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**From:** Cindy LaFollette <cindy72577@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 13, 2026 9:17 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Cc:** Ball, Calvin; BoE Email; Bill Barnes  
**Subject:** Support for CB10-2026

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Good morning, council members,

I am writing in support of CB10-2026.

Last year, you passed this unanimously, and I urge you to do it again.

When Dr, Ball says, "I'd like to save that money for a rainy day," or for a bond rating? We must remind him that it is raining inside of our high schools! And we cannot borrow against time! We need renovations, HVAC repairs, expansions for Pre-K, completion of Faulkner Ridge ... just to name a few.

Our children are our most valuable and vulnerable community members and we must invest in THEM. We need to provide for them so that they have a safe and healthy place in which to thrive and reach their full potential.

Please let this be your legacy to a part of your legacy for our children. Vote YES on CB10-2026

Yours in Advocacy,  
Cindy LaFollette

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**From:** Mr. Drew <mrdrew@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 15, 2026 9:35 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Amend CB10 or OPPOSE

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This bill can cost Elkrige our high school by biasing capital investment in favor of maintenance over new construction.

Oakland Mills High School is approaching the end of it's useful life.

OMHS has a capacity of 1400, but only 900 students live nearby. Those 900 students live near 5 other high schools.

The right thing to do is to replace OMHS with a new high school in Elkrige. Which would be a construction project not eligible for funding under this bill. But renovating and expanding OMHS is eligible under this bill.

So the bias towards renovations means 500 Elkrige students may well continue to be bused clear to Columbia, with even more if an addition to OMHS is added. And we will wait even longer for a high school for us.

This bill should be amended so that these funds are available to \*any\* capital project, not just deferred maintenance.

As it is written now. OPPOSE. Elkrige deserves fair consideration for our needs.

Drew Roth, Elkrige.

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**From:** Lanlan Xu <lanlanxu@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 20, 2026 12:48 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** *Please vote YES on CB10-2026!*

**Follow Up Flag:** Flag for follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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Dear Councilmembers,

My name is Lanlan Xu, a D4 resident.

Last year, this Council unanimously passed **CB20-2025**, creating a commonsense process for directing excess surplus funds toward deferred maintenance for HCPSS. That was a smart and bipartisan step, and it showed how thoughtful policy can strengthen our school system without adding new burdens on taxpayers.

**CB10-2026** builds on that success. It allows unassigned excess surplus funds from the prior fiscal year to be used for school capital projects, renovations, and repairs our students urgently need. With nearly **80%** of HCPSS facilities identified by the State as needing repairs, and **one in four** considered functionally unreliable, we need to leverage all available funding sources to address this urgent problem. Deferred maintenance grows more expensive every year we postpone it. At some point, maintenance becomes reconstruction — and reconstruction costs far more.

Redirecting unassigned surplus toward capital upgrades is fiscally responsible. It protects taxpayer investments, preserves public assets, and reduces the risk of emergency repairs that are harder to plan for and more costly to address.

Most importantly, it reflects our values. The condition of school buildings affects safety, learning, teacher morale, enrollment decisions, and the reputation of our county.

CB10-2026 will bring much-needed capital funding to begin chipping away at our long list of deferred maintenance needs. **In addition, I'd urge the Council to also consider moving from annual fixes to structural policy.** Howard County has **78 schools**. Even if we are able to renovate **two schools per year**, it would still take nearly **40 years** to cycle through the system. A modern school system requires multi-year planning. Predictable capital funding allows the County, HCPSS, and the State to coordinate renovations, access matching funds, and sequence projects efficiently.

Therefore, I urge the Council to support **CB10-2026** and to continue advancing a coordinated, multi-year approach to renovating our schools. Thank you for your leadership!

