
From: Karen B. Estrada <karen.b.estrada@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 8:30 AM
To: Ball, Calvin; CouncilMail
Subject: OMHS needs your HELP

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Dr. Ball and esteemed County Council representatives,

I wish I could say I was surprised to learn that Oakland Mills HS is closed this morning due to extensive flooding caused by a failing HVAC system. I am not.

This school building has been in a continuing state of decline for decades, only to have its needs ignored time and again by HCPSS. It seems HCPSS never has enough money to take care of this ever growing and ever aging school system. There are so many buildings in states of decline, but OMHS's ongoing mold, water damage, and air quality issues are likely the worst.

No student anywhere should be forced to go to school in a soggy, moldy building, but the fact that students in Howard County, one of the wealthiest counties in the state, even the country, endure these conditions is baffling.

We need your help making the rebuild of Oakland Mills High School a priority. 1400 students are NOT being served equitably by the HCPSS school system when they cannot even attend school due. This building is not suitable for ongoing occupancy. Please do what you can to both fully fund HCPSS budget requests and put pressure on them to do what's right.

Thank you for your ongoing support of our less privileged communities in Howard County. They need your help more than ever.

Sincerely,

Karen B. Estrada
District 3 Resident
Karen B. Estrada

From: Kristin Kopasz <kebler615@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 9:42 AM
To: boe@hcpss.org; bill_barnes@hcpss.org; Ball, Calvin; CouncilMail; guy.guzzone@senate.state.md.us; vanessa.atterbeary@house.state.md.us; pam.guzzone@house.state.md.us; jen.terrasa@house.state.me.us
Subject: OMHS

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear HCPSS BoE, Mr Ball, Councilmen/women -

I am writing today as a concerned parent of a future OMHS student. It's been known for a while now that the conditions of this school are deteriorating, and now- to a point where school is cancelled due to HVAC issues and a water leak.

"When originally deferred, this was a major HVAC renovation project; however it has been nine years since the project was deferred. Current conditions at the school now require a full renovation. It's not practical and cost effective to maintain the system any longer. Due to the fact that the system is old, obsolete and continues to be problematic we are unable to provide a conducive learning environment to both the students and staff."

Although you would think that this is a quote from the past 2 years, it's actually a quote from the **2017-2018 school year**. So, approximately 7 years ago this was an issue that was deferred for 9 years. 16 years. The school conditions and issues that haven't been addressed have been **ongoing for 16 years**. Longer than my child has been alive. The child we moved to Howard County for - best school system in Maryland, etc etc.

But the actual physical school building for OMHS is NOT the best - not even close. Mold issues. Water leaks. HVAC issues. And with today's water leak - is their mold remediation that will happen? Probably not right - too costly? not enough time? They won't notice? The students notice and they talk about how the school is falling apart. It's terrible.

Shameful. Shame on those in power who don't see what this is doing to these kids, how it makes the parents feel sending their kids to schools that are literally falling apart. Shameful.

It's not time to renovate - it's time to replace, rebuild. Give the kids what they deserve and what their parents, as HoCo taxpayers deserve.

I'd like to request that the BoE, councilmen and women really re-evaluate the condition of OMHS. Go there today - take a look, talk to the teachers, the staff. Go there when it re-opens and talk to the students - they'll 100% express their concerns to you.

thank you,
Kristin Kopasz

From: Margaret McGillivray <margaret.mcgillivray@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 8:57 AM
To: boe@hcpss.org; bill_barnes@hcpss.org; guy.guzzone@senate.state.md.us;
vanessa.atterbeary@house.state.md.us; pam.guzzone@house.state.md.us;
jen.terrasa@house.state.md.us; CouncilMail; Ball, Calvin
Subject: HVAC failure and flooding at OMHS

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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Hello,

I wanted to express my anger and dismay over today's HVAC failure and catastrophic flooding at Oakland Mills High School. This is the same high school that has \$100 million dollars+ (yes, million) of deferred renovations and has been essentially ignored by HCPSS Board of Education for years. I am befuddled as to how this is not a violation of my child's rights and COMAR? I am also wondering when it will actually be safe for the school to reopen. An event of this magnitude cannot be safely mitigated (not just cleaned) in a day. This event is due to well-documented problems with the HVAC and the school as a whole. It was absolutely a foreseeable event that could have been avoided.

