

WHEATON HIGH SCHOOL

12601 Dalewood Drive, Silver Spring, MD 20906

PARENT • TEACHER • STUDENT • ASSOCIATION

COUNTY COUNCIL HEARING

ON THE

EXECUTIVE'S RECOMMENDED CAPITAL BUDGET AND CIP

February 16, 2010

Good evening. I am Raysha Picerno, Vice-President of the Wheaton High School PTSA. Tonight, I am speaking on behalf of the Wheaton school cluster. We commend our County leadership for seeing the silver lining in the current financial black cloud. The Executive's proposed budget includes vital classroom additions and modernizations for our school community.

Harmony Hills elementary school community will benefit from construction of a 16-classroom addition which began in January 2010. Brookhaven Elementary's addition is scheduled to be completed in August 2011. Viers Mill Elementary will begin a classroom addition to be completed for the 2013 school year. As each project is completed, all portable classrooms will be removed and all students will be housed finally within the footprint of the current building and addition. These additions also eliminate, reduce, or alleviate long-standing safety concerns and maintenance issues.

Wheaton High School modernization is scheduled for facility completion in August 2015 and site completion the following year. Wheaton High School is the last of the five Downcounty Consortium schools to be updated. This project is crucial to keeping Wheaton competitive within the consortium. Weller Road

Elementary's modernization will be completed in August 2013 and Wheaton Woods Elementary in August 2016. These three schools were opened in 1954, 1953, and 1952 respectively.

As you know, our community faces many social and economic challenges. It is time to relieve staff and students of the additional burdens that come with failing buildings and give them the physical supports and inspiration that this budget brings. These projects are also vital to our community's continued economic development. This budget is a solid and smart investment in our future.

We urge you to approve the Executive's full Capital budget. Thank you.