

February 5, 2024

Testimony of LaToya Hutchins in support of: **Replacement Burtonsville Elementary School Project**

I urge Montgomery County Council to fully fund the Executive's CIP request for the replacement Burtonsville Elementary School major capital project.

The funding for this major project is critical and has been stalled for more than 10 years. Fully funding this project at this time will ensure that students and future students of Burtonsville Elementary School will have adequate facilities to support their learning environment and the school will be able to accommodate the projected increase in enrollment. Currently, 5th grade students continue to have classrooms in portables, the cafeteria serves as a multi-purpose facility and is unable to accommodate enough students at a given lunch time, which has students eating lunch very early or very late in the day.

In addition to the indoor space not being able to fully accommodate the growing population, the parking and traffic patterns for pick up and drop off pose safety concerns. With the support of staff and volunteers, there have been efforts made to alleviate the challenges by placing signs to prevent drivers from entering through the exit and guiding the carpool lane. Despite the efforts, there remains quite a large amount of congestion due to the narrow roads and the large number of vehicles at pick up and drop off.

The Burtonsville community is growing and it is imperative that this investment in our children and their future is made without any hesitations. Fully funding the Replacement Burtonsville Elementary School Project is one of the major steps in which the County Council must take to support the Burtonsville Community and the children.