

CIP Testimony – February 10, 2010

Walter Johnson Cluster

Good evening members of the County Council. My name is Barbara Ferry and I am here with DeeDee Jacobsen and Jennifer Cope as Walter Johnson Cluster Coordinators.

The WJ Cluster PTAs support the Board of Education's CIP recommendations. Consistent with testimonies from past years, we are concerned about increased density and the impact growth demands will have on school capacity.

Because WJ schools are old and in a Smart Growth area, our cluster has had many capital projects over recent years, with many more recommended. We are concerned about the many residential developments in our area, including the White Flint development, which is projected to add hundreds of new students into the WJ cluster. We are especially concerned with the open-ended so-called Phase IV

development which could outstrip MCPS's ability to keep up with up with the influx in students and will overcrowd WJ cluster schools, especially at the high school level. Keeping the CIP on schedule is essential to our ability to absorb even the first phases of this development.

We would like the Council to look for opportunities to accelerate additions or modernizations in order to take advantage of the discounted construction market and to accommodate the large incoming kindergarten classes.

Even before the White Flint build-out, Kensington Parkwood PTA is concerned that rapid enrollment already is forcing four classrooms of students into portables, while the school is less than three years old. Luxmanor is being asked to take on additional programs which will force the school into portables – after just completing an addition.

Considering these crowding issues at Kensington Parkwood, we urge that all enrollment projection numbers more aggressively include both White Flint and other area developments to ensure that these new schools are modernized to sufficient capacity so that they will not require an addition shortly after the modernization is completed.

The Tilden community supports the modernization plans for Tilden Middle School at the old Tilden Middle School site. However, we are concerned about the smaller site and the projected influx of hundreds of students from the White Flint developments.

Wyngate Elementary School remains our cluster's most severely overcrowded elementary school and one of the most overcrowded elementary schools in the county. The ten portables have severely cramped the blacktop and play field.

We ask that the project be given consideration for expediting in any way possible.

We are pleased that the BOE recommends full funding for the Garrett Park Elementary School modernization to be completed by Jan. 2012. The school is more than 60 years old and is in great disrepair. Along with Luxmanor, Garrett Park will be absorbing early stages of the White Flint development students before the new elementary school is built. The facility planning for modernization of Luxmanor should stay on schedule for FY 12-13. Even on this schedule, the school will be 52 years old when the modernization is completed in Jan. 2018.

We are eager to complete the modernization of WJ in August 2010. We are also pleased to see that funding has been maintained for the current modernization of Farmland

Elementary School although some site issues still need to be worked out.

Meanwhile, as our schools await modernization, the list of necessary capital improvements grows. MCPS continues to relegate what should be capital projects to maintenance, and then fails to provide the maintenance. We urge the County to fully fund maintenance, which includes elevator repair at Tilden required for ADA compliance, HVAC repair, a new roof for Rock Terrace School and a greenhouse for this special needs program school.

At Kensington Parkwood, there are several major site problems created by the cut and fill conducted during their recent modernization that pose a safety hazard for children. KP has also experienced significant leaks in various parts of the roof, which points to a design flaw in such a new school.

The old KP had dangerous mold issues, and we fear we will soon have mold again unless MCPS identifies and corrects the underlying cause of these leaks in what is essentially a new school.

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Thank you for your attention to our facility concerns and we look forward to working with you over the next fiscal year.

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

February 1, 2010

To: The Montgomery County Council

Dear Council Members:

The Parent-Teacher Association of Wyngate Elementary School is pleased to have the opportunity to submit comments for consideration on the County Executive's Recommended FY2011-2016 Capital Improvements Program (CIP) and the FY2011 Capital Budget.

We are thankful that the overcrowded conditions at Wyngate have been recognized, for the completion this past year of a Feasibility Study for an addition to the school, and for the inclusion of funds for construction of this addition in the CIP now under consideration. We are also thankful for the strong support voiced by the many members of the Council who have met recently with our families to learn in detail about the overcrowded conditions at Wyngate.