Sincerely,

Lanlan Xu

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**From:** Anthony DeBella <jhu1996@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 21, 2026 8:18 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Cc:** boe@hcpss.org; Daniel\_Lubeley@hcpss.org; Anderson, Isaiah  
**Subject:** CB10 HCPSS Deferred Maintenance Public Comment  
**Attachments:** Public Hearing Comments on CB 10.docx

**Follow Up Flag:** Flag for follow up  
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Good Morning Council,

Thank you for accommodating the large number of speakers at last night's hearing. It is likely I will be unavailable when called to testify at the continuance tonight. Please consider my attached comments on CB-10 (HCPSS Deferred Maintenance). My comments from last night's hearing on ADUs is also included.

Sincerely,  
Anthony DeBella  
Laurel, MD 20723

## Public Hearing Comments on CB 10-2026

### Anthony DeBella, January 20, 2026

While CB 10-2026 will enable use of surplus funds for HCPSS deferred maintenance, a commitment to actually apply surplus funds will be needed to reduce the \$193M in deferred maintenance within HCPSS' portfolio. A review of the deferred maintenance shows that about half is related to roofs and HVAC systems. HCPSS' indoor environmental quality site (ieq.hcpss.org) lists many trouble tickets exhibiting the same pattern of leaks in roofs, HVAC, or even the building envelope leading to the water that breeds mold. By that time, money spent on mold remediation contractors is money diverted from correcting the underlying sources of the water.

The presence of deferred maintenance is prima facie evidence that maintenance and renovations have not been sufficiently funded. In fact the deferred maintenance bill is expected to grow by about \$30M per year, meaning that **unless at least \$30M is committed to this effort this year, the problem will get worse.**

I recommend that CB 10-2026 be amended or other legislation introduced to allow use of other funds for deferred maintenance, including available funds in the school facilities surcharge (as noted in the Annual Report of Howard County Executive to County Council & Howard County Senate & House Delegations on school facilities surcharge). Speaking of other funds, MD Education Code § 5-326 (2024), specifically provides for a "Priority Fund" of \$80M/year of state funds to address the facility needs of the highest priority schools. I recommend that Howard County elected officials advocate to our state delegation for our share for our schools, and would be happy to work toward pursuing potential avenues that arise during the current legislative session.

Beyond deferred maintenance funding, the HB1450 Task Force was briefed on October 9, 2024 by Alex Donahue, Director of the Interagency Commission on School Construction. His brief clearly identified HCPSS Maintenance Effectiveness provided by the operating budget as deficient, in particular HVAC maintenance. Only half of the recommended amount (3% of the value of the portfolio) was available in FY23. That deficiency is roughly \$50M per year.

The capital renovations are similarly underresourced. Industry standards recommend 3.67% of the replacement value of the portfolio (excluding expansion of services for PreK and enrollment growth) be committed to capital renewal projects- that cost is roughly \$140M, and HCPSS is only requesting an average of \$87M per year during the course of the Requested FY27 10-year Long Range Master Plan. This deficiency drives the growth of deferred maintenance.

The needs of current HCPSS buildings should be prioritized when weighing all future county construction. It is unwise to take on new building maintenance obligations when we are not fulfilling our current obligations. Until the systemic underfunding of HCPSS buildings is addressed, residents will continue to argue over which broken school is most broken. Our schools deserve better than to hope we stave off complete disfunction.

### **CB3-2026- Accessory Dwelling Units**

ADUs are a potential win-win, but I believe they will need meaningful guardrails related centered on owner occupancy to meet their intended purpose of increasing housing availability. ADUs can be constructed and installed from pre fabricated kits in a short period of time to meet needs as they arise. Recent housing market extremes were partially driven by the securitization of mortgages and corporatization of single family rental properties. One needs to look no further than the “AirBnB” concept to see how a good idea taken to an extreme can negatively impact communities at the local and larger scales.

