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December 19, 2025

The Honorable Grace Rivera-Oven, President
 Montgomery County Board of Education
 15 West Gude Drive, Suite 100
 Rockville, Maryland 20850

The Honorable Natalie Fani-González, President
 Montgomery County Council
 15 West Gude Drive, Suite 100
 Rockville, Maryland 20850

The Honorable Marc Elrich, Montgomery County Executive
 101 Monroe Street, Second Floor
 Rockville, Maryland 20850

Dr. Thomas Taylor, Ed.D, MBA
 Superintendent of Montgomery County Public Schools
 15 West Gude Drive, Suite 400
 Rockville, Maryland 20850

Dear BOE President Rivera-Owen, MCPS Superintendent, Dr, Taylor, County Council President Fani-González, and County Executive Elrich,

The Mayor and Council are taking this opportunity to express our disappointment that the Superintendent's recommendation and the Board of Education's (BOE) Requested FY27 Capital Budget and FY 27-32 Capital Improvements Program did not include funding for the Twinbrook Elementary School and Wootton High School Major Capital Improvements projects. The lack of investment in these aging and deteriorating schools is harming the educational experience and well-being of our Rockville students and families. Importantly, with regard to Wootton High School, the Rockville Mayor and Council strongly supports Wootton High School remaining at its current location on Wootton Parkway in Rockville. We urge you to take all necessary steps to restore funding in the CIP for these urgently needed priority projects in our Rockville community. We understand that the vast number of capital improvement projects MCPS is having to manage is a resource constraint issue, and that innovative approaches and partnerships will be needed to help address them to serve the needs of students, teachers, and staff. We appreciate the increased communications with the Superintendent and remain committed to partnership.

Twinbrook Elementary School

Rockville strongly supports Twinbrook Elementary School Feasibility Study Option #4, which would construct a new school, and is interested in exploring a partnership to support the installation of a community-sized gym. We urge you to add funding for the Major Capital Project in the FY27-FY32 CIP. To date, there is no plan to implement the feasibility study that MCPS just expended resources to facilitate. On October 6, 2025, we discussed and emphasized our preference with the MCPS staff who presented the Twinbrook Elementary School Feasibility Study options to the Mayor and Council. To implement a feasibility study with extensive community engagement and then suddenly put the 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. We are extremely concerned that the BOE requested CIP reallocates previously approved appropriations from the Twinbrook Elementary School Major Capital Project to other schools with significantly lower FARMS and EML rates. The new FCI Depleted Value criteria indicate that the school is due for a full replacement.

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 Izola (Zola) Shaw
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CITY ATTORNEY
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December 19, 2025

The Honorable Grace Rivera-Oven, Montgomery County Board of Education President, Honorable Natalie Fani-González, County Council President, Dr. Thomas Taylor, Ed.D, MBA, MCPS Superintendent, and Honorable Marc Elrich, County Executive

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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. We continue to advocate for a Linkages to Learning Program at the school. We are also deeply concerned that Twinbrook is in need of this program, and the lack of space via the new buildout has been a limiting factor. The selection criteria used by the County and MCPS favoring sites that have already received a renovation or Major Capital Project before the program can be implemented, is hurting our students who are dealing with trauma. In these uncertain times, the students, families, and the broader community need a modernized facility to support their growth and well-being. Twinbrook students and families should not have to wait indefinitely for a rebuilt school. This untenable situation cannot be ignored any longer. We request that you take immediate action to address these serious issues.

Wootton High School

The Rockville Mayor and Council unequivocally support a fully renovated Wootton High School on the Wootton Parkway campus that remains in Rockville. We urge you to add funding for the Major Capital Project in the FY27-FY32 CIP. It is essential that Wootton High School remain a walkable community hub for the surrounding Fallsmead, Fallsbend, Scott Drive, Rockshire, Lakewood, and Hurley neighborhoods. The classes, programs, and activities offered at this central community campus have served Rockville students and families for decades. Wootton High School is foundational to the fabric of this community. The residents in this community place a high value on their children's ability to safely walk from their homes to and from the Wootton High School campus.

We are exceedingly concerned that funding has been completely removed from the CIP for this project, and we do not support any option that permanently shuts down Wootton High School and shifts the community of students and teachers three miles outside of Rockville. For more than a decade, the Mayor and Council and the community have been advocating for this urgently needed project renovation. Wootton High School students deserve a high-quality educational facility that is safe, healthy, and provides an environment that supports academic success and student growth in Rockville. Our City already has multiple MCPS properties that are in a state of transition, such as Stonestreet, Carver, and Rock Terrace and we know how long it takes to repurpose properties and give them new life. Please do not add another vacancy in our City. We deeply value the Wootton High School community, and all of the schools in Rockville.

We implore you to prioritize this project and include it in the CIP. Built in 1970, the facility has never received a major renovation. The school has one of the worst FCI Depleted Values in the County and has the #1 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. Many of the ADA safety issues remain unresolved, including Phase II of the ADA project, which would shift the bus driveway to the upper parking lot. A complete renovation or full rebuild at the Wootton Parkway campus is urgently needed to alleviate this inequitable situation. In the near term, we urge you to take immediate action to address these serious facility deficiencies.

In closing, we urge you to ensure that funding is added to the CIP for the Twinbrook Elementary School and Wootton High School Major Capital Projects. With your support for our Rockville neighborhoods, these essential projects can finally come to fruition. We recognize that there is far more demand than available resources. Please let us know how we can support your advocacy for additional County and State resources for MCPS capital improvement projects.

Sincerely,

 _____ Monique Ashton, Mayor	
 _____ Kate Fulton, Councilmember	 _____ Izola (Zola) Shaw, Councilmember
 _____ Barry Jackson, Councilmember	 _____ Marissa Valeri, Councilmember
 _____ David Myles, Councilmember	 _____ Adam Van Grack Councilmember

City of Rockville Mayor and Council

cc: Marilyn Balcombe, County Council Vice President
Shebra Evans, County Councilmember
Andrew Friedson, County Councilmember
Evan Glass, County Councilmember
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Sidney Katz, County Councilmember
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Jeff Mihelich, Rockville City Manager