I'm sure the Board will "clean" the mess up and send our children back into an unsafe environment due to their negligence. There are louder, wealthier voices in the county that get more attention than OMHS. But the fact of the matter is, OMHS is a great school with wonderful teachers, rigorous learning and fantastic students. They deserve better. But on a very basic level, they deserve a safe place to learn and work and grow. The building doesn't not reflect the values and quality of what goes on inside the walls.

This is long overdue and smacks of a lot of things: indifference, inappropriate political pressure, lack of prioritization, and yes, racism. This needs to stop.

In truth,

Margaret McGillivray, DMA, MM, B.Mus, ARCT
Director of Music, First Presbyterian of Howard County
Third Horn, Lancaster Symphony
Musician, Educator, Advocate
520-266-9249
www.margaretmcgillivray.com

From: Terrasa, Jen Delegate <Jen.Terrasa@house.state.md.us>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 8:40 PM
To: 'Margaret McGillivray'; boe@hcpss.org; bill_barnes@hcpss.org; Guzzone, Guy Senator; Atterbeary, Vanessa Delegate; Guzzone, Pam Delegate; CouncilMail; Ball, Calvin
Subject: RE: HVAC failure and flooding at OMHS
Attachments: D13 Letter, Nehal Naqvi for MYAC.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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Hi Margaret,

Thank you for contacting Delegate Jen Terrasa regarding Oakland Mills High School. She and the other District 13 Legislators (Senator Guy Guzzone, Delegates Vanessa Atterbeary and Pam Guzzone) absolutely share your concerns.

Please see the attached letter that we have sent to the HCPSS Acting Superintendent and Members of the Board of Education.

Thank you,
Brooks

Brooks E. Scoville – she/her/hers
Chief of Staff to Delegate Jen Terrasa
District 13, Howard County
6 Bladen Street, Room 217
Annapolis, MD 21401
Office: 410-841-3246

From: Margaret McGillivray <margaret.mcgillivray@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 8:57 AM
To: boe@hcpss.org; bill_barnes@hcpss.org; Guzzone, Guy Senator <Guy.Guzzone@senate.state.md.us>; Atterbeary, Vanessa Delegate <Vanessa.Atterbeary@house.state.md.us>; Guzzone, Pam Delegate <Pam.Guzzone@house.state.md.us>; Terrasa, Jen Delegate <Jen.Terrasa@house.state.md.us>; councilmail@howardcountymd.gov; cball@howardcountymd.gov
Subject: HVAC failure and flooding at OMHS

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SENATOR GUY GUZZONE

Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street, Suite 3 West
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3572 · 301-858-3572
800-492-7122 Ext. 3572



DELEGATE VANESSA ATTERBEARY
DELEGATE PAM LANMAN GUZZONE
DELEGATE JEN TERRASA

The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 131
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3471 · 301-858-3471
800-492-7122 Ext. 3471

THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY
LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 13
HOWARD COUNTY

February 5, 2024

Board of Education
Howard County Public School System
10910 Clarksville Pike
Ellicott City, MD 21042

Dear Acting Superintendent Barnes and Members of the Board of Education,

We are writing to share our concern about the flooding that occurred at Oakland Mills High School over the weekend which resulted in the school being closed on Monday, February 5, 2024.

We've heard from a number of Oakland Mill High constituents who are upset, not only about the flood, the condition of the building and the disruption to student learning, but also about the increased potential for mold. Constituents shared videos and photos which appear to show quite a bit of damage; they also shared their concerned about student health and safety.

We request you share any additional information you may have about the cause of the flooding, remediation efforts, and steps that you may be able to take to help ensure the school is as safe and healthy as possible for students and staff.

We look forward to hearing from you and thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Guy Guzzone".

Senator Guy Guzzone

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vanessa Atterbeary".

Delegate Vanessa Atterbeary

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pam Guzzone".

