



**Testimony of the Mayor and Council of Rockville
Montgomery County Council Public Hearing 2/9/26
Superintendent's FY27 Capital Budget and FY27-FY32 Capital
Improvements Program**

Good evening, County Council President Fani-González, County Council Vice President Balcombe, and esteemed County Councilmembers. I am Rockville Mayor Monique Ashton, and on behalf of the Rockville Mayor and Council, I thank you for this opportunity.

The Mayor and Council are very disappointed that both the Board of Education's Requested CIP and the County Executive's CIP Recommendation did not include funding for the Twinbrook Elementary School and Wootton High School Major Capital projects. We urge the County Council to use its budget authority to fund major capital projects for both schools. Rockville is strongly opposed to the MCPS Superintendent's recommendation to the Board of Education to close Wootton High School, convert it to a holding school, and move the campus to the new Crown Farm High School.

Twinbrook Elementary School

To implement a feasibility study with extensive community engagement and then suddenly put the Twinbrook Elementary School major capital project on hold until a future CIP is a devastating setback for the Twinbrook community, which has been advocating for this desperately needed project for decades. The Mayor and Council have been vigorously advocating for a new school since 2009. Twinbrook Elementary School is a Community School and a Title I school. It is a bustling hub for critical community supports, including civic education, mental health services, family engagement, and English classes.

There are students and families in this community who are struggling with trauma and other hardships. This is reflected in the more than 1,000 counseling visits at the school over the past year. It is a matter of equity and inclusion that this school be completely rebuilt, as it was constructed in 1952. The facility conditions are dire. The plumbing system is in such a terrible condition that there was an overflow of feces in the boiler room in proximity to classrooms. None of the entrances are ADA-compliant, the building has an inadequate sprinkler system, and lacks adequate space for specialists to provide individualized support for students, which is critical to closing the achievement gap. This untenable situation cannot be ignored any longer. We urge the County Council to include funding for the major capital project in the FY 27-FY32 CIP.

Wootton High School

The Mayor and Council and the community are exceedingly disappointed with the MCPS Superintendent's recommendation to make Wootton High School a holding school and move it to the Crown Farm High School. This is a dramatic departure from the purpose for which the new Crown High School was created, which was to address overcrowding in mid-county high schools. Further, it is not aligned with State and County policies focused on adding housing where children can walk to school. Richard Montgomery High School currently has nine portables. What is the County going to do to address this overcrowding and the housing growth that Rockville and Gaithersburg are experiencing?

Our City already has multiple MCPS properties that are in a state of transition, such as Stonestreet, Carver, and Rock Terrace. Please do not add another vacancy in Rockville. It is essential that Wootton High School remain a walkable community hub for the surrounding neighborhoods. The Wootton High School major capital project must be funded. The school has the worst Plumbing System rating in the County. The failing plumbing and HVAC systems, coupled with the presence of mold, leaks, and poor air quality, create an unhealthy and unsafe environment for the students and staff. The County must respect the community's desire and fund this project in the FY27-FY32 CIP.

On behalf of our historic Lincoln Park African American community, we strongly urge the County to approve funding for the design and relocation of the MCPS Materials Management Facility and the continued restoration of Lincoln High School. Thank You.