Wyngate currently serves 634 students in a structure built for 412 (222 over capacity) and is projected by SY2014-15 to serve 679 (which would be 267 over capacity without the proposed addition). This data reveals the following:

1. Wyngate is currently one of the two most overcrowded elementary schools in the Montgomery County Public School system that does not have a project funded in an approved CIP to resolve this over capacity.
2. Wyngate is currently the most overcrowded of the eight elementary schools recommended for new addition projects in this recommended CIP.

We estimate that in addition to the ten portables now in use, an additional two or three portables will be needed prior to the start of the 2013 school year. The ten existing portables already overcrowd the blacktop and playing field, impacting the space available for recess. Recess must often be held indoors for two grades if the fields remain muddy and unusable even on a sunny day and the use of the blacktop is rotated weekly among grades two, three, four and five.

The Feasibility Study reveals that the internal core elements (especially the multi-purpose/lunch room) are severely undersized for the current enrollment. The school must now hold four (4) lunch periods and as the enrollment grows, it is likely that six lunch periods will be necessary before the planned addition can be completed, meaning that lunch periods would need to start as early as 10:30 am and last as late as 2:30 pm.

We thank you again for this opportunity to share our concerns with you. We are relieved that the severe overcrowding at Wyngate has been recognized and a project proposed to resolve it. We beg that you approve the funding for this project as included in the CIP by the County Executive so that the schools over capacity situation can be resolved at the earliest possible date. We are happy that our children attend Wyngate, where we believe our children receive an excellent education in the hands of a dedicated, skillful and loving staff. We believe strongly that the planned addition to the

school is necessary to provide a safe and structured learning environment. We hope that the strong support for this project in the Wyngate parent community is obvious to you based on the package of hundreds of letters we delivered to each of you in the fall of 2009.

Additionally, we strongly support the ongoing modernization of Walter Johnson High School to be completed in August 2010 as well as the upcoming modernizations of Farmland and Garrett Park Elementary schools. We also urge you to keep the feasibility studies for future modernization of Tilden Middle and Luxmanor Elementary in 2013 on schedule.

Sincerely,

Stacey Erlenbach
Mariana Straathof
Co-Presidents, Wyngate PTA

Cc: Barbara J. Leister, Principal

Luxmanor Elementary School PTA
6201 Tilden Lane
Rockville, Maryland 20852

October 29, 2009

Dr. Jerry Weast, Superintendent of
Montgomery County Public Schools
850 Hungerford Drive
Rockville, Maryland 20850-1747

Dear Dr. Weast,

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 recently completed. The new classrooms allow all of our students to be inside the building. The removal of the eight portables has allowed us to regain the lost playground area, which the portables occupied.

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 42 years, the building is 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.
2. Luxmanor PTA notes in the Projected Enrollment and Space Availability Chart in the CIP that MCPS has decided to recommend adding a new program at Luxmanor starting next year (2010-2011). The PreK LFI/SCB program would require another classroom. Based on current projections, which were below actual enrollment for this year by 30 students, there will not be an available classroom at Luxmanor next year. The new addition, that was just opened this school year was originally supposed to have more classrooms to accommodate an additional program, but the additional classrooms were not built so there is not additional space in the building. It would be very unfortunate to move a new program to the school that would require the addition of portables to accommodate it when there are other schools in the county with available

rooms. We ask that MCPS please look for another facility that would be able to house the program.

3. Repave the blacktop area on the playground now that the portable classrooms have been removed from the blacktop.

Part B

1. We would like to continue the full funding of the Walter Johnson High School modernization as well.
2. We support the upcoming modernizations of Farmland Elementary and Garrett Park Elementary, the construction of an addition for Wyngate Elementary, and the feasibility study for the future modernization of Tilden Middle School. We urge full funding of these projects in order to keep them on schedule.
3. We also note that MCPS has decided to recommend in the CIP 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 August 2017. Also, given the projected influx of an estimated 380 middle school students from the proposed White Flint Sector plan, we ask that consideration be given to increasing the size of the modernized facility.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Jill Kane
President

TILDEN MIDDLE SCHOOL PTSA

October 28, 2009

Dr. Jerry Weast, Superintendent
Montgomery County Public Schools
850 Hungerford Dr.
Rockville, Md. 20850

Dear Dr. Weast:

The PTSA of Tilden Middle School appreciates the opportunity to submit recommendations for the Montgomery County Public Schools FY 2009-2014 Capital Improvements Program.