Delegate Pam Guzzone

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jen Terrasa".

Delegate Jen Terrasa

From: Nneka Chisholm-Edwards <ncedward@umd.edu>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 2:29 PM
Subject: Oakland Mills High School

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

To all with concern and influence,

My name is Nneka Chisholm, and I am a parent of two children—one who graduated a few years ago and another who is currently a junior at Oakland Mills High School. I share this to provide context for the duration of my association with the school. Over the years, I have actively participated in numerous PTSA meetings and observed Board of Education meetings online, witnessing the school administration grapple with challenges such as overcrowding, pandemic management, and the deteriorating state of the school building.

Today's school closing brings the issues with the building to the forefront. There have been well-documented issues with the HVAC system, and today's water leak only adds to the extensive list of problems that directly impact the students. These issues, in addition to missed school days, inevitably affect the length of the academic term. Students like my youngest daughter, who has asthma, are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of these building issues. She has missed numerous days due to poor air circulation, and as one child falls ill, a significant percentage of students often follow suit.

I bring all of this to your attention to emphasize the urgent need for Oakland Mills High School to be prioritized for renovations. Our time for improvements is long overdue.

-- Sincerely --

Nneka (*en-nay-ka*) Chisholm ~ Pronouns: She, Her & Hers
UMD Libraries' Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer
PhD Student, UMBC School of Language, Literacy & Culture
7104 McKeldin Library
College Park, MD 20742
ncedward@umd.edu ~ [301-405-9127](tel:301-405-9127) (office)

Let your motto be resistance! resistance! RESISTANCE! No oppressed people have ever secured their liberty without resistance. What kind of resistance you had better make, you must decide by the circumstances that surround you, and according to the suggestion of expediency.

~ Henry Highland Garnet, An Address to the Slaves of the United States of America (1843)

From: Rohan Warriier <rohanwarriier@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 11:11 AM
To: BoE Email; CouncilMail; howardco.delegationstaff@mlis.state.md.us; Ball, Calvin;
bill_barnes@hcpss.org
Subject: OMHS Flooding and Issues with HVAC

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Hello elected officials,

I am Rohan Warriier, community advocate and senior at Oakland Mills High School.

To keep everyone informed on the condition of the Oakland Mills High School facility, I would like to make you aware that OMHS was closed today.

While I do not have all the information, I know that at least 25 classrooms have flooded due to a leak associated with the HVAC as of 7:00 am.

This is simply distressing. For years, we have testified on the same issues of an obsolete HVAC system and aging infrastructure. First, it was small leaks in the weights room where soggy ceiling panels crashed to the ground. Now, our ceilings are completely falling apart and it is only by luck that none of this happened while students were in the building. All elected officials are liable for my school's facility.

While we do not yet know the cause of the leak and if it could have been prevented, the sentiment of my community remains.

I am currently obtaining additional information and will continue to send it your way.

Please find attached 3 videos that reveal the state of our hallways as of 7:00 am and the condition of the classes where the leak started. The audio from the video has been removed at the request of the original owner. To help, just imagine the sound of a torrential downpour hitting against aluminum panels.

[Link to Videos \(due to file size\)](#)

Sincerely,

--

Rohan Warriier

He/Him

"The goal is not to be better than the **other** man, but your **previous self**."

- The Dalai Lama

From: Sara Benjamin <saraebenjamin@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 9:39 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Oakland Mills High School

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Hello: I am appalled but not surprised that Oakland Mills High school was suddenly closed today due to flooding and HVAC difficulty. The system is old and there have been many warnings about this that have been neglected for decades. The role of the county is to maintain schools. Please prioritize this resource for our community and prioritize your energies as a county council for such local projects.

