

The Rockshire HOA has been listening and watching closely over the past several weeks as the proposal to close Wootton High School moved from being “an option” to becoming one of the formal recommendations put forth by Superintendent Taylor. We are shocked by this announcement and strongly condemn any option that permanently closes Wootton High School on Wootton Parkway.

Rockshire is a vibrant and diverse community of 663 homes, including both single-family houses and townhomes. No one has come to speak with our community. Our voices have not been heard, and many of our neighbors are still just learning about this announcement. To introduce a recommendation of this magnitude so late in the boundary study process — and to release it over the holidays — is simply not acceptable.

As a community, we stand firmly behind the modified recommendation put forward by the Mayor and City Council of Rockville. Using Crown as a temporary holding school, rather than using Wootton as a holding school, makes significantly more sense.

### **Traffic and Infrastructure Concerns**

The area surrounding Wootton cannot handle additional traffic. If Wootton students are bused to Crown while other students are bused into Wootton, the already congested streets would become nearly impossible to navigate. We know this firsthand. The Rockshire community already pays out of pocket for a security guard every morning to help monitor and manage traffic entering and exiting our neighborhood. Adding more congestion would create safety concerns for students, families, and residents.

### **Countywide Benefits and Stability**

This alternative recommendation would benefit multiple clusters across the county. Crown is located near major roadways, reducing overall driving time and improving access. It would allow schools in need of renovation to use a holding facility efficiently, while also providing greater stability for families during a time when the county is discussing an elementary boundary study.

Conducting the elementary study while renovations are underway would allow feeder patterns to be aligned thoughtfully and strategically when Crown transitions to a permanent high school. This creates long-term stability rather than layering multiple disruptive changes on families in short succession.

### **Growth Is Already Happening**

We also know that growth is coming — and in fact, it is already here. In addition to countywide development projections, there are currently 60 housing units under construction directly adjacent to the Rockshire community. The development, “The Village at Rockshire,” will include 29 townhomes and 31 single-family homes, with projected move-in dates in late 2026 or early 2027.

This is not hypothetical growth — it is visible from our front doors. How can we claim there is no growth when new homes are actively being built? As student enrollment increases, what will happen if our students are reassigned to Crown and that school becomes full due to growth in its own area? Will our students be the first displaced again?

### **A Call for Thoughtful Decision-Making**

We recognize that evaluating countywide needs is a monumental and complex task. However, closing Wootton High School on Wootton Parkway is an irreversible decision. The data does not support such a closure, nor has sufficient time been taken to gather comprehensive data or engage meaningfully with impacted communities.

We respectfully urge you not to make a permanent decision without full transparency, robust data analysis, and genuine community engagement.

We invite you to attend one of our Rockshire HOA meetings, held on the second Wednesday of every month. We welcome the opportunity to have a direct conversation and ensure that our community's voice is truly heard.

Sincerely,  
Rockshire HOA

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