Please find our comments presented in attachments to this letter per the format requested by your staff. We draw your attention, in particular, to the importance of keeping planned improvements to the Tilden HVAC system on track.

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,

Susan Verner
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 notes that MCPS has decided to recommend in the CIP 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 proposed White Flint Sector plan, we ask that consideration be given to increasing the size of the modernized facility.

As part of the Walter Johnson Cluster, the Tilden Middle School PTSA strongly supports the ongoing modernization of Walter Johnson High School. We would urge the Superintendent and School Board to continue to provide full funding for the next phase of WJ's modernization, and encourage MCPS to remain on schedule.

We support the upcoming modernizations of Farmland Elementary and Garrett Park Elementary, the feasibility study for the future modernization of Luxmanor Elementary, and the feasibility study for the addition to Wyngate Elementary. We urge full funding of these projects in order to keep them on schedule.

**TILDEN MIDDLE SCHOOL PTSA
FY 2009-2014 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.

Install an inner door to the Boys Locker Room that can be opened from the outside of the school.

HVAC Replacement

Complete systemic repairs began in the summer of 2008. **Two of three phases have been completed. It is critically important that this project remain on track, as it was delayed for three years, disrupting both Summer programming and use of the building during the school year.**

Planned Life Cycle Asset Replacement (PLAR)

Replace all lockers with larger (wider) lockers.

Repair/replace school-wide PA system.

Areas of blacktop need repair around the basketball court and gymnasium steps.

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.)

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

Nov. 6, 2009

Dr. Jerry D. Weast
Superintendent of Schools
850 Hungerford Drive
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear Dr. Weast:

We are pleased to have this opportunity to submit the following comments on the M.C.P.S. Fiscal Years 2010-2015 Capital Improvements Program (CIP).

Last year we brought several serious problems to your attention, as we were deeply disturbed that poor workmanship in the modernization of KP is quickly dragging the school into some of the same safety problems from which the old KP suffered.

One of the most serious problems is roof leaks. This problem is so persistent that KP has gone through the supply of extra ceiling tiles that the builder supplied and the builder will no longer supply replacements. Now, whenever a tile needs to be replaced, it has to be purchased with school money. The old KP had dangerous mold issues, and we fear we will soon have mold again unless MCPS identifies and corrects the underlying cause of these leaks. We are at a loss as to why no one can come up with a permanent solution to the roof leaks. KP's PTA would like to request an assessment to determine whether this is a design or materials flaw, and what can be done to find a more permanent solution before we run into safety troubles. Unless someone makes this happen, MCPS will soon have mold and illness to deal with.

KP's PTA also is extremely concerned that rapid enrollment at the school already is forcing students into portables, while the school is less than three years old. Next school year, 2009-2010, KP will have four portables, and enrollment is projected to continue rising. We would like to request an assessment to determine whether KP can be considered for an addition.

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 2009-2014 CIP.

Sincerely,

Susan Anderson, President
Kensington-Parkwood PTA

Kensington Parkwood Parent Teacher Association

A. Request for Individual Projects

1. Additions: The KP PTA would like to request an assessment to determine the possibilities of enlarging one or both of its parking lots. There is currently insufficient lot or street parking to accommodate teachers, teacher interns and parents.
2. Additions: We would like to request an assessment to determine whether KP can be considered for an addition. KP's PTA is extremely concerned that rapid enrollment at the school already is forcing students into portables, while the school is less than three years old. Next year, KP will have four portables, and enrollment is projected to continue rising.

B. Request for County-wide Projects

14. Water and Indoor Air Quality

KP, while less than three years old, has continual, persistent, multiple water leaks in the roof. Every time there is rain, there are multiple leaks in the roof, requiring buckets to collect water. The leaks occur in closets, classrooms and hallways. There is concern that these are not isolated problems in the roof, but that there is some kind of design flaw that must be addressed. The KP-PTA requests that inspectors examine the roof to determine the cause of the problem before this beautiful new school has a mold and air quality problem that would affect the health of staff and students. To complicate matters, KP has to pay to replace every ceiling tile that is ruined by water leaks.

