

Fully Fund Redland Middle School

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CIP Testimony
November 15, 2007

Beatrice Hanson
PTA President
Redland Middle School

Good Evening!

My name is Beatrice Hanson. I have 4 children in Montgomery County Public Schools currently 2 of them attend Redland Middle School. I also volunteer as President of the Redland PTA.

I would like to thank you for this opportunity to speak to you tonight.

Just a few weeks ago our community learned about the severe funding cut for Redland's Interior Modification project. This news came as quite a shock to us. We believed that the project was approved and on schedule to begin in 2008. We waited patiently and trusted in the system, and for reasons that have not been adequately explained, it has let us down.

The current CIP proposed by Dr. Weast will not solve the poor learning conditions and safety issues you have heard about tonight. It merely is an incomplete and inadequate fix.

I'd like you to ask you to pretend for a moment that you are students at Redland:

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Imagine, sitting in a classroom trying to listen to your teacher, and hearing voices from the adjoining rooms just as loud and clear as if they were in the room with you. Or perhaps you are trying to do silent reading and the movie being played next door sounds like it is right next door to you.

[Can you concentrate?](#)

[Are you able to learn?](#)

Wall toppers and the current composition of the wall material will not solve the acoustical issues.

Imagine, also, sitting in your class, and the outside wind is shaking the roof and blowing dust and dirt from the exposed duct work onto you and your desk.

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Imagine, again please, sitting at your desk and again being pelted by dust and dirt from the exposed ventilation system as routine maintenance is being done.

Or imagine, if you can, sitting in your classroom during a code red, knowing that the glass walls and toppers are not really providing adequate security.

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Are you able to learn? .

Do you feel safe?

Glass walls and furniture walls that will not be replaced do not provide the MCPS required security for our children.

It is hard to believe today in Montgomery County that these conditions exist, but they do ---- at Redland Middle School. They are an everyday problem and a tremendous distraction for our students and teachers. As you have heard, many of Redland's classrooms don't have walls and ceilings! It is a mystery to me how students can concentrate and be engaged in learning.

Redland's project is unique. It can not be looked at using traditional methods of assessing school needs. It does not solve a capacity issue, it is not a modernization, and it is not a gymnasium project. How do you classify a school with no ceilings and walls? I believe it lies somewhere between capital needs and critical safety projects. I believe we should and could be placed in a corrective action category.

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Please remember that the interior modifications done now will have to support approximately 20+ years of instructional and learning excellence and security in an ever changing world.

We are not asking for every upgrade the school really needs.

We are not asking to be bumped ahead.

We are not asking for a modernization (although that would be nice).

We are asking that you provide our school with the basic funding you said was necessary ten years ago to make our school functional according to MCPS standards!

And we are asking for the corrective actions necessary to provide a safe and secure learning environment.

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I leave you with these questions in mind while you are deliberating your decision:

Do wall toppers really solve the problems?

Would you be happy if your child attended Redland Middle School?

Would you be satisfied with the inadequate learning environment?

In a County that strives for excellence in learning, and prides itself on educational achievement, why would it settle for such an incomplete solution here?

Redland's situation must be fixed now and for the future!

Our children have waited long enough.

Please fully fund Redland's Interior Modification.

Thank you