

Good Evening!

My name is Beatrice Hanson. I am 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 trusted in the system, and now the system 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 is merely an incomplete and inadequate fix.

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

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.

Imagine, 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.

Can you concentrate?

Are you able to learn?

Imagine, sitting in your classroom during a code red, knowing that the glass walls and toppers are not really providing adequate security.

Do you feel safe?

It is hard to believe today in Montgomery County that these conditions exist, but they do. They are an everyday problem and a tremendous distraction for our students and teachers.

We are not asking for every upgrade the school really needs. We are asking that you provide our school with the basic funding you said was necessary ten years ago to make our school functional, safe and secure according to MCPS standards!

As you deliberate your decision, please ask yourself, are wall toppers really a solution? 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!

Please fully fund Redland's Interior Modification.

Thank you