



Oakland Mills Community Association
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Oakland Mills Community Association Testimony on the HCPSS Capital Budget and Capital Improvement Program; CR154-2021

Good evening and thank you for this opportunity to discuss Council Resolution 154-2021 for the school system's capital budget and capital improvement program. My name is Jonathan Edelson, and I am representing the nearly 10,000 members of the Oakland Mills Community Association (OMCA).

For several years, OMCA has questioned the school system's capital improvement program. It continued to defer renovations to Oakland Mills Middle School and omitted any planned capital investment in Oakland Mills High School, despite the age of both buildings, the high dollar values of deferred maintenance and renovations, and the number of critical systems and fixtures that were well beyond the end of useful life.

We are pleased that the Board of Education voted to move up renovations to Oakland Mills Middle School to 2024 and to add Oakland Mills High School renovation to the plan for 2026. We encourage you to support this plan.

Both schools, in addition to having long-standing and deferred renovation needs, also have health and safety issues. Recent inspections have uncovered mold and high humidity in these buildings. Several plumbing fixtures have elevated levels of lead, and aging exterior surfaces present tripping hazards. These issues, along with others, are documented in the attachments I am providing with the electronic copy of this testimony.

OMCA is thankful that these conditions should not persist much longer if these two schools stay in the capital plan as scheduled and receive much-needed funding. OMCA encourages you to support this plan and work with our County Executive and state leadership to ensure the school system receives the funding it needs to execute the plan.