

# 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 10, 2009

Good Evening President Andrews 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 Montgomery County Public School Capital Improvements Program as passed by the Board of Education. As we all know MCPS is one of the best school systems in the country and we are going to need to work together to keep it this way.

We are pleased to see that the MCPS has asked for Amendment year funds to perform a capacity study next year for Waters Landing Elementary School and Lake Seneca Elementary School and we would like to see these funds approved.

Currently the Elementary Schools in the Seneca Valley Cluster are 230 students over capacity and according to the Division of Long Range Planning enrollment is expected to increase another 70% over the next six years.

Seneca Valley High School is thrilled to have been given a modernization date after many years of waiting and testifying, even if it is still 7 years away. We are currently scheduled for FY 2011 facility planning and it is very important to the parents of our current Kindergarten students that the modernization stay fully funded and on track.

The main problems with Seneca Valley High School 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 designed for small contained classrooms, but was designed for large open spaces. That, along with the lead problem, which would require replacing major parts of the plumbing to fix, makes keeping the modernizations fully funded and on track an important issue for our cluster.

It is equally important to the thousands of students graduating between 2009 and 2017 that Seneca Valley High School be properly cared for between now and the modernization date. There are many who advise us that once a school is included on the modernization list they no longer will be granted much funding as "it will be completed during the renovation". That answer can not be sufficient for the thousands of students who will be passing through that building over the next 8 years. These students can not be forgotten and we ask that you keep maintenance and Technical Modernizations on these older buildings a priority so they are assured safe, healthy environments to succeed in.

Our students deserve better than this and we need to come up with a solution that does not require parents to fight and beg for dollars for their local school.

In this extremely difficult budget cycle that we find ourselves currently facing we have to ask a lot of tough questions, but to balance the budget on the back of the older high schools that have been patiently waiting their turn is to tell the students in these clusters that they do not matter as much as the students in other clusters.

The Seneca Valley Cluster supports MCCPTA's testimony, and we ask that the Council ensure that the modernizations are kept on-track by fully funding the FY 2009-2014 CIP.