

Public Testimony In Support for Complete Funding of  
Redland Middle School Renovations

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My name is Patrick Dunn and I am the Cashell Elementary School PTA President.

I'm testifying tonight on behalf of the Cashell PTA Executive Board and the Cashell parents and students who look forward to being Redland parents and students.

Redland has many great things going for it- excellent teachers, engaged students, and an active PTA. What Redland does not have is an effective internal configuration. Redland has not been renovated in over 30 years. Basic fundamentals such as proper walls and ceilings are absent. MCPS acknowledged these deficiencies a decade ago and, until the latest Superintendent's CIP recommendations came out, there was agreement from the Board of Education and MCPS that these deficiencies should be systematically addressed in the next CIP cycle. The Superintendent's latest recommendations for Redland are drastically reduced from the MCPS professional planning staff recommendations.

Redland students and educators have learned to adapt to difficult conditions. Adaptation requires diverting time and energy away from education. The students and teachers are learning to deal with noise, dust and perhaps for some folks- a perception of neglect. Redland Middle School should provide conditions that ensure its students and teachers excel in their educational pursuits and prevent any further difficulties with meeting Adequate Yearly Progress on the Middle School Assessments.

While Redland renovation efforts languished, the private schools in the area have enhanced their facilities and are effectively recruiting students and parents. Without a broad and diverse student population, school level AYP achievement on the MSAs becomes that much more difficult to achieve. It's time to demonstrate strong support for middle school education and properly configure Redland so that it provides the fundamentals of a good school. The excellence of Redland students, teachers, and parents will build on those fundamentals to create an exemplary school!