

Cold Spring Elementary School – DuFief Elementary School  
Fallsmead Elementary School – Lakewood Elementary School  
Stone Mill Elementary School – Travilah Elementary School  
Cabin John Middle School – Robert Frost Middle School  
Thomas S. Wootton High School

**Capital Improvement Plan Testimony**  
**By Erica Bailey, on behalf of the Wootton Cluster**  
**February 7th 2023**

Introduction

- Good evening. My name is Erica Bailey. I am pleased to be here this evening and to testify as a parent of a junior attending Wootton High School and a 6th grader attending Frost Middle School. I am also here as a parent volunteer on behalf of the Wootton PTSA, as one of the Cluster Coordinators.
- My primary objective this evening is to address the capital improvement needs of our Wootton cluster schools and to urge the acceleration of the Wootton, DuFief and Cold Spring projects.
- In prior years, we have patiently waited and respected the County’s decisions to advance and prioritize other capital improvement projects for other schools in the county. While we understand the need to manage budget constraints and to balance the needs of all county schools, we have grown increasingly concerned with the condition of our schools in the cluster. For that reason, various members of our community, including students and parents, will address you this week to advocate for more immediate action.

Wootton

- As an initial matter, Wootton High School is a 50-year old building. It is one of the oldest schools in the County.
- Although we appreciate the recommendation for renovations in the current budget, the partial renovation is not scheduled for completion until 2029. Meanwhile, while the community waits the these repairs to be completed, the conditions at Wootton will only continue to deteriorate.
- Some of the issues include an outdated and poorly functioning HVAC system, leaking roofs and pipes, and outdated science classrooms without updated safety equipment, and bathrooms which routinely malfunction, causing students to choose not to use them.
- Of particular concern, the narrow driveway at the front entrance of the school poses a daily safety risk due to congestion from pedestrians, busses, and private vehicles
- Moreover, Wootton’s ADA assessment has revealed extensive high priority accessibility issues which must be addressed well prior to the completion of the renovation project in 2029.

- Given these concerns, we feel that an accelerated timeline to complete the capital improvements to Wootton is vital to the safety and well-being of our students.

### DuFief

- Next, with respect to DuFief Elementary, a planned expansion project was initially scheduled to be completed by next year in order to address overutilization and serious capital needs.
- However, the school was removed from the CIP list last year, and a feasibility study was undertaken.
- Leading up to that, several critical maintenance projects were denied and temporary fixes were employed, in anticipation of the larger approved project.

### Lakewood

- Next, there are lingering issues at Lakewood Elementary that remain unresolved. In particular, there are drainage problems in the back grassy area which have not yet been rectified and a crumbling playground which is more 20 years old.

### Cold Spring

- Lastly, with respect to Cold Spring Elementary, while we are encouraged by the recommended feasibility study, we want to emphasize that the scope of the study should address how best to maintain safety concerns during an emergency situation, with particular emphasis on the school's unique characteristics, such as its open classroom concept without floor to ceiling walls.

### Conclusion

- In closing, we welcome the opportunity for continued discussion and the opportunity to advocate on behalf of our students, families, and the entire school community.
- We therefore ask for a commitment to accelerate the timeline for improvement to our schools.
- Thank you.