

Greetings,

Last month, Montgomery County Executive Marc Elrich submitted a \$5.84 billion Capital Improvements Program (CIP) budget to cover 2025 through 2030. Montgomery County Public Schools projects will account for \$1.9 billion of that amount, the largest expenditure on the budget, but that sum still represents a \$300 million cut to cover all expected MCPS projects.

Highland View ES has been undergoing serious feasibility studies for expansion since at least 2010. Generations of portables have moved through the property during the wait for permanent construction. The approval of a recordation tax last spring buoyed hope that construction would begin, currently scheduled to start January 2026 and finish August 2027.

While there is a good chance that Highland View ES, SSIMS, and Northwood HS construction projects are safe from budgetary concerns in the near future, we need to make our voices heard regarding the importance of not just these current projects, but future improvements as well. A large portion of the Highland View work is meant to bring the school into ADA compliance, which is long overdue.

Speaking for my family specifically, we will be graduating from Highland View to Silver Spring International in the fall. At the current rate, we may not even enjoy the full benefits of each of the projects slated for our cluster. But we also chose this community for its vibrance and its reputation. Strong schools make strong neighborhoods regardless of whether a given house or unit or block is sending students to the buildings.

We urge the council to continue to support the valuable projects submitted by Montgomery County Schools to ensure current and future students have the best opportunities to learn in a clean, safe, modern environment.

Thank you,  
Adrian Breeman.