

MCPS Board of Education

CIP Testimony – Nov. 10, 2011

Walter Johnson Cluster

*Walter Johnson High School - North Bethesda Middle School –
Tilden Middle School - Ashburton Elementary School –
Farmland Elementary School - Garrett Park Elementary School - Kensington Parkwood
Elementary School –
Luxmanor Elementary School - Rock Terrace School –
Wyngate Elementary School*

Good evening members of the Board of Education and Superintendent Starr. My name is Barbara Ferry, one of three Walter Johnson Cluster Coordinators.

The Walter Johnson Cluster PTAs support many of the Superintendent's CIP recommendations to fund the construction and long-term maintenance of our excellent schools.

We support the modernizations of Garrett Park Elementary School (January 2012 and its 4-classroom addition), the new additions at Wyngate Elementary (August 2013), and the modernization of Luxmanor in 2018. We also support the FY 2012 appropriation recommended for facility planning for Kensington Parkwood Elementary

School and the FY2013 appropriation for facility planning at Rock Terrace School, Ashburton Elementary School, Tilden Middle School, and Luxmanor Elementary Schools.

As many of these elementary schools are being built out to offer spots for more than 700 students, we are concerned that the core facilities are not keeping up with the population size. For example, MCPS continues to plan the same size stages for elementary schools that were built for a school of 400 or 500 students. The now planned modernizations and additions appear to be adding more appropriately-sized kindergarten rooms based on overall population, which we support, but are still not enough to keep up with our growing kindergarten population. Current elementary schools do not have enough kindergarten rooms to hold their classes.

We are also concerned about the state of our middle school facilities. The cluster middle schools could have as many as 2,225 students in ten years, based on the CIP, and development estimates, and more than 2,500 students eventually. Today, these schools have space for about 1,830 students. The time to address the shortfalls is now.

Despite this space crunch, Tilden was slated to be modernized into its previous Tilden Lane location in 2017, but the superintendent's budget has moved that modernization to 2018. Beyond these capacity issues, the delay affects using the current Tilden facility at Woodward as a High School holding facility which then subsequently delays other high school modernizations.

By the county's own measurement, North Bethesda Middle School will be overcapacity by 260 students in 2016. Already, the school's core facilities are not keeping up -- 300 or more students may be in the cafeteria at one time while the capacity with tables is only 235. The school is last on the Fact Assessment for middle school modernization. Therefore, we are asking that the school's core facilities, including its cafeteria, be reviewed for expansion at the same time that MCPS determines whether a classroom addition will be built.

To solve these capacity issues, as a cluster, we strongly favor a capital solution rather than a redistricting solution. Clearly, we will need a 7th elementary school for our cluster, as outlined in the White Flint sector plan, but we may also need to rededicate other facilities within our cluster. Although new elementary schools will require some redrawing of the elementary school districts, redistricting on the High School level would not be acceptable to our cluster to solve capacity issues. We understand that the superintendent wants to spend taxpayer dollars wisely. But many of us chose our homes based on the high school our children would be attending -- and will be more unhappy with redistricting than with additional tax dollars. Furthermore, in many clusters, redistricting won't solve all overcrowding problems, because adjacent clusters are also near or over capacity -- or will be soon. Redistricting won't do the whole job - capital solutions will.

Once our schools are built, we need to keep them in the best condition possible. We support provisions to extend the life of the newer schools with adequate funding for larger projects, including roof replacements. We strongly support the installation of the chair-lift for students with disabilities on the stair-well at Tilden where the elevator continues to be problematic. We also support the replacement of lockers at Tilden in the 2014 PLAR program restroom renovations at Ashburton ES in FY 2016, and HVAC repairs at Walter Johnson High School.

Thank you for this opportunity to be frank with you about the variable conditions of our schools. We appreciate our Board of Education and MCPS taking aggressive approaches to funding school construction now -- while prices are lower.

A. Request for Individual Projects

1. Additions

We support the construction of an addition for Wyngate Elementary School to be completed no later than August 2013. This school already has 10 portables and is seeing enrollment growing every year.

We support the FY 2012 appropriation recommended for facility planning to determine the feasibility, scope, and cost for a classroom addition at Kensington Parkwood Elementary School.