Sara Benjamin
District 3

From: Valerie Patel <valpatelval@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 8:16 AM
To: boe@hcpss.org; bill_barnes@hcpss.org; Ball, Calvin; CouncilMail; guy.guzzone@senate.state.md.us; vanessa.atterbeary@house.state.md.us; pam.guzzone@house.state.md.us; jen.terrasa@house.state.md.us
Subject: Oakland Mills High School- AGAIN
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Good morning,

I am sure you are receiving many messages from our community today, but we need to make sure we are being heard. Oakland Mills High School already had issues with mold this year which closed the building. Today, the high school is once again closed due to issues with the HVAC Unit (the one that was said to be too old to be maintained 9 years ago) and a water leak. Who knows if the school will be ready to be reopened tomorrow.

How is this fair? How has the county allowed this maintenance to be ignored for over a decade?

We are hitting a tipping point. No longer can a band-aid be put on these gaping wounds.

DO SOMETHING! Stand up for a community who has been overlooked for so long. Something can be done and lack of action is no longer acceptable (not that it really ever was).

Valerie Patel
Parent of students in the Oakland Mills Community and resident for 15 years.

--
Valerie Patel

From: Terrasa, Jen Delegate <Jen.Terrasa@house.state.md.us>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 8:41 PM
To: 'Valerie Patel'; boe@hcpss.org; bill_barnes@hcpss.org; Ball, Calvin; CouncilMail; Guzzone, Guy Senator; Atterbeary, Vanessa Delegate; Guzzone, Pam Delegate
Subject: RE: Oakland Mills High School- AGAIN
Attachments: Dist 13 Letter to HCPSS re OMHS Flooding.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Hi Valerie,

Thank you for contacting Delegate Jen Terrasa regarding Oakland Mills High School. She and the other District 13 Legislators (Senator Guy Guzzone, Delegates Vanessa Atterbeary and Pam Guzzone) absolutely share your concerns.

Please see the attached letter that we have sent to the HCPSS Acting Superintendent and Members of the Board of Education.

Thank you,
Brooks

Brooks E. Scoville – she/her/hers
Chief of Staff to Delegate Jen Terrasa
District 13, Howard County
6 Bladen Street, Room 217
Annapolis, MD 21401
Office: 410-841-3246

From: Valerie Patel <valpatelval@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 8:16 AM
To: boe@hcpss.org; bill_barnes@hcpss.org; cball@howardcountymd.gov; councilmail@howardcountymd.gov; Guzzone, Guy Senator <Guy.Guzzone@senate.state.md.us>; Atterbeary, Vanessa Delegate <Vanessa.Atterbeary@house.state.md.us>; Guzzone, Pam Delegate <Pam.Guzzone@house.state.md.us>; Terrasa, Jen Delegate <Jen.Terrasa@house.state.md.us>
Subject: Oakland Mills High School- AGAIN

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Valerie Patel

SENATOR GUY GUZZONE

Miller Senate Office Building
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410-841-3572 · 301-858-3572
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DELEGATE JEN TERRASA

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THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY
LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 13
HOWARD COUNTY

February 5, 2024

Board of Education
Howard County Public School System
10910 Clarksville Pike
Ellicott City, MD 21042

Dear Acting Superintendent Barnes and Members of the Board of Education,

We are writing to share our concern about the flooding that occurred at Oakland Mills High School over the weekend which resulted in the school being closed on Monday, February 5, 2024.

We've heard from a number of Oakland Mill High constituents who are upset, not only about the flood, the condition of the building and the disruption to student learning, but also about the increased potential for mold. Constituents shared videos and photos which appear to show quite a bit of damage; they also shared their concerned about student health and safety.

We request you share any additional information you may have about the cause of the flooding, remediation efforts, and steps that you may be able to take to help ensure the school is as safe and healthy as possible for students and staff.

We look forward to hearing from you and thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Guy Guzzone".

Senator Guy Guzzone

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vanessa Atterbeary".

Delegate Vanessa Atterbeary

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pam Guzzone".

Delegate Pam Guzzone

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jen Terrasa".