North Bethesda Middle School
Parent Teacher Student Association

November 6, 2009

Dr. Jerry D. Weast
Superintendent of Schools
Montgomery County Public Schools
850 Hungerford Drive
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Dear Dr. Weast:

The North Bethesda Parent-Teacher-Student Association is pleased to have the opportunity to submit comments on the FY 2011 Capital Improvements Program (CIP) budget.

We continue to see growth in enrollment in our area. We had one of the largest number of children at kindergarten orientation at our feeder schools in years. 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. This is an issue throughout our cluster with new development impacting all of our schools-particularly along Rockville Pike.

We support the modernization of Walter Johnson High School, slated for completion in 2010. We also 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 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, the problem remains.

This summer, we have converted the wood shop to a computer lab. We support the continued funding and long-term technical support of the computer lab.

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

Sincerely,

Jim Parker
PTSA President
North Bethesda Middle School PTSA

Ashburton Elementary School

May 7, 2009

Dr. Jerry D. Weast
Superintendent of Schools
Montgomery County Public Schools
850 Hungerford Drive
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Dear Dr. Weast:

The Ashburton Parent-Teacher Association is pleased to have the opportunity to submit comments on the FY 2011 Capital Improvements Program (CIP) budget. We are very happy to have our new ten-room addition and school modifications project completed and are very satisfied with our new spaces. The design of the addition works for better traffic flow, the students love the new playgrounds, and we all benefit from the added technology.

We also appreciate that the addition project not only addressed only our growth issues replacing six portables and provided extra space for our growing PEP program, but also addressed long-standing health and safety concerns. The mold and humidity problems seem to be solved with proper waterproofing and additional air-flow from the addition systems. The project also provided a solution for our lack of parking and parent drop-off area with an additional parking lot in the rear and new parent drop-off area.

We continue to see growth in enrollment in our area. We see large incoming kindergarten classes and anticipate a number of private school students attending Ashurton next year.

We support the phased modernization of Walter Johnson High School, slated for completion in 2010. We also urge you to keep the entire modernization schedule on track for our other cluster schools, Luxmanor, Garrett Park, and Farmland Elementary Schools, and Tilden Middle School.

We do not have any specific needs in Categories A, Requests for Capital Projects nor B, Requests for Individual School projects at this time.

We look forward to seeing the results of the restroom renovation evaluation of our facilities; we have some restroom facilities that have not be upgraded since the original installation in 1957.

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

Sincerely,

Amy Cohen
Ashburton Elementary School PTA

cc: Charlene Eroh, Principal

**FARMLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTA
7000 OLD GATE ROAD
NORTH BETHESDA, MARYLAND 20852**

May 29, 2009

Dr. Jerry D. Weast
Superintendent of Schools
Montgomery County Public Schools
850 Hungerford Drive
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Dear Dr. Weast:

The Parent-Teacher Association of Farmland Elementary School is pleased to have the opportunity to submit comments on the FY 2011 Capital Improvements Program (CIP) budget.

First, we want to express our appreciation that the long-awaited modernization of Farmland is commencing. We would like to note, however, that we are disappointed in what appears to have been poor planning regarding the office renovation. The entire office suite, including the health rooms, was renovated when the addition was built instead of postponing the project to coincide with the modernization. We feel that the funds used for this project, which is now to be demolished after only 2 years, could have been much better spent.

We urge that all construction projects include sufficient funding for contingency issues. For example, the HVAC systems in our addition, completed two years ago, have never worked properly. Furthermore, the roof of the gym, completed at the same time, is leaking. We would like these problems to be addressed during the modernization of the rest of the building.

We are also concerned about the possibility that there will be insufficient resources and classroom space throughout the cluster to accommodate the increased enrollment that is expected with student population growth in the area, especially with the development being planned as part of the White Flint sector master plan.

We are pleased about the planned modernizations of Garret Park ES and the nearly completed modernization of Walter Johnson HS, as well as the feasibility studies planned for 2013 for future modernizations of Tilden & Luxmanor. We are pleased that a feasibility study was done for Wyngate's addition and we are hopeful that it will be constructed quickly.