A. Request for Individual Projects

3. New Schools

As the real estate developments of the White Flint Sector Plans are approved and built, please expedite the construction of a 7th elementary school for our cluster, in order to alleviate the expected crowding in Garrett Park and Luxmanor Elementary schools. We also ask that you consider other facilities in the cluster that may be necessary if projected enrollments fall short of real enrollments.

A. Request for Individual Projects

2. Modernizations

Luxmanor Elementary School:

Keep the facility planning for modernization on schedule for SY 12-13. This planning has already been pushed back a year. The main building was constructed in 1966 and is showing its age. During the facility planning, we ask you to reassess once again the estimates for the size of this school. By SY16-17, the school is expected to grow to 573 students – 151 students over capacity.

Tilden Middle School:

We are pleased that the feasibility study for the modernization of Tilden Middle School on Tilden Lane has remained on schedule for FY 2013, with a planned construction completion of August 2017 (instead of the superintendent's 2018 date). We urge you to keep or consider accelerating this schedule in light of the many facilities issues in the current Woodward facility. As you consider the size of the planned facility, please include in your feasibility study the additional 380 middle students who will attend Tilden due to the influx of students in the first White Flint Sector Plan and any students to be added by the second White Flint Sector Plan or new developments in the North Bethesda-Garrett Park master plan. This will require a larger school than currently planned in the CIP. We suggest that the feasibility study and facility planning process for Tilden Center start earlier than usual or have a longer timeframe.

Garrett Park Elementary School:

We appreciate the County's quick response to the need for a four-room addition, in order to accommodate projected enrollments at Garrett Park ES. We are grateful for MCPS's willingness to address community concerns in designing the addition. We ask that - to the extent possible - the addition be constructed concurrently with the modernization of Garrett Park ES.

Other Schools:

We also support the the FY2013 appropriation for facility planning at Rock Terrace School and Ashburton Elementary School.

B. Request for County-wide Projects

1. ADA Compliance

Replace elevator in the girls' locker room at Tilden Middle School or replace with a stairwell lift. Please note that this request has been on the CIP list for several years! Tilden is not planned to be modernized until 2018 – waiting to fix this elevator for several years is illegal under the Americans with Disabilities Act. Students become trapped in this elevator and the PE department is not comfortable putting out students into the elevator.

B. Request for County-wide Projects

3. Building Modifications and Program Improvements

Tilden Middle School:

We have been asking for several years that MCPS to install permanent walls between classrooms that have cardboard partitions. Students in these classrooms are distracted by noise coming from adjacent rooms. We have heard nothing back from the county for several years when this is scheduled to occur. Again, Tilden will one day be a high school holding school but waiting SIX years without fixing those walls means six years of students (that's two generations of middle school students) being distracted in their studies.

North Bethesda:

The cafeteria at North Bethesda is too small to hold the exploding population of the school. Next year, based on enrollment projections, NB could have as many as 300 or more in the cafeteria at one time while the capacity with tables down is 235.

B. Request for County-wide Projects

7. HVAC

Walter Johnson High School:

Walter Johnson High School is experiencing continuing problems with WJ's heating, ventilating, and air conditioning ("HVAC") system. Despite efforts to ensure that the HVAC system is operating properly and students, teachers and staff are provided with a healthy working environment, significant issues remain, particularly with the air conditioning.

B. Request for County-wide Projects

7. Planned Life Cycle Assessments (PLAR)

Kensington Parkwood Elementary School:

- The painted surface on the underside of Kensington Parkwood's main entrance is peeling and falling to the ground. This is a nuisance and a potential health issue. After several attempts to correct, we believe the surface needs to be sand-blasted and left unpainted in order to prevent the issue from reoccurring.

Tilden Middle School:

- Tilden Middle School needs you to replace all lockers with larger (wider) lockers. This is an URGENT need for the school. Lockers are too small, get stuck often, and require very limited staff time to repair.
- Repair/replace school-wide PA system.
- Repair/replace the sidewalk in front of the building where it is uneven. You can easily spot the uneven locations – they are painted yellow as a safety precaution. It's smart to fix this sidewalk and avoid potential lawsuits by tripping visitors, parents, and students.
- Upgrade/replace the poor lighting in the Main Entrance and the hallways as you enter the building. The lighting is very, very dim. Our students deserve a bright entrance to wake them up in the morning!