Delegate Jen Terrasa

From: Bill Barnes <Bill_Barnes@hcpss.org>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 8:54 PM
To: Terrasa, Jen Delegate; 'Valerie Patel'; BoE Email; Ball, Calvin; CouncilMail; Guzzone, Guy Senator; Atterbeary, Vanessa Delegate; Guzzone, Pam Delegate
Cc: Karalee Turner-Little; Daniel Lubeley
Subject: Re: [External] RE: Oakland Mills High School- AGAIN

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

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Good evening,

I wanted to write to share that I am in receipt of your letter. I will provide the Board and the Delegation with information regarding the broken water pipe, the subsequent leak, the clean-up process, and the efforts being made to mitigate the growth of mold. The school will be open tomorrow with 3 classrooms still requiring attention. We will be closely monitoring the school site as clean up and repairs continue. I appreciate and share your concerns related to the health of our students and staff.

Bill

Bill Barnes (he/him/his)
Acting Superintendent
Howard County Public School System

From: Terrasa, Jen Delegate <Jen.Terrasa@house.state.md.us>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 8:40 PM
To: 'Valerie Patel' <valpatelval@gmail.com>; BoE Email <boe@hcpss.org>; Bill Barnes <Bill_Barnes@hcpss.org>; cball@howardcountymd.gov <cball@howardcountymd.gov>; councilmail@howardcountymd.gov <councilmail@howardcountymd.gov>; Guzzone, Guy Senator <Guy.Guzzone@senate.state.md.us>; Atterbeary, Vanessa Delegate <Vanessa.Atterbeary@house.state.md.us>; Guzzone, Pam Delegate <Pam.Guzzone@house.state.md.us>
Subject: [External] RE: Oakland Mills High School- AGAIN

Some people who received this message don't often get email from jen.terrasa@house.state.md.us. [Learn why this is important](#)

! CAUTION: This email originated from outside of HCPSS. Do not click links or open attachments, unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Valerie,

Thank you for contacting Delegate Jen Terrasa regarding Oakland Mills High School. She and the other District 13 Legislators (Senator Guy Guzzone, Delegates Vanessa Atterbeary and Pam Guzzone) absolutely share your concerns.

Please see the attached letter that we have sent to the HCPSS Acting Superintendent and Members of the Board of Education.

Thank you,

Brooks

Brooks E. Scoville – she/her/hers
Chief of Staff to Delegate Jen Terrasa
District 13, Howard County
6 Bladen Street, Room 217
Annapolis, MD 21401
Office: 410-841-3246

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Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 8:16 AM
To: boe@hcpss.org; bill_barnes@hcpss.org; cball@howardcountymd.gov; councilmail@howardcountymd.gov; Guzzone, Guy Senator <Guy.Guzzone@senate.state.md.us>; Atterbeary, Vanessa Delegate <Vanessa.Atterbeary@house.state.md.us>; Guzzone, Pam Delegate <Pam.Guzzone@house.state.md.us>; Terrasa, Jen Delegate <Jen.Terrasa@house.state.md.us>
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We are hitting a tipping point. No longer can a band-aid be put on these gaping wounds.

DO SOMETHING! Stand up for a community who has been overlooked for so long. Something can be done and lack of action is no longer acceptable (not that it really ever was).

Valerie Patel
Parent of students in the Oakland Mills Community and resident for 15 years.

--
Valerie Patel

From: Brigitta Warren manager@oaklandmills.org <manager@oaklandmills.org>
Sent: Tuesday, February 6, 2024 3:53 PM
To: 'boe@hcpss.org'; 'bill_barnes@hcpss.org'; Ball, Calvin; CouncilMail;
'guy.guzzone@senate.state.md.us'; Vanessa.Atterbeary@house.state.md.us;
'pam.guzzone@house.state.md.us'; Jen Terrasa
Subject: Requesting Immediate Action On Oakland Mills High School
Attachments: Letter Re 2-5-23 Leak_OMCA.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Hello.

Please find attached a letter from the Oakland Mills Community Association Village Board regarding yesterday's (February 5th) leak at Oakland Mills High School. We look forward to your response.