So lets take a trip into the no-so-unreasonable extreme. A hedge fund manager decides the stock market isn’t providing enough profits, and turns to the housing market. ADU’s in Howard County are getting attention, so he types “Profit from Howard County ADUs” into chat GPT. Out pops a plan to invest \$1B Dollars into ADUs. He gets an estimate from the prefab housing people and hears a 2 bedroom, 1,200 square foot prefab ADU can be installed for about a quarter million dollars. So the hedge fund follows the lead of the solar roof industry, and offers to build an ADU on people’s property “at no cost to you,” and finances construction in return for the rental income, which they will manage, and split with the homeowner. That \$2000 in rent gets split between the hedge fund and the “owner occupant” who is left with a couple hundred dollars a month left over after paying increased property and income taxes.

A billion dollars will do that 4,000 times. How will Howard County absorb 4,000 new households in a short period of time? School surcharge fees on those ADUs will go a long way toward addressing the maintenance needs of HCPSS, which we are currently not sufficiently funding.

**I recommend school surcharge fees be calculated on an initial estimate of student yield rate, and that yield rate be updated annually based on the actual yields from the ADUs. At \$8/square foot, the surcharge would add less than \$10,000 to the cost of an ADU, and provide a \$40M boost to the school system capital needs.**

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## CB-10 Testimony

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**From** James Cecil <jamescecil02@gmail.com>  
**Date** Mon 2/2/2026 5:09 PM  
**To** CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

 1 attachment (764 KB)  
CC Testimony CB10-2026.docx;

### **WARNING!!!**

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Dear Councilmembers,

I was hoping to testify in person about this, but had a conflict arise.

My full testimony is attached, but the TL;DR version is that there needs to be a requirement of full transparency between HCPSS and the County to ensure that the funds are being used for the projects that are being used to request them in the time frames that the requests are being made. While unexpected circumstances may dictate adjustments, HCPSS continues to operate without accountability for the money they receive.

I just followed two examples, the Lime Kiln Middle School and St. Johns Lane Elementary School HVAC projects that are funded through County Project E1058. From their first request on these projects in FY24 through their request in FY26, these projects received **\$37.587M** despite their Long Range Systemic Renovation Projects chart using \$22.7M as their initial estimate in FY23 projections and \$25.014 in their FY24-27 LRSRP report. These were fully funded to \$25.014M in FY25, but not bid until FY26 and after they were used to request \$12.573M in superfluous funds in the FY26 budget. Once put to bid, these two projects combine to cost \$27.0M. \$7.6M is to be slushed over to the OMMS project E1036, but there would still be nearly \$3M remaining in E1058 that they appear to have requested in bad faith and stashing to cover anticipated overruns from other project delays as they simultaneously reach their hand out for more new money.

Maybe there is a chance that I am not seeing it correctly, which is why I attached my sources pulled directly from publicly posted Board reports. I am not sure where this practice would land ethically as these projects also requested/received state money concurrently with the requests to the County. It is an ethical dilemma if this shell game practice was intentional, which my experience on the OBRC and Special Education advocate tells me is 100% what happens in their maneuvers with the Operating Budget. It is equally a problem if the practice is rooted in incompetence or negligence.

I am not sure what oversight can be required or even if there are consequences for their practice with requesting/receiving \$5.724M in funds from the State CIP for two projects that were subsequently locally overfunded. It sure seems like Project E1058 is used to mingle, hide and distract from their various sources as opposed to an intentional, ethical means to improve our schools.

The practice hurts the integrity of the County and stashing money intended to improve our schools is harming our children, hindering other vital capital needs across the county and could diminish the reputation of the county to various partners.

Please include accountability provisions to ensure any money received via CB10-2026 is going to what they tell you and the public.

Best,  
James Cecil  
Elkridge, MD

As much as I want to just say “please give HCPSS the money so they can fix our schools,” I continue to have very little faith in the outcome matching the investment the county would be making. HCPSS is an addict that continues to be overdue for an intervention and unfettered access to tens of millions of dollars is counterproductive to initiating behavior reforms.

There is a neverending cycle of either manipulating deadlines to avoid critical analysis of what is being presented or a complete inability/unwillingness to spend the months between cycles doing the due diligence shown to be required.