Garrett Park Elementary School:

- The rubberized tiles in the stairwell of the 2006 six-classroom of GPES are very hard to clean. We have heard these tiles are no longer being used in modernizations for this reason. We ask that the stairway tiles be replaced during the current modernization process while the school is not being used.

Ashburton:

- Ashburton Elementary appreciates being scheduled for restroom renovations in 2015-2016. The old toilet fixtures are in need of replacement earlier, if possible.

Grosvenor Holding School:

- Reduce the treeline at the fence along Dickens Avenue to eliminate hiding places where loitering and suspicious activities have occurred.
- Install equipment so that classroom doors can be covered during safety drills, which is required of all MCPS schools.

B. Request for County-wide Projects

8. Relocatable Classrooms

The following relocatable classrooms are requested by our cluster schools:

Garrett Park at Grosvenor Holding School: They currently have 16 portables, asked for (ideally) 4, for a total of 20. MCPS has granted 6 additional portables, for a total of 22. The larger number of portables was granted because the incoming school after January will need six additional portables.

Wyngate: Currently has 10 and needs no additional for FY 2012

Luxmanor: 1 current, 1 additional for FY 2012

Kensington-Parkwood: 4 currently and need 1 additional portable for FY 2012

Ashburton: 3portables for FY 2012

B. Request for County-wide Projects

10. Roof Replacement

Luxmanor Elementary School:

- MCPS has not successfully addressed a serious leak in the Luxmanor Teacher/Staff Lounge and Teacher Workroom. For five years, a large portion of these rooms cannot be used when it rains outside -- because it is raining inside. Water damage is extensive, and is preventable if someone would just fix the roof!

Kensington Parkwood Elementary School:

- MCPS has not successfully repaired the roof at Kensington-Parkwood elementary school, causing potentially hazardous walking conditions in wet hallways and classrooms, as well as potential health issues associated with mold and other air borne irritants by standing water pooling in walls and ceilings. A detailed analysis and perhaps a whole-roof re-engineering is required for this site.

North Bethesda Middle School:

- NB has two significant leaks in their roof. One is in the kitchen and the other is in the gym. There have been attempts to fix the leaks in the gym but there are still issues. Water damage to this newer school's buildings continues.

B. Request for County-wide Projects

14. Water and Indoor Air Quality

Grosvenor Holding School:

Air quality has been an issue for the Grosvenor Holding Facility. Pipes in the staff development office and across from the building service office need to be re-insulated and the wing where 2nd grade is currently located needs better ventilation.

Walter Johnson High School
Parent-Teacher-Student-Association
6400 Rock Spring Drive
Bethesda, MD 20814

Dr. Joshua P. Starr, Superintendent of Schools
Montgomery County Public Schools
850 Hungerford Drive, Room 122
Rockville, Maryland 20850-1747

Dear Dr. Starr:

The Walter Johnson High School Parent-Teacher-Student-Association ("WJ PTSA") is pleased to have the opportunity to submit comments on the Recommended FY 2012 Capital Budget and Amendments to the FY 2011-2016 Capital Improvements Program.

The WJ PTSA takes this opportunity to thank you for your support of Walter Johnson High School's long-running modernization. With one exception, the modernization has been extraordinarily successful. That exception consists of continuing problems with WJ's heating, ventilating, and air conditioning ("HVAC") system. Despite efforts to ensure that the HVAC system is operating properly and students, teachers and staff are provided with a healthy working environment, significant issues remain, particularly with the air conditioning. Based upon the Board of Education's condition on the acceptance of this project, we look forward to an update from the school system on the status of our HVAC repairs in the late summer or early fall of 2011.

In addition to respectfully requesting that you support efforts to fix WJ's HVAC problems, we urge you to support the modernization efforts and, to the extent possible, the full-funding requests of all the middle and elementary schools in the Walter Johnson cluster. Your commitment and that of your successor will ensure that the history of excellence of all students in this cluster continues unimpeded.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Deborah Teicher
President, Walter Johnson High School PTSA

cc: Dr. Garran, Ms. Jennifer Baker

North Bethesda Middle School
Parent Teacher Student Association

Dr. Joshua P. Starr, Superintendent of Schools
Montgomery County Public Schools
850 Hungerford Drive, Room 122
Rockville, Maryland 20850-1747

Dear Dr. Starr:

The North Bethesda Parent-Teacher-Student Association is pleased to have the opportunity to submit comments on the FY 2012 Capital Improvements Program (CIP) budget.

