

Montgomery County Council Public Hearing Confirmation: FY22 Capital Budget & amdts to FY21-26 CIP & WSSC Water's FY22-27 CIP on proposed capital budgets & CIP amdts for the following: Montgomery County Government, MCPS, Montgomery College, M-NCPPC, Revenue Authority, HOC, and WSSC Water

Continuing development of the available space at Blair High School would be huge positive impact to the entire down-county and east-county area student-athletes. Opening more safe space for social, physical, emotional and developmental growth benefits students and communities for students from two of the highest need areas in the county. Students can transport easily from up Route 29 for Paint Branch and Springbrook students and feeder schools, as well as down University Boulevard for Einstein, Wheaton, Kennedy and Northwood High School and feeder school students, having access to public transportation that all lead to Blair High School. This field would be the perfect location for making it a county destination for multi-field clinics, tournaments and showcases for multiple sports.

The impact the fields would have on the special needs kids with various abilities allows more space and opportunity for these athletes to compete with and team up with peers from various schools. Having a field to call home for these students would be ideal for families to be able to transport. Many families with kids with various abilities rely on public transportation to get around and a structured schedule, knowing there is safe and affordable programs is something that this new field can provide for every MCPS student. This location supports and accommodates families with issues of transportation who live in some of the poorest communities in the county to be able to send their student to.

The value of great fields (lighted, irrigated, graded) make it easier to encourage kids to come back to sports after and/or during this pandemic. Studies have shown that students are less likely to resume playing sports, but we also know that if we had more safe spaces with high quality facilities, we can attract students back easier. It is already very difficult for individuals like myself to provide as much as I know I can and want to, with the lack of fields I am able to secure independently. However, if organizations like myself had use of this new field at Blair High School, we can be certain that thousands more students would have more opportunities to stay safe, develop, meet new friends, earn SSL hours and increase school pride every time they stepped foot into the facility in the upcoming years.