

**Cold Spring Elementary School-Dufief Elementary School-Fallsmead Elementary School
Lakewood Elementary School-Stonemill Elementary School-Travilah Elementary School
Cabin John Middle School-Robert Frost Middle School
Thomas S. Wootton High School**

WOOTTON CLUSTER TESTIMONY

REGARDING THE FY 2011 CAPITAL BUDGET

AND THE FY 2011-2016 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM

TO THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL

February 17, 2010

Good evening, my name is Jennifer Pories

I am here to represent the Wootton Cluster and here is my story:

We fully support the Capital Budget recommended for MCPS by
Dr. Weast for 2011 through 2016,

And we URGE you the County Council to fund it in its entirety as it is seen.

Our community understands the primary need of adequate facilities,

We also realize throughout the County, the great demand there is for these.

The Board of Education has put together a reasonable system for prioritizing
spending,

Since it is obvious, we cannot complete all of the projects in need of capital
improvements in this Budget ending.

Our Cluster representatives helped to develop and we stand behind the MCCPTA
Capital Budget priorities,

Many MCCPTA objectives are brought closer to fruition by the inclusion in the
Budget of these,

Such as increasing system-wide renewal projects like HVAC replacements at
Robert Frost Middle School,

Educating students in classrooms that are not heated in the winter months is just
not cool!

Many of the schools in our County suffer from what is known as the "severe
overcrowd",

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This is all too familiar to Wootton High School, where more than 350 students in excess of capacity are allowed.

The modernization of Wootton High School has finally made it to the schedule for planning funds in 2014,

Wootton was built in 1970, and will celebrate its 40th anniversary this spring, What this school needs is not routine!

Please keep this mod on track and on your screen!

Cabin John Middle School students have been in a holding school since last summer when its modernization began,

Full funding of this Capital Budget is needed to complete this project and bring the students back as planned.

Parents, Teachers, Students, and Administrators have been patient waiting for their School projects to be completed

Whether new construction, an addition, modernization, rehab or a heater, It is important that we keep these improvements on track

We cannot afford to fall back

During lean economic times, cut backs and cost reductions are common,

However, spending now to "take maximum advantage of a down construction market" will reap you a bargain!

This is truly a great time to fund capital projects for education,

The savings from one high school mod could provide a new elementary school and an addition.

Council Members,

Thank you for your consistent support of education in Montgomery County

To us Wootton Cluster residents, education is key.....

In fact it is the primary reason why we

Chose to live here and as active residents we are mindful of our community.

We meet with our Delegates both here and in Annapolis, to ensure that our agendas are in sync on an annual basis.

We appreciate your dedicated service to our community and your good judgment funding this Capital Budget in its entirety,

To conclude, John F Kennedy, who often spoke of the value of education stated "There are risks and costs to a program of action, but they are far less than the long-range risks of comfortable inaction".