Case and point in the Lime Kiln & St. John’s Lane HVAC replacement projects that are the funding sources conveniently available for TAO1-2026.

It is admittedly challenging to keep track of the paper trail, but this is the timeline that I could put together with publicly available documents as of today:

**May 26, 2022 - The Beginning (per June 12, 2025 Bids & Contracts justification for approval of Lime Kiln Contract PC-69)**

Board of Education adopts their FY2023-2028 Long-Range Systemic Renovation Projects, which included:

<b>FY 2023-2028 Long-Range Systemic Renovation Projects</b>								
<b>Board of Education’s Approved</b>								<b>May 26, 2022</b>
(In Thousands)								
<b>Project</b>	<b>FY 2023 Local</b>	<b>FY 2023 State CIP</b>	<b>FY 2024</b>	<b>FY 2025</b>	<b>FY 2026</b>	<b>FY 2027</b>	<b>FY 2028</b>	<b>Totals</b>
Applications and Research Lab Maintenance	\$ 1,500	\$ -	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ -	\$ 6,000
West Friendship ES MBR/Well	1,000	-	3,000	2,650	-	-	-	6,650
Grounds/Fleet Infrastructure Capital Needs	665	-	736	645	544	543	-	3,133
HCPSS portion of Artificial Turf Replacement	315	-	331	348	365	383	-	1,742
Guilford ES Exterior Windows/Doors	499	801	-	-	-	-	-	1,300
Manor Woods ES Waste Water Treatment Plant	3,000	-	3,000	-	-	-	-	6,000
Jeffers Hill ES Boiler Replacement	231	369	-	-	-	-	-	600
Manor Woods ES HVAC Replacement	1,840	6,160	2,000	-	-	-	-	10,000
Forest Ridge ES Boiler Replacement	-	-	600	-	-	-	-	600
Ilchester ES HVAC Replacement	-	-	5,000	5,000	-	-	-	10,000
Atholton ES Boiler Replacement	-	-	-	600	-	-	-	600
St Johns Lane ES HVAC Replacement	-	-	-	5,000	5,000	-	-	10,000
Mayfield Woods MS Boiler Replacement	-	-	-	-	-	600	-	600
Lime Kiln MS HVAC Replacement	-	-	-	-	-	6,700	6,000	12,700

\*Worth noting that there are no FY2023 State CIP funds indicated and that the combined estimated total for both projects is \$22.7M.

**May 25, 2023 - Numbers Change**

Board of Education adopts their FY2024-2029 Long-Range Systemic Renovations Projects, which included:

## FY 2024-2029 Long-Range Systemic Renovation Projects

Board of Education Approved

May 25, 2023

(In Thousands)

Project	FY 2024 Local	FY 2024 State CIP	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	Totals
Applications and Research Lab Maintenance	\$ 1,500	\$ 3,719	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,219
West Friendship ES MBR/Well	1,550	1,450	2,650	-	-	-	-	5,650
Grounds/Fleet Infrastructure Capital Needs	736	-	645	544	543	-	-	2,468
HCPSS portion of Artificial Turf Replacement	600	-	600	600	600	-	-	2,400
Jeffers Hill ES Boiler Replacement	100	-	-	-	-	-	-	100
Manor Woods ES Waste Water Treatment Plant	1,332	1,668	-	-	-	-	-	3,000
Manor Woods ES HVAC Replacement	2,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,000
Forest Ridge ES Boiler Replacement	397	503	-	-	-	-	-	900
St Johns Lane ES HVAC Replacement	5,570	2,713	5,000	-	-	-	-	13,283
Retrofit Gym HVAC (AC)	2,638	2,929	5,000	5,000	5,000	-	-	20,567
Elevator Replacements	1,308	1,522	-	-	-	-	-	2,830
Atholton ES Boiler Replacement	486	513	-	-	-	-	-	999
Lime Kiln MS HVAC Replacement	2,566	3,011	6,154	-	-	-	-	11,731

The cost of the two projects has mysteriously increased to a combined \$25.014M from the FY2023 estimate of \$22.7M. The increased estimate now includes \$5.724M in State CIP.