We continue to see growth in enrollment in our area as large numbers of children continue to enroll at kindergarten orientation at our feeder schools. We anticipate filling our rooms with additional students as our older neighborhoods continue to produce new students and our apartment complexes see more and more children. Our cafeteria is at capacity with little space to move. With increasing enrollment this is becoming more of an issue. The new class coming in will be over 300 students pushing our capacity to its limit. This is an issue throughout our cluster with new development impacting all of our schools-particularly along Rockville Pike.

We urge you to keep the entire modernization on track for our other cluster schools, Luxmanor, Garrett Park, Farmland Elementary schools and Tilden Middle School.

At NB, we have had two significant leaks in the roof. One is in the kitchen and the other in the gym. Although there have been attempts to fix the leak in the gym roof, there still are issues.

We support the continued funding and long-term technical support of the new computer lab.

Thank you for this opportunity to share our concerns with you.

Sincerely,

Vicki Morrison

Vicki Morrison
PTSA President
North Bethesda Middle School PTSA

TILDEN MIDDLE SCHOOL PTSA

Dr. Joshua Starr, Superintendent,
Montgomery County Public Schools
850 Hungerford Drive
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear Dr. Starr:

The PTSA of Tilden Middle School appreciates the opportunity to submit recommendations for the Montgomery County Public Schools Capital Improvements Program.

Please find our comments presented in attachments to this letter per the format requested by your staff.

Thank you for your consideration of our views on facilities issues at Tilden and the Walter Johnson Cluster. We look forward to working with you and your staff on the upcoming CIP.

Sincerely,

Joe Piff
Tilden MS PTSA
President

11211 Old Georgetown Road Rockville, MD 20852

TILDEN MIDDLE SCHOOL PTSA

Attachment A Requests for Individual Projects

Tilden Middle School PTSA supports the modernization of the old Tilden Middle School on Tilden Lane for use as Tilden Middle School again in lieu of modernizing the Woodward facility that Tilden MS currently occupies. We are pleased to see that MCPS has not modified the schedule and that the feasibility study remains planned for FY2013, with a planned construction end date of 8/17. We urge you to keep to or accelerate this schedule, in light of the many facilities issues in the current Woodward facility. Also, given the projected influx of an estimated 380 middle school students from the newly approved White Flint Sector plan and the planned expansion in the Kensington area, we ask that consideration be given to increasing the size of the modernized facility on Tilden Lane. Also at the appropriate time, please expedite construction of the 7th elementary school for our cluster, as outlined in the White Flint sector plan.

We support the current modernizations of Farmland Elementary and Garrett Park Elementary, the feasibility study for the future modernization of Luxmanor Elementary, and the addition to Wyngate Elementary, as well as the proposed classroom addition for Kensington-Parkwood Elementary School. We urge full funding of these projects in order to keep them on schedule.

**TILDEN MIDDLE SCHOOL PTSA
FY 2011-2016 CIP COMMENTS**

Attachment B
Requests for County-wide Projects

ADA Compliance

Repair elevator in girls' locker room. Contravenes ADA requirements. Currently non-functional and unsafe, as students, equipment and staff could become trapped in the elevator. This elevator cannot be called to other floors. To use it, one must enter on the first floor. This means that disabled students can only go up, and never go down unless someone else descends to bring the elevator manually to the second floor.

Building Modifications and Program Improvements

Install permanent walls between classrooms that have cardboard partitions.

Planned Life Cycle Asset Replacement (PLAR)

Replace all lockers with larger (wider) lockers. **(This is an urgent need at the school.)**

Repair/replace school-wide PA system.

Repair/replace the sidewalk in the front of the building where it is uneven. (It is currently painted yellow in the uneven spots)

Upgrade/replace the poor lighting in the Main Entrance and hallways as you enter the building. (It is very dim.)

