

Magruder PTA Cluster CIP Comments  
February 17, 2010

Good evening Montgomery County Council,

My name is Patrick Dunn and I am a Magruder PTA Cluster Coordinator. Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you.

We want to thank you for your past support of the Montgomery County Public Schools.

The Magruder Cluster supports the Capital Improvement Plan testimony and recommendations of MCCPTA and its president, Kay Romero. As you are keenly aware, MCCPTA represents a large and highly motivated phalanx of education advocates.

The CIP will support increasing system-wide renewal projects like HVAC replacements, addressing severe overcrowding in our schools, and keeping planned additions and modernizations on track.

Redland Middle School is undergoing much needed renovations to address long standing structural and operational issues. The result will be a safer school that provides an effective learning environment. The system upgrades are also expected to reduce the operational costs of the school's physical plant. We are keenly aware that this need exists in other schools.

We heartily endorse the idea of leveraging the current economic conditions to maximum advantage by moving forward with capital improvement projects. This is in no small part an equity issue- projects have frequently been delayed in the past because construction costs were too high to permit on time completion. Now is the time to recover lost ground and get projects in the queue while costs are lower. Cost savings realized from projects (for example Paint Branch HS modernization) can be applied elsewhere. In our cluster, Candlewood ES is programmed for completing modernization in 2015. Flower Hill Elementary is in need of classroom additions as noted in the CIP. The Magruder cluster also looks forward to the acceleration of long overdue projects such as the Gaithersburg HS modernization.

The recent Cashell Elementary School modernization highlighted that there are efficiencies and potential cost savings to be found in improving the interaction of county and regional offices in obtaining building permits in a timely fashion. The project was delayed while waiting for permits and it was due to the energetic efforts of MCPS staff and its contractors that the project was completed on time.

We all must continue to strongly and persistently advocate state officials for the funding we deserve. Rest assured that we are working with the MCCPTA in relentlessly advocating our Montgomery County representatives in Annapolis for an equitable share of the state education funding resources.

Thank you for your time. The Magruder Cluster looks forward to working with you in the future.

Patrick Dunn, Magruder Cluster Coordinator