St. John's Lane banked \$8.283M in FY2024

Lime Kiln banked \$5.577M in FY2024

The projects combined to bank **\$13.86M** in FY2024.

Despite having the requested funds approved and presumably received, neither of these projects were put to bid until FY2026.

### May 23, 2024 - Numbers Change Again

Board of Education adopts their FY2025-2030 Long-Range Systemic Renovations Projects, which included:

FY 2025-2030 Long-Range Systemic Renovation Projects								
Board of Education's Approved								
(In Thousands)								
May 23, 2024								

Project	FY 2025 Local	FY 2025 State CIP	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030	Totals
Applications and Research Lab Maintenance	1,000	\$ -	1,000	1,000	-	-	-	3,000
Manor Woods ES HVAC Replacement	4,640	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,640
West Friendship ES MBR/Well	3,828	1,538	-	-	-	-	-	5,366
Grounds/Fleet Infrastructure Capital Needs	736	\$ -	544	543	-	-	-	1,823
HCPSS portion of Artificial Turf Replacement	600	-	600	600	600	600	600	3,600
St Johns Lane ES HVAC Replacement	2,558	2,442	-	-	-	-	-	5,000
Retrofit Gym HVAC (AC)	5,813	4,187	-	-	5,000	5,000	5,000	25,000
Lime Kiln MS HVAC Replacement	3,444	2,710	7,573	-	-	-	-	13,727

St. John's Lane was used to bank an additional \$5M in FY2025.

The total State CIP banked for SJLES between FY2024-FY2025 was \$5.155M.

The total banked for SJLES between FY2024-FY2025 was **\$10.155M**.

Lime Kiln was used to bank an additional \$6.154M in FY2025.

The total State CIP banked for LKMS between FY2024-FY2025 was \$5.721M.

The total banked for LKMS between FY2024-FY2025 was **\$11.875M**.

The projects combined to bank **\$11.154M** in FY2025.

The projects combined to bank **\$25.014M** between FY2024-FY2025.

The initial funding request in FY2023 was **\$22.7M**.

These projects were funded **\$2.314M** above the initial estimates through FY2025.

Despite having the requested funds approved and presumably received, neither of these projects were put to bid until FY2026.

### June 12, 2025 - Numbers Expand & Contract

Board of Education adopts their FY2026-2031 Long-Range Systemic Renovations Projects, which included:

