

CLARKSBURG CLUSTER

Clarksburg High School
Rocky Hill Middle School (split articulated)
Neelsville Middle School (split articulated)

Clarksburg Elementary School
Fox Chapel Elementary School
Little Bennett Elementary School
William B. Gibbs Elementary School
Capt. James E. Daly Elementary School
Cedar Grove Elementary School (split articulated)

The Clarksburg Cluster thanks Dr. Weast, President Brandman, and our esteemed Board Of Education members for this opportunity to testify this evening about the new FY2011 Capital Improvement Programs Plan for Montgomery County Public Schools and support Dr Weast's recommendation.

We thank MCPS for the "forward thinking" put forth on behalf of the Clarksburg Cluster.

The Clarksburg Cluster is excited that the Fox Chapel ES addition will be completed by August 2011. The portables have been temporarily relocated and dozers have broken ground. We patiently wait for the final product!!

We are just as excited to open William B Gibbs ES this fall. The facility looks great! It's amazing how a walking community has brought our families together!!

Clarksburg High School is bulging and the recommendation for an addition is greatly appreciated. We have four (4) portables on our high school site. This rapid northern expansion has brought new families to our area and these families are exponentially increasing our school population. As one can see from current student enrollment and future enrollment growth projections our families have a wide range of school-aged children and our cluster is certainly feeling the change from Elementary to High School.

Rocky Hill Middle School is bursting at its seams. Portables are utilized in this county as a short term solution and we'd like to keep their usage as such. But, as portables are added, so are the core needs within the facility. Rocky Hill is challenged at lunch, holding four lunches of 300+ students during each lunch. The facility is challenged to supply enough lockers for the growing population. Finally, team teaching is difficult since parts of each grade level or subject teams are located outside the core facility. Looking at our approved housing development in Clarksburg we appreciate the recommended funding for Clarksburg Middle School #2.

The proposed Clarksburg Village Elementary School Site #1 couldn't have had a more perfect timing. Land is being cleared to make way for Phase 3 and 4 of the community which will expand our elementary school population.

In addition to the afore mentioned CIP recommendations we want to throw our full support behind the recommended 2010 boundary study between Baker Middle School and Rocky Hill Middle School to consider reassignment of Rockwell Elementary School to Baker Middle School.

As outlined in Supplemental A, our community supports this Board following the full and fair process and timeline in of the Maryland Board of Education COMAR Chapter 13A. Our community schools most affected by the proposal of a boundary study oppose this option but our cluster will support liberal transfers that encourage the repopulation of the Poolesville Cluster.

The Recommended Capital Budget includes funding to address critical capacity needs systemwide, to continue the modernization program to address our aging schools, and to provide additional funding to many countywide systemic projects to maintain our capital investment. Now, as we support the proposed CIP recommendation, we want to offer our full support to continuing the modernization and planned additions schedule. Additionally, we encourage the Board to take "maximum advantage" of opportunities to improve our schools. We ask the Board to find cost savings by moving forward with planned additions and modernizations on the Modernization Schedule of Assessed Schools [Appendix E] with emphasis at area High Schools like Paint Branch, Gaithersburg, Wheaton, and Seneca Valley while construction costs are down.

The Restroom Renovations are being completed at schools, elementary schools are ill equipped to handle the needs of 4th and 5th grade female students. Feminine disposal receptacles should be supplied for these children's needs.

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But we're also forced to SHOUT OUT for our schools that are still awaiting the listed funding needs at Cedar Grove, Neelsville Middle School, Captain James Daly and Fox Chapel. Individual school needs are highlighted below.

Cedar Grove ES requests:

- We need new heating and air conditioning systems in Rooms 6, 8, 10, and 11. They are broken more than they are working, which is one reason two of them are not being used as classrooms this year. We just put in an Air Quality Complaint for one of them due to a mold smell. I'm sure it would improve if there was air moving in there consistently.
- The heating unit in the APR also needs to be replaced. It is also unreliable, unsafe to service the way it is, and sometimes there is a strong gas smell in and around the room.

Fox Chapel ES requests:

- Replacement of the HVAC unit

Neelsville MS:

- Gym Floor: Neelsville Middle School is a 29 year old building and is in need of a new gymnasium floor. Our current floor is made of rubber and had 3 semi-large holes in it; (2 of the 3 have been patched), it is also warped in several places and the floor plates are not matted with the floor; thus causing several students to fall and injure themselves. We were provided with new gym/ house lights; however, the job was not completed.
- New lockers: We have requested new lockers to replace the 29 year old ones. They have become a safety issue. Building service workers spend 30% of their time making repairs. The lockers are small (skinny), parts are hard to find to make the necessary repairs to keep them working.
- Planned Life Cycle Asset Replacement (PLAR): Neelsville is in need of exterior lights that are focused at the rear of the building especially the loading dock area. The loading dock is very isolated and backs up to the woods, has been vandalized many times—most recently a fire last year over the 4th of July holiday. There was a lot of damage to the back doors but thanks goodness that the building did not burn up.
- Remove old carpet in 5 classrooms and replace with tile. Carpet holds a lot of mold and several have tears.

Captain James E Daly:

- Playground equipment replacement (2yrs out moved up or stay on schedule)
- Replacement of ceiling tiles in AP Room
- Replace outdoor lighting assemblies because bulbs are no longer available (front of school near Kindergarten wing)
- Replace broken light fixtures in Cafeteria

We are pleased to be a part of Montgomery County's top notch education system but we must implore this Board to keep up with the educational infrastructural needs of Clarksburg.

Catch the wave in our sea of blue!! Growth is here, "NOW IS THE TIME"!!

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Clarksburg Cluster Coordinators
Jaimie Jacobson, Donna Pfeiffer, and Sonya Leaman