Thank you for this opportunity to share our concerns with you. We appreciate your commitments to keeping the modernization of Farmland on-track and we will be following the progress of the project with interest. We are proud of Farmland's history of strong academics and hope to continue our history of excellence.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Stacey Jungreis
Dr. Shari Campbell
Cluster Representatives
Farmland Elementary School Parent-Teacher Association

cc: Mrs. Caroline Cooksey, PTA President
Mrs. K. Diane Smith, Principal

**FARMLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTA
7000 OLD GATE ROAD
NORTH BETHESDA, MARYLAND 20852**

May 29, 2000

A. Requests for Individual Projects at Farmland Elementary School

Modernization

Maintain funding for Farmland's modernization, scheduled to be completed in August 2011. Include sufficient funding to cover the repair/proper balancing of the HVAC system in the addition and the leaks in the roof of the gym.

Garrett Park Elementary School PTA
4810 Oxford St.
Kensington, MD 20895

June 3, 2009

Dr. Jerry Weast, Superintendent
Montgomery County Public Schools
850 Hungerford Dr.
Rockville, Md. 20850

Dear Dr. Weast:

The Garrett Park PTA appreciates the opportunity to submit recommendations for the Montgomery County Public Schools FY 2010 FY 2010 Capital Budget and Amendments to the FY 2009–2014 Capital Improvement Plan.

Please find our comments presented in attachments to this letter per the format requested by your staff. We draw your attention, in particular, to the importance of keeping the Garrett Park modernization and the addition of a gym on track.

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

Sincerely,

Beth Resnick
Cluster Representative

Cc: Elaine Chang-Baxter, Principal
Wanda Means- Harris, Assistant Principal

Attachment A Requests for Individual Projects

Modernizations

We strongly support keeping Garrett Park Elementary school's modernization and the addition of a gym on track. The gym is especially important as our All-Purpose Room (APR) is too small to accommodate all students in one sitting and our evening programs are always challenged for space. Because of our growing number of students, we have not been able to maintain whole school traditions such as hosting our beginning of the school year assembly, the holiday sing and the closing ceremony.

Additionally, we ask that modernization projects at Walter Johnson and Farmland be kept on track and receive full funding. Tilden, as well as Luxmanor should have feasibility studies in 2013 for future modernizations.

Additions

We urge you to approve an addition at Wyngate Elementary in an expedited manner, due to their overcrowded conditions.

Attachment B Request for County Wide Projects

HVAC Control System: Our kitchen requires an air conditioning system. Conditions in the kitchen during warm days far exceed temperature guidelines for county properties; elementary schools in the county, including Pinecrest, have A/C installed in their kitchens. There are many days where the working conditions for our kitchen staff are very warm. We respectfully request that an air conditioning system is installed in the kitchen.

Code Red Requirements--Shades for Internal Windows in Classrooms: Several of our classrooms have not had internal window shades installed as required under Code Red regulations - including some outdated classrooms that have large windows facing the hallway. We have 24 classrooms needing the shades. We respectfully request that MCPS complies with the Code Red regulation and installs shades in the classrooms.

New stairway tiles in the new addition: The rubberized tiles in the stairwell of the new building are very hard to clean. We have heard that the school system no longer uses them for other modernization projects. We respectfully request

that the stairway tiles be replaced with something that our building service team can more easily clean.

Technology Modernization: We were supposed to have a technology modernization this summer. We recently found out that this is being delayed a year. All of the warranties are scheduled to expire at the close of the 2008-2009 school year. This will result in an increase in service time, decreasing the instructional availability of an already limited number of computers. We do not yet have Office 2007 installed and many documents being emailed to staff now use Office 2007 which we have problems accessing. Our printers are no longer working well; some do not work at all. We do not have the funding to purchase additional ink cartridges or print heads. We are also in need of software upgrades. Our understanding is that if we do not get new computers, the new software, should it be provided, will function much slower on our older computers. As time progresses, it becomes harder to introduce new technologies into the educational structure when limited by older computers that potentially do not meet new system requirements. Teacher planning time and student learning time is all impacted by antiquated technology. It takes a long time to wait for programs to load or documents to open. Students only have so much time to work in a lab and precious minutes are lost as a result of not having these upgrades. We respectfully request that MCPS conduct an assessment to determine what technology support can be provided to our school.