Garrett Park Elementary School PTA
5701 Grosvenor Lane, Bethesda, MD 20814

November 9, 2011

Dr. Joshua Starr, Superintendent,
Montgomery County Public Schools
850 Hungerford Drive
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear Dr. Starr:

The Garrett Park ES PTA appreciates the opportunity to submit recommendations for the MCPS FY 2013 Capital Budget and Amendments to the FY 2013-2018 Capital Improvements Program. Since Garrett Park ES is currently located at the Grosvenor holding school, we offer recommendations about both our permanent school (being modernized at 4810 Oxford Street in Kensington) and the holding school.

Above all, we emphasize the importance of keeping construction for the Garrett Park ES modernization, and an approved 4-classroom addition, on track. Our PTA is deeply grateful to MCPS for providing additional space - allowing Garrett Park ES to keep pace with tremendous growth in student enrollment in our area.

That enrollment growth will impact many schools in our cluster, including the middle and high schools our children will attend. The Garrett Park PTA seeks prompt planning and construction of secondary school facilities, to serve our cluster's ever-increasing student population. We emphasize the need for capital solutions – not cluster redistricting – to overcrowding problems.

Our comments follow. Thank you for your consideration of our views on facilities issues at Garrett Park ES and in the Walter Johnson Cluster. We look forward to working with you and your staff on the upcoming CIP.

Sincerely,

Meredith Josef, GPES PTA President 2011-12
Liz King, GPES Cluster Representative

Cc: Elaine Chang-Baxter, Principal and Monique Godfrey, Principal Intern

Attachment A: Requests for Individual Projects

1. Additions

Garrett Park ES 4-Classroom Addition: We urge you to make sure that Garrett Park ES's approved 4-classroom addition receives full funding and is ready for use by July 1, 2012. Without the addition, Garrett Park ES would be over capacity almost as soon as the modernized school is built. As more developments are approved in White Flint and North Bethesda, our school will quickly need the addition to serve an influx of students. While finishing the addition will involve some noise, please limit the impact of that noise on the other classrooms, to the maximum extent practicable.

ES Additions: We heartily support the new addition for Wyngate ES (2013) and facility planning in the next 2 years for additions at Ashburton ES and Kensington Parkwood ES.

7th Elementary School and Secondary School Facilities:

While grateful for the several modernizations and additions planned for the Walter Johnson area, we are still concerned that school enrollments will outstrip school capacity throughout our cluster. Most elementary schools in our cluster will exceed capacity in almost every year covered by the CIP.

Furthermore, the modernizations and additions do not reflect the County's planned expansions in White Flint, Kensington, and North Bethesda. Developments in these areas are projected to add more than 400 pupils to our elementary schools and about 400 students to Tilden MS, and crowd more than 300 students into Walter Johnson HS. Developers are moving forward in our cluster sooner rather than later. Sketch plans have been approved for the Midpike Plaza, North Bethesda Market 2, and North Bethesda Gateway sites, and will soon be submitted for the White Flint Mall property.

Please continue to closely monitor the impact of all developments – including those in the coming White Flint II sector plan - on the elementary schools, middle schools, and high school in the Walter Johnson cluster. We support the inclusion of a new elementary school in the White Flint Sector Plan and ask that MCPS move expeditiously when the need for an additional school arises. It is equally important that you make secondary school facilities within the cluster available as necessary.

We notice that the Board of Education seeks to study how growth in the elementary school population will impact County secondary schools. While this information is certainly valuable, we emphasize that overcrowding must be addressed through capital solutions. We seek high-quality, appropriately-sized schools. Cluster redistricting is an unacceptable substitute.

2. Modernizations

Garrett Park ES: We emphatically support keeping the construction for Garrett Park ES's modernization on schedule, so that we can better serve our ever-growing student population.

Tilden Center: Modernization of Tilden Center, the receiving school for our students, should be a high priority. The cluster middle schools are projected to have about 2225 students (the 2100 estimated in the CIP, and about 125 from the first phase of coming development) in just 10 short years, and more than 2500 students eventually. Today, these schools have space for about 1830 students. The time to address the shortfalls is now.

We suggest that the feasibility study and facility planning process for Tilden Center start earlier than usual or have a longer timeframe – and certainly should not be delayed. Given that Tilden MS has not occupied Tilden Center for two decades, its staff and parents are not as familiar with the building as a community usually is, making it more difficult to evaluate how the site serves the school’s needs, the flaws in the floor plan that need to be addressed, and other necessary improvements to the facility. It will take some time for the feasibility and planning committee members to become familiar with the current traffic patterns, the interior circulation, etc., as well as to seek input from the previous occupants. These concerns could be ameliorated with a longer planning timeline.