FY 2026-2031 Long-Range Systemic Renovation Projects										
Board of Education's Approved <span style="float: right;">6/12/2025</span>										
(In Thousands)										
Project	FY 2026 Local	FY2026 Board State CIP Requested	FY 2026 State CIP Allocation	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030	FY 2031	Board FY26 Requested	Totals
Applications and Research Lab Maintenance	5,000		\$ -	5,000	-	-	-	-	10,000	10,000
Grounds/Fleet Infrastructure Capital Needs	300		-	543	-	-	-	-	843	843
HCPSS portion of Artificial Turf Replacement	600		-	600	600	600	600	600	3,600	3,600
St Johns Lane ES HVAC Replacement	5,000		-	-	-	-	-	-	5,000	5,000
Lime Kiln MS HVAC Replacement	7,573		-	-	-	-	-	-	7,573	7,573
Secure Vestibules (MS) #1	629	553	483	-	-	-	-	-	1,182	1,665
Secure Vestibules (HS) #1	57	49	43	-	-	-	-	-	106	149
Secure Vestibules (HS) #2	268	232	204	-	-	-	-	-	500	704
Long Reach HS Envelope	-	-	-	6,000	6,000	2,000	-	-	14,000	14,000
Harper's Choice MS Chiller and Cooling Tower Replacement	400	416	457	-	-	-	-	-	816	1,273
Reservoir HS Cooling Tower Replacement	400	416	457	-	-	-	-	-	816	1,273
Howard HS Windows	489	1,121	1,122	390	-	-	-	-	2,000	3,122
Murray Hill MS Chiller and Boiler Replacement	571	595	653	-	-	-	-	-	1,166	1,819
Secure Vestibules (HS) #3	71	66	46	-	-	-	-	-	137	183
Secure Vestibules (HS) #4	90	84	68	-	-	-	-	-	174	242
Secure Vestibules (HS) #5	991	912	808	-	-	-	-	-	1,903	2,711
Secure Vestibules (MS) #2	822	758	732	-	-	-	-	-	1,580	2,312
Mayfield Woods MS Boiler Replacement	320	280	449	-	-	-	-	-	600	1,049
Bonnie Branch MS - Gym AC	363	325	325	-	-	-	-	-	688	1,013
Ellicott Mills MS - Gym AC	363	325	325	-	-	-	-	-	688	1,013
Mayfield Woods MS - Gym AC	363	325	325	-	-	-	-	-	688	1,013
Fulton ES - Gym AC	264	231	254	-	-	-	-	-	495	749
Manor Woods ES Septic	3,461	4,207	3,699	-	-	-	-	-	7,668	11,367
West Friendship ES Septic and Well	-	4,709	4,407	-	-	-	-	-	4,709	9,116

St. John's Lane was used to bank an additional \$5M in FY2026.

The total banked for SJLES FY2024-FY2026 was **\$15.155M**.

Lime Kiln was used to bank an additional \$7.573M in FY2026.

The total banked for LKMS FY2024-FY2026 was **\$19.448M**.

The projects combined to bank **\$12.573M** in FY2026.

The projects combined to bank **\$37.587M** between FY2024-FY2026.

The initial funding request in FY2023 was **\$22.7M**.

These projects were funded **\$14.887M** above the initial estimates through FY2026.

### June 12, 2025 - Lime Kiln Contract Approved by Board of Education for \$12.847M

PC-69 LIME KILN MIDDLE SCHOOL HVAC REPLACEMENT  
Excel Mechanical Contractors, LLC

\$12,847,000.00

In the justification for approving the LKMS project, staff noted that "This project has a State funding aspect that having been approved as a part of the Fiscal year 23 allocation is on the State "fiscal cliff."":

If not approved at this BOE Meeting, what are the ramifications:	This project has a State funding aspect that, having been approved as a part of the Fiscal year 23 allocation is on the State "fiscal cliff". If the contracts are not approved by the Board and submitted to the State for approval before June 30, 2025 the project chances the loss of State funding.
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This brinksmanship is despite staff reporting in their April 9th Monthly Construction Report that bids for this project were received on April 8th:

Lime Kiln Middle School Systemic HVAC Replacement (Project E1058)

Design Percentage Complete: 100%  
 Estimated Construction Cost: \$13.3 M  
 Next Milestone Date: Submission of Bids received to the Board May 2025

The Lime Kiln Middle School project is a systemic project for the replacement of the existing Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) system and its components. HCPSS has received approval from the State to advertise for public bid. The project was bid, and bids were received yesterday. The bids received are being reviewed and will be presented to the Board when a recommendation has been made. The project’s construction will occur during the summers of 2026, 2027, and 2028. This first summer and the school year will be used to complete project submittals and procure equipment.

The Board did have one more scheduled meeting on June 26th if they did want to risk the “fiscal cliff” to better review what was presented.

Again, the Lime Kiln project was used to bank **\$19.448M** and staff presented a contract for \$12.847M, for a difference of **\$6.614M**.

**July 17, 2025 - Month School Construction Report Updates**

The Lime Kiln Project portion of the Report was updated to indicate that the contractor was approved and executed.

