

**Oral Testimony of  
Laurie Augustino  
On Behalf of the  
Gaithersburg Cluster**

**Montgomery County Council  
February 8, 2011**

Good Evening President Ervin and Members of the County Council. My name is Laurie Augustino, and I am here to testify on behalf of the Gaithersburg Cluster.

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on behalf of my cluster concerning the County Executive's proposed FY 2012 Capital Budget and FY 2011-16 CIP.

Our cluster supports the testimony of MCCPTA. We especially feel very strongly about the need to keep the planned additions and modernizations on track. The future for Montgomery County Public Schools is not to hold classes in old, inferior buildings, but to house its student body in the most up-to-date facilities possible. It is therefore critical that the modernizations of our schools, particularly the next high schools on your modernization list: Gaithersburg, Wheaton and Seneca Valley, stay on track.

My oral testimony this evening though, will focus on my cluster's most important construction project – that being the replacement of Gaithersburg High School.

Over the past many years, members of the Council have heard us talk about the new GHS construction project, yet it was always mentioned as part of the future of GHS. There were always delays, and there were always uncertainties, but we pushed on to bring this “future” project into the present.

I am glad to say that, in the words of legendary Redskins head coach, George Allen, “The Future is Now!”

We have spent the past 2 years designing a beautiful state-of-the-art high school. Parts of the project are now out for bid, and we look forward to embarking on construction next fiscal year. All we need is for the County Executive's proposed FY 2012 Capital Budget to be approved as submitted.

**The Future is NOW!**

Now is the time to approve these funds to complete the construction of the new Gaithersburg High School. Now is the time to continue your support of this project and approve this CIP. Now is the time to turn this long-promised project into a “nuts and bolts – hard-hatted reality” for the Gaithersburg Cluster.

The Future is Now!

We have traveled a long road, and have enjoyed the support of many people in Montgomery County. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the County Council, the Board of Education, the many people within MCPS and throughout the City of Gaithersburg who have listened to our pleas and are working to make the new Gaithersburg High School a priority.

The Future is NOW!

We are no longer talking about the “future” Gaithersburg High School. The Future is NOW! Now is the time to cross the finish line and fully fund the

County Executive's FY 2012 Capital Budget so GHS students and staff can excel and succeed.

The Future is NOW!

Thank you so much for the opportunity to testify on behalf of the Gaithersburg cluster schools. I look forward to seeing you all at the opening of the new school in 2014.

Thank you.