Luxmanor ES: We strongly support the planned modernization of Luxmanor ES (2018).

Attachment B: Request for Countywide Projects

3. Building Modifications and Program Improvements

Grosvenor Holding School: We ask that equipment be installed, as requested, so that classroom doors can be covered during safety drills, which is required of all MCPS schools.

7. Indoor Air Quality

Grosvenor Holding School: We appreciate MCPS’s work to improve air quality in the staff development office and across from the building service office. The wing where the 2nd grade is currently located needs better ventilation, however.

HVAC Replacement and Other Maintenance: We support increasing resources for HVAC replacement, as well as other maintenance. Given the lengthy period between modernizations, expenditures for these purposes are wise and essential.

Luxmanor Elementary School PTA
6201 Tilden Lane
Rockville, Maryland 20852

November 7, 2011

Dr. Joshua P. Starr, Superintendent of Schools
Montgomery County Public Schools
850 Hungerford Drive, Room 122
Rockville, Maryland 20850-1747

Dear Dr. Starr,

The Luxmanor Elementary School PTA appreciates the opportunity to submit recommendations for the Montgomery County Public Schools Capital Improvements Program.

The Luxmanor Elementary School PTA appreciates the addition to our building, which was completed last year. Unfortunately, we have already outgrown the new addition. We currently have one new portable housing our music class and will be receiving an additional portable this summer.

The Luxmanor Elementary School PTA would like to make the following requests:

Part A

1. Keep the facility planning for modernization of Luxmanor on schedule for SY 12-13. This planning has already been pushed back a year. Our building was constructed in 1966. After 45 years, the building is really showing its age. Currently, the completion date for the modernization is projected for January 2018. At that time, the building will be 52 years old. With a current enrollment of 439 students, we have already exceeded even the recently revised projected enrollment of 435 students for this year and given that we have increased in one year by more than 50 students, we fully expect to exceed the projected enrollments in the years to come as well. By SY16-17, when we are currently projected to move to the Grosvenor Holding School, we are projected to have 573 students (151 students over building capacity), which will require several additional portables to be added to the school.

Part B

1. We support the current modernizations Garrett Park Elementary, the feasibility study for the future modernization of Tilden Middle School, and the addition to Wyngate Elementary, as well as the proposed classroom addition for Kensington-Parkwood Elementary School. We urge full funding of these projects in order to keep them on schedule.
2. We support the modernization of the old Tilden Middle School on Tilden Lane for use as Tilden Middle School again in lieu of modernizing the Woodward facility that Tilden MS currently occupies. We are disappointed to see that MCPS has modified the schedule and that although the feasibility study remains planned for FY2013, the planned construction end date has been delayed to August 2018. Also, given the projected influx of an estimated 380 middle school students from the newly approved White Flint Sector plan and the planned expansion in the Kensington area, we ask that consideration be given to increasing the size of the modernized facility on Tilden Lane. Also at the appropriate time, please expedite construction of the 7th elementary school for our cluster, as outlined in the White Flint sector plan.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Debby Orsak
President

Kensington Parkwood Parent Teacher Association
4710 Saul Road
Kensington, MD 20895

November 4, 2011

Dr. Joshua Starr
Superintendent of Schools
850 Hungerford Drive
Rockville, MD 20852

Dear Dr. Starr,

We are pleased to have this opportunity to submit the following comments on the M.C.P.S. Fiscal Year 2012 Capital Improvements Program (CIP).

We currently have four portables on site and another awaiting delivery, however as our enrollment continues to grow, we will require the addition of two more next year. We presently have to combine classes in order to deliver the curriculum, creating many challenges for both the teachers and students. The two new portables will accommodate our growth and allow for dedicated classrooms, thereby allowing the teachers more flexibility and room to address the needs of their classes.

We would like to express our continued support for the Wyngate Elementary current modernization project as well as support the Tilden Middle School expansion stay on schedule. Finally, we strongly support the feasibility study for the expansion of our school to proceed as scheduled.