Lime Kiln Middle School Systemic HVAC Replacement (Project E1058)

Percentage of Completed Construction: 0%  
 Cost to Complete Construction (including contingency): \$12.8 M  
 Construction Completion: August 2028

The Lime Kiln contractor was approved by the Board at the June 12, 2025, Board meeting. The contract has been executed with the contractor and returned. The first phase of construction is scheduled to begin in June 2026. The contractor and design team will use the time between now and June 2026 for review/approval of construction submittals, and procurement of material and equipment, especially long lead items for the first summer of construction.

There is also an update on the St. John’s Lane project that there were no successful bids received by the June 16th deadline and would be reopened until August 5th. There is no mention of a “fiscal cliff” despite seemingly being on the same timeline as the Lime Kiln project and being allocated \$5.155M.

There is also no mention of the \$6.614M surplus in funds from the Lime Kiln project despite a now executed contract.

**September 25, 2025 - St. John’s Lane Contract Approved by Board of Education for \$14,219,922M**

**PC-07 ST JOHN'S LANE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL HVAC REPLACEMENT \***

Oak Contracting, Inc.

\$14,219,922.00

St. John's Lane Elementary School Systemic HVAC Replacement (Project E1058)

Percentage of Completed Construction: 0%

Cost to Complete Construction (including contingency): \$14.2 M

Construction Completion: August 2027

The Board approved the St. John's Lane contractor at the September 25, 2025, Board meeting. The contract has been fully executed, and the purchase order (PO) has been created. Construction will begin in June 2026. The CM and design team are collaborating with the contractor to complete the product submittal process and order equipment to prepare for the start of construction.

Given the insufficient supply of capital revenue streams and limited bond capacity currently experienced in Howard County, numerous projects and initiatives are impacted by whatever practice led to HCPSS requesting *and receiving* \$37.587M for two projects that they projected at \$22.7M and ultimately awarded contracts for \$27.0M. In calculating waste, much of that \$4.3M cost increase is most assuredly connected to the predictable impacts of inflation and variable of tariffs that could have been avoided if these projects were bid and scheduled at the time the county did their part to fund them.

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**Fw: CB10-2026**

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**From** Laituri, Mary <[mlaituri@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:mlaituri@howardcountymd.gov)>

**Date** Mon 2/2/2026 5:41 PM

**To** Anderson, Isaiah <[ianderson@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:ianderson@howardcountymd.gov)>

**Cc** Royalty, Wendy <[wroyalty@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:wroyalty@howardcountymd.gov)>; Harrod, Michelle <[mrharrod@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:mrharrod@howardcountymd.gov)>

Testimony for CB10 if you could share with council mail and add to related documents testimony please!

**Mary Laituri**

Constituent Services and Communications Specialist  
Councilwoman Liz Walsh, District 1  
[mlaituri@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:mlaituri@howardcountymd.gov) | 410-313-2001

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**De:** James Handley <[jdhandle85@gmail.com](mailto:jdhandle85@gmail.com)>

**Enviado:** Monday, February 2, 2026 3:51:34 PM

**Para:** [CouncilDistrict1@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:CouncilDistrict1@howardcountymd.gov) <[CouncilDistrict1@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:CouncilDistrict1@howardcountymd.gov)>

**Asunto:** CB10-2026

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Good afternoon,

As Councilmember Walsh introduced CB10-2026, I am not worried that she needs my testimony in order to support her own bill. However, because my family and I recently welcomed our third child, I was unable to testify in support of this bill in person, and I wanted to at least email my support for this measure.

With nearly half of our schools at or more than 45 years old, and an avalanche of HCPSS deferred maintenance piling up, the County should use these excess funds to ensure our students have a safe and world-class place to prepare for their futures.

I believe that the County should step up its support of HCPSS across the board, ensuring that its historic levels of funding are reinstated. While we wait for those reforms, this annual allotment toward deferred maintenance is a smart way to ensure that buildings and school communities with high-need maintenance are completed sooner rather than later.

I hope the Council passes CB10, as it did unanimously last year.

Best,

James Handley

Resident of District One