, and the layout of the classrooms. Since the school was designed as an open school, the A/C duct work was not built for small contained classrooms, thus creating the “room too cold” or the “room too hot” descriptions from our students and staff. A recent concern over the quality of the water at the school and the flurry of activity it created in the community underscores the urgency in the cluster that our children deserve better. Every year that the modernization scheduled is pushed back is another year our high schools students have to do without the top learning tools that so many other students here in the county take for granted.

### **Waters Landing Elementary School Addition**

The overcrowding at Waters Landing Elementary School has reached a crisis level – one in which the likely temporary solution is the loss of vital blacktop space as additional portable classrooms are deployed. The Waters Landing addition is a project that is desperately needed right away. The school is operating at 141 students over capacity and is expected to increase by 30% over the next three years. This project first appeared in the Amended FY 2010 Capital Budget and money was spent on a feasibility study and we were moving on to the architectural stage. However, much to our clusters dismay, this project was denied funding last year and an additional portable was placed on the

property to address the overcrowding issue. Funds have been placed back into this years' Capital Budget and we hope to find this key project fully approved.

### **S. Christa McAuliffe Elementary School**

For the second time in three years MCPS pleasantly surprised the Seneca Valley Cluster by putting a feasibility study on the Amended Capital Budget for another of our overcrowded elementary schools. S. Christa McAuliffe is currently 96 students over capacity and is expected to increase by 68% over the next three years. As a cluster we had always believed that MCPS planned to address the overcrowding at S. Christa McAuliffe by building on the Waring Station site, but again to our surprise the Waring Station site is now being designated as an Upcounty Holding School site. These changes plus our experience with the Waters Landing addition project have made our cluster parents very animated over the need to express ourselves about continued Capital Funding.

As county citizens we recognize the desire of the council to continue to see growth in the Germantown area which will hopefully yield more revenues, however as cluster parents we fail to see the success in this continued growth if our schools continue to be overcrowded and the buildings fall into the "black hole of disrepair."