Once again we would like to express our appreciation for the diligence you have demonstrated in meeting the diverse needs of a growing and aging school system. Thank you for offering the Kensington Parkwood PTA an opportunity to comment on the FY 2012 CIP.

Sincerely,

Michele Santy
PTA Co President

Debbie Attar
PTA Co President

Ashburton Elementary School PTA
6314 Lone Oak Drive
Bethesda, MD 20817

Dr. Joshua P. Starr, Superintendent of Schools
Montgomery County Public Schools
850 Hungerford Drive, Room 122
Rockville, Maryland 20850-1747

Dear Dr. Starr:

The Ashburton Parent-Teacher Association is pleased to have the opportunity to submit comments on the FY 2013 Capital Improvements Program (CIP) budget. We are very grateful for our 10 room addition and look forward to the restroom renovations in 2015-2016. The old toilet fixtures are in need of replacement.

We continue to see growth in enrollment throughout our cluster and within our school boundaries. This is an issue throughout our cluster with new development impacting all of our schools--particularly along Rockville Pike. We anticipate filling our new rooms with additional students as our older neighborhoods continue to produce new students and our apartment complexes see more and more children.

We had a large number of children at kindergarten orientation last month, contributing to our projected enrollment growth. Our current very large kindergarten, first and second grades, will require additional classes as those students articulate to the next grade. We will have six first grades and five second and third grade classes next year. The increase in enrollment has necessitated the need for three portables for FY12 to be installed this summer—three years after the completion of our ten-room addition. Additionally, we want to point out that the September 30 enrollment figures do not accurately reflect our school enrollment. Our PEP (PreSchool Education Program) students enroll throughout the year as they turn three years old; we started the year with about 40 students and now have 89 enrolled. Our current school enrollment is about 750.

We do not have any specific needs in Categories A, Requests for Capital Projects, nor B, Requests for Individual School projects other than the restroom renovations.

We are concerned with the rapid growth of our cluster schools. By MCPS's own measurements, the Walter Johnson cluster has one of the highest elementary school utilization rates in the county, and all elementary schools in our cluster, except Farmland, exceeded capacity this year and will nearly every year until 2025, the farthest out the county plans.

We support the modernizations of Garrett Park Elementary School (January 2012), the new additions at Wyngate Elementary (August 2013), modernization of Luxmanor (2018), and Tilden (2017). We also support the FY 2012 appropriation recommended for facility planning to determine the feasibility, scope, and cost for a classroom addition at Kensington Parkwood Elementary School.

However, planned modernizations do not reflect the county's planned expansions of the White Flint and Kensington areas, where affected. An estimated 380 more middle school students are expected to go to Tilden Middle school from the White Flint development alone. We ask MCPS to plan for a larger school at Tilden to accommodate these new developments. At the appropriate time, please also expedite construction of the 7th elementary school for our cluster, as outlined in the White Flint sector plan.

Thank you for this opportunity to share our concerns with you.

Sincerely,

Kathy Rose
Ashburton Elementary School PTA

cc: Charlene Garran

Wyngate Elementary School
Parent-Teacher Association
9300 Wadsworth Drive
Bethesda, Maryland 20817-2414

May 2011

Board of Education
Montgomery County Public Schools
850 Hungerford Drive
Rockville, MD 20859

Dear Board Members,

The Parent Teacher Association of Wyngate Elementary School is pleased to have the opportunity to submit comments for consideration on the Superintendent's Recommended FY2012-2017 Capital Improvements Program (CIP) and the FY 2013 Capital Budget.

We are most grateful for the inclusion of funds for the construction of an addition to the school in the current CIP recommendations which will soon be acted upon by the County Council. We beg that everything possible is done to keep the project on schedule for completion no later than the summer of 2013 in order to resolve the overcrowding that is currently degrading our children's educational experience in an otherwise excellent school. We ask the staff to keep an open mind and eye toward any opportunity for expediting the project that may present itself.

Additionally, we support the modernizations of Garrett Park Elementary School (January 2012), modernization of Luxmanor Elementary School (2018), and Tilden Middle School (2017). We also support the FY 2012 appropriation recommended for facility planning to determine the feasibility, scope, and cost for a classroom addition at Kensington Parkwood Elementary School.

Sincerely,

Tonja Olson
Tina Lucas
Co-Presidents, Wyngate PTA

Cc: Barbara J. Leister, Principal