



Churchill Cluster Testimony

**Regarding the Superintendent's Recommended
FY 2013 Capital Budget and the
FY 2013-2018 Capital Improvements Program**

Winston Churchill Cluster

*Winston Churchill High School
Herbert Hoover Middle School
Beverly Farms Elementary School
Seven Locks Elementary School*

*Cabin John Middle School
Bells Mill Elementary School
Potomac Elementary School
Wayside Elementary School*

**Board of Education Public Hearing
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Thank You for Our Modernized Schools

Thank you to the Montgomery County Board of Education and Superintendent Starr for your commitment to moving forward with capital improvements and modernizations for our county's schools. During these challenging times, it is very difficult to make the financial decisions that will effect our entire community and we appreciate your tireless efforts in this process. In the Churchill Cluster, we are in a very positive position as our students in Bells Mill Elementary School and Cabin John Middle School are able to reap the benefits of a long process to provide state of the art facilities. We eagerly anticipate the completion of Seven Locks Elementary School to open January 2012, Beverly Farms Elementary School to open January 2013 and Hoover Middle School to open August 2013.

As a community, we thank you for these exciting improvements and modernized structures that clearly reflect the collaborative efforts of all parties involved.

Keep Modernizations on Track and on Time

You have been the freight engine driving our modernizations forward, we encourage you to continue full steam ahead and keep these processes on track. Delays cause a domino affect on other schools awaiting modernization, especially in our county Middle and High Schools.

Churchill Cluster Modernizations

We urge MCPS to finish the following approved, recommended, and/or programmed modernizations as scheduled per the completion dates listed:

- **Seven Locks ES Modernization and gymnasium/ January 2012** – Ensure that construction remains on schedule for the school opening January 2012. It is imperative that this modernization, which will increase capacity from 251 to 424, remains on schedule to be in accordance with the approved boundary changes for Seven Locks, Bells Mill and Potomac Elementary Schools and in order to alleviate the overcrowding at Potomac Elementary School.

- **Beverly Farms ES Modernization/ January 2013** – Any delays would affect Bel Pre ES which follows Beverly Farms on the Holding Facility Schedule.
- **Herbert Hoover MS Modernization/ August 2013** – Stay on track to prevent delays of subsequent occupation of the next Middle School.
- **Wayside ES Modernization/ August 2016** – Built in 1969, this building has never been modernized. Additions have alleviated overcrowding, but remain a stopgap measure until construction begins.
- **Potomac ES Modernization/ January 2018** – Built in 1949, with updates in 1976 but never fully modernized, this is an overcrowded and tired facility. While thankful for the new HVAC system (recently installed and then replaced on warranty following the recent hurricane) this school remains in great need of modernization to alleviate the cost of constant maintenance and juggling of bulging classrooms.

Lessons Learned from Modernizations

Cabin John MS Punch List - We request attention to the completion of the Cabin John punch list. Following construction of Bells Mill ES, the finalized punch list was completed by the builder and other agencies in an expeditious and efficient manner. In contrast, following Cabin John's occupation, the construction company, the architect, administrators and others have been unable to eliminate the over 100 items left to be completed. Numerous requests have not resolved these unfinished tasks such as completion of the electrical work for the newly installed hallway televisions and television studio or the unpredictable repairs such as the leaking new roof. The non-completion of the punch list prevents the building from being certified as a Montgomery County Public School.

School Security Systems - New schools need to have a Safety and Security Representative in the planning process. Following the construction of Bells Mill ES and Cabin John MS, it has become apparent that a Safety and Security Representative

should be placed on all future new school construction and planning boards. Schools would be able to avoid the following concerns:

- The stairwells and many spaces in Cabin John MS are all glass. Although very attractive, during an evacuation due to severe weather or criminal activity the stairwells are left unprotected and vulnerable to the situation.
- At Cabin John MS large walls with approximately 15 foot drops were built. These high walls in proximity to both athletic fields and walkways, should be avoided in future designs.
- All schools have the need of security cameras and a security specialist will be able to incorporate the most efficient use of a system in the planning of site.

County Wide Projects

HVAC. We enthusiastically support recommendations to increase expenditures for replacements and major improvements to HVAC systems. Churchill High School remains in need of an improved HVAC system. We request that a portion of the funding increase be targeted toward Churchill in order to improve air-quality, air-flow, and major temperature disparities. Some rooms remain uncomfortably cold while other are unbearably hot. Odors from the photo lab are not ventilated properly. Although Churchill was modernized on site in 2001, the HVAC system was not completely replaced. The portion that was installed was done piecemeal as the building was constructed in phases; the results are ducts improperly connected or never connected. Additionally, the ductwork makes a loop throughout the building creating an inefficient and potentially unhealthy system.

Portable Classrooms. We are looking forward to a day when portables will not be necessary to accommodate enrollment in our cluster. We support MCPS efforts to lease better quality portables and work steadily in replacing portables in disrepair.

PLAR. We also support expenditures for PLAR projects as recommended in the FY 2013 CIP to ensure that our aging equipment is replaced. This upkeep is important

in order for our buildings to remain safe and to ensure that our equipment functions at an optimal level of energy efficiency.

We support the MCCPTA Testimony

The Churchill Cluster supports the testimony presented by MCCPTA. We understand the daunting task to balance all projects with the financial constraints that face us today. With you, the Board of Education, Superintendent Starr and our County Representatives, let's continue to discuss our priorities and find solutions to meet the County's Capital Improvements.

Thank you for the opportunity to relay the Churchill Clusters concerns and thank you for your commitment and dedication to our children and the Montgomery County Public Schools.