

# Watkins Mill Cluster

Watkins Mill High School.  
Montgomery Village Middle School; Neelsville Middle School  
South Lake Elementary School; Stedwick Elementary School; Watkins Mill Elementary School;  
Whetstone Elementary School

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FY2010 Capital Budget and Amendments to FY2009-2014 Capital Improvements Program

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Testimony presented by:  
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Good evening President Navarro, Dr. Weast and members of the Board of Education. My name is Martha Crews and I am one of the co-coordinators for the Watkins Mill Cluster. I am also the PTA President at Whetstone Elementary School

On behalf of the families of the Watkins Mill Cluster, we offer our sincere thanks for the classroom addition at Stedwick Elementary School. It was a well designed, well implemented construction project that resulted in a beautiful new addition to the building, featuring plenty of natural light, convenient work space in the classrooms, and a lovely new garden courtyard.

Thank you also for studying the feasibility of an addition to Montgomery Village MS. This process helped us better understand our options.

In regards to the current CIP, we support the following:

Whetstone Elementary School Classroom Addition: *We support the Superintendent's recommendation for a classroom addition at Whetstone Elementary School, with a goal of completing construction of the addition by August 2011.* Due to significant overcrowding, it is imperative that this classroom remains fully funded in the CIP.

Neelsville Restroom Renovations: *We also support the approved restroom renovations at Neelsville Middle School.* In addition, other priority requests are for quick replacement of aging and worn out carpet and lockers at Neelsville, and installation of security cameras near the lockers.

Watkins Mill High School: *We are excited that a feasibility study will be conducted regarding the construction of a Wellness Center at Watkins Mill. The first School-Based Health Center, at Northwood High School, provides everything from immunizations to sports physicals, along with counseling and health education. Such services would be a welcome addition to our school community.*

Watkins Mill also needs a new roof, a complete painting of the interior, and renovation of its aging restrooms.

We have been fortunate that many of our cluster's capital needs have been addressed, or are being considered. However, other students who live in Montgomery Village—our neighbors who attend Gaithersburg HS—have not been quite so lucky. We therefore stand firmly beside the families of the Gaithersburg cluster as they ask that the modernization of Gaithersburg High School be returned to its original schedule for completion in 2012-2013.

Furthermore, we ask that current projects in the CIP remain fully funded. We support the continuation and expansion of countywide projects on HVAC systems, security systems, roofs and restrooms. While we understand that these are tight financial times, we can't afford to fall behind on capital improvement projects.

Our testimony tonight is very brief. Our cluster needs your help primarily in the area of programming, and so we look forward to coming back in January, during the Operating Budget hearings, to once again plead our case for an IB Middle Years Program and an expansion of our tremendously-successful IB Diploma Program.

Thank you.