

Good evening. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on the Superintendent's recommended FY 2009-2014 Capital Improvement Program (CIP). My name is Jaimie Jacobson and I represent the Clarksburg cluster schools.

While school enrollment county-wide is down, the Clarksburg cluster enrollment exceeded all expectations by being over capacity in both middle and elementary schools and will exceed capacity at Clarksburg High School next school year. The overall consensus of our cluster is that permanent buildings and additions are the ultimate solution, but clean, safe and healthy portable classrooms are necessary to get us through this transitional period.

The Clarksburg cluster's CIP needs by school follow:

Clarksburg High School

Our cluster thanks the BOE for providing funds for stadium lights at Clarksburg High School. We've been able to grow together as a community and begin the traditions that we envisioned as a new cluster. We'd like to extend an invitation to our premiere playoff game, hosted under the lights at CHS tomorrow night 7pm. to see our Coyotes in action!

THANK YOU for including apportions for facility planning to determine classroom additions. The current rate of enrollment projects the likelihood that additional classrooms will be required to meet capacity needs at Clarksburg High School (sooner rather than later). We request clean and healthy portables until the addition is built.

Rocky Hill Middle School

Future projections provide that Rocky Hill Middle School requires additional classroom space to alleviate our overcrowding for next school year (and beyond). To meet these essential current needs, we require a minimum of six clean, safe and healthy modular units until additional space is created through future projects.

Neelsville Middle School

Neelsville requests that the carpet on the ramp from the main entrance to the lower level be replaced with new nubbed tiles. Neelsville is also asking for replacement of the current student lockers, which were installed when the building opened in 1981 and no longer meet students' current needs. In addition, Neelsville would like security cameras installed in the student locker area to increase the safety and security of the students and their belongings. Finally, Neelsville is asking that all air handlers are cleaned and repaired to help improve air quality.

Clarksburg/ Damascus Middle School

THANK YOU for FY 2009 recommended appropriation for facility planning for the feasibility study to determine the feasibility, scope and cost for a new middle school in the Clarksburg/ Damascus area.

Little Bennett Elementary School

Little Bennett Elementary School, an environmentally-friendly green school, has enrollment projections that put this brand new school in a position of requesting at least 2 additional portables in its third year (bringing us to 7 portables). We propose to make the most of our overpopulated school, by requesting GREEN portables.

In preparation of receiving Green portables, a joint venture with our administration and PTA has come up with creative ways and various learning opportunities to conduct studies (by students) of the differences between standard and Green portables (such as energy usages, maintenance requirements, etc.). We hope this will give greater incentive to choose Green portables and hope MCPS will embrace this academic proposal as we look forward to the studies' results!

Little Bennett has the smallest lot size in the Clarksburg Cluster, and nearly the smallest lot size in MCPS and simply does not have adequate recess space to accommodate our student population. Although an expanded blacktop request is "un-green", we request expanding the blacktop area by paving part of the grassy area behind the school. In August 2008, one hundred percent of the blacktop for grades 1-5 will be occupied by portables, leaving our students with two mulched areas, a field (frequently closed because the ground is too wet), and a small Kindergarten blacktop for recess play. Supervision is difficult, and we're frequently limited to indoor recess creating greater stress on the facility and faculty. Even with Clarksburg #8 opening in one year, Little Bennett will continue to need portables for several additional years, We thank you for projecting the need for Clarksburg #9 and hope the funding necessary for this school is allocated.

Fox Chapel Elementary School

The Superintendent's proposed CIP recommends a Fiscal Year 2009 appropriation for planning to begin the architectural design of the classroom addition for Fox Chapel, a Title 1 school with 9 portables. The completion date for the addition is scheduled for August 2011. Fox Chapel appreciates the Superintendent's recognition that Fox Chapel's present physical capacity is simply incapable of accommodating projected enrollment. In fact, the CIP finds that, even with the proposed addition, actual enrollment will exceed physical capacity in the first year after the addition is completed. Keeping the planning on track, and completing the addition by the August 2011 target is imperative. Fox Chapel has been saddled with portables (and the host of problems that come with them) for far too long.

Fox Chapel makes one other request, and that is for an immediate and comprehensive overhaul or replacement of its HVAC system. Over the 12-month period from October 2006 to October 2007, Fox Chapel has submitted 43 work orders for problems associated with its HVAC system – nearly 1 a week. Those work orders resulted in approximately 96 hours worth of repair work, with many of the visits focused on doing the same work that was done several weeks earlier. This level of work orders and the amount of time logged to repair this system suggest a more systemic problem with the HVAC system. Fox Chapel requests that MCPS undertake a more thorough and comprehensive analysis of the Fox Chapel HVAC system, and take all necessary steps to ensure the stability and consistent performance of that system, with replacement if no other options are available.

Captain James Daly Elementary School

Captain James Daley Elementary School has been open for nearly 20 years. The current CIP shows that the school is not scheduled for any modernizations. However, it has been brought to the cluster's attention that roof repairs and/or replacement are needed.

Cedar Grove Elementary School

Enrollment at Cedar Grove Elementary continues to exceed capacity and is projected to grow throughout the six year planning period. We ask that Clarksburg Elementary #8 stays on track, it's imperative that it this school is ready to open August 2009.

Cedar Grove ES request three items for the Capital Improvement Plan for which we have work order numbers.

1. Repairing the wooden fences on the north end of the school property and the chain link fence on the west and south side of the playground where the fields border Route 27 was requested 4/19/07. Not only is route 27 a very busy road, there are several houses that abut the playground, one of which is Browning Pool & Spas with heavy equipment and chemicals. This lack of fencing is a huge safety issue.
2. Repairing the steps from the parking lot up to the bus lane was submitted on 7/12/07.
3. Replacing the A/C heat pumps for classrooms 6, 8, 10, 12 was requested most recently on 7/11/07 but has been requested several other times.

The only additional item we would like to request is a path to be built from the portables to the fields. Currently, the classes housed in the portables must trudge through snow or wet grass to respond to fire drills.

Clarksburg Elementary School

With the first phase of the Clarksburg master plan development completed and the opening of Little Bennett Elementary School, the over-utilization of Clarksburg Elementary School has been partially alleviated. However, with additional communities coming on line in 2008, Clarksburg Elementary School is projected to see its enrollment continue to grow. Construction will start in the Spring for a walking community that will have 297 units. To accommodate the influx of growth surrounding the school (school capacity of 335) we request a feasibility study to build a 10 classroom addition. One final request, Clarksburg Elementary School needs an immediate and comprehensive overhaul or replacement of its HVAC system. The chiller is obsolete, replacement parts are no longer available, repairs are temporary and insufficient. In house maintenance has had to manipulate the system by hand using creative, makeshift solutions. We thank you for projecting the need for Clarksburg #9 and hope the funding necessary for this school is allocated.

As a community that's growing by *leaps and bounds*, we look for your continued support and sincerely thank you for addressing our over capacity school concerns within FY 2009-2014 CIP. We hope to continue to build on the partnership with MCPS Long Range Planning Department and Montgomery County Park & Planning Department. As the newest cluster in MCPS we are excited – and concerned about the rate of growth our community is experiencing. Thank you very much for your time.