Thank you,

Brigitta Warren, Village Manager

[pronouns: she / her / hers]

Oakland Mills Community Association
The Other Barn ~ 5851 Robert Oliver Place
Columbia, MD 21045
Office: 410-730-4610
fax: 410-730-4620

<http://oaklandmills.org> – follow link on right of web homepage to JOIN OUR LISTSERV

Visit us on Facebook at **Oakland Mills Village** and **The Other Barn**

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Oakland Mills Community Association
The Other Barn • 5851 Robert Oliver Place
Columbia, MD 21045
410-730-4610 • oaklandmills.org



February 6, 2024

Dear Acting Superintendent Barnes, Members of the Howard County Board of Education, County Executive Ball, Members of the Howard County Council, and the Maryland District 13 Delegation:

The Oakland Mills Community Association (OMCA) is extremely concerned that for the second time this school year, instruction at Oakland Mills High School has been interrupted because of the condition of a building that has been deferred for major maintenance and renovations since 2009.

Yesterday, OMHS was closed because of an HVAC failure and a flood. Earlier this school year, the Media Center closed for several days due to mold from an insufficient HVAC system. OMHS students deserve the same educational opportunities as their colleagues from throughout the county, and yesterday they received no formal education at all.

OMCA requests immediate responses to the following questions:

- Given OMHS has already been plagued by mold in multiple areas this year, what independent assessments will be performed on the building to ensure that yesterday's incident has been fully repaired and remediated with appropriate humidity levels throughout the building and no growth of mold or other airborne irritants? How frequently will the building be assessed to ensure nothing was missed?
 - How will these assessments be shared with the community so parents, teachers, and students know it is safe to return to the building?
- Given a 2017-2018 assessment of OMHS noted the deferrals since 2009 and concluded the HVAC system could no longer provide a conducive learning environment and recommended a full renovation, what assurances will you make that OMHS will no longer be deferred in future capital planning cycles?
- Will each of you spend at least a full day at OMHS touring the facility and meeting with students and teachers who have bravely spoken up about the

condition of their building and the physical and psychological tolls they have paid as they watched their hOME get deferred year after year, and now decade after decade?

It is unacceptable that this is happening as it could have been avoided. The blatant disregard for the emotional and endless pleas of students and parents for years is inexcusable. An immediate response to all of the questions posed is warranted.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jon L. Edelson", is written over a light blue rectangular background.

Jonathan L. Edelson
Chairperson, Oakland Mills Community Association

From: Executive Board OMHS <omexecutiveboard@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 6, 2024 3:13 PM
To: boe@hcpss.org; bill_barnes@hcpss.org; Ball, Calvin; CouncilMail
Subject: The current conditions of Oakland Mills High School

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Good Afternoon,

We are the Oakland Mills Student Body Executive Board in Howard County, Maryland. For the past 2 school years, the Howard County Board Of Education has consecutively pushed back our renovations. From the proposed budget plan last year, the renovations that we were in dire need of were pushed back from the years 2029 to 2038. However, a group of passionate students and staff testified and spoke out against the unfair treatment and lack of prioritization of our school. We were somewhat successful when the Board of Education decided to bring our renovations down to 2026. Our HVAC system has not been renovated since 1973, resulting in many students and staff suffering from conditions that no one should ever undergo.

Along with the lack of standard air quality, mold, unregulated temperatures, ceiling tiles falling out and the other numerous safety hazards, yesterday our HVAC system exploded and pipes burst resulting in 26 classrooms flooded. The Oakland Mills administration staff were immediately notified and took action, closing school for all students and staff. Our custodial staff of 8 members were hard at work to ensure students would be able to return safely to school the following day.

These conditions are unacceptable, prioritization for the Oakland Mills community is crucial under these circumstances. Unsafe school conditions have continuously been affecting our students and staff members to the point where our school is the only school in Howard County being closed. Our education as well as futures matter.

Best Regards,
Oakland Mills Executive Board

From: Laura Young <laura.jtunney@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 7, 2024 4:40 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Oakland Mills High School is in need of repairs, renovations & rebuilding.

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Oakland Mills High School is in need of repairs, renovations & rebuilding. The children hear the message loud and clear “We don’t matter”. HCPSS states in 2018 that the building was “no longer conducive to learning.” The HVAC system has been failing for 15 years. This is despicable.

From a current TSES parent and future OMMS & OMHS parent.

Laura Tunney