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Sent: Thursday, September 26, 2024 11:20 AM
To: superintendent@hcpss.org; BoE Email; Ball, Calvin; CouncilMail
Subject: Rebuilding Oakland Mills High School
Attachments: OMHS Testimony Sept 2024.pdf

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Dear Superintendent Barnes, Board of Education Members, County Executive Dr. Ball, and County Council Members,

Oakland Mills High School flooded again this week due to broken pipes. Additionally, the auditorium has been closed for similar issues.

The rebuild of OMHS needs to start now.

The custodial staff is amazing, along with whoever else worked to fix the pipe problem and clean it up so that the children can go to school, but every person in that building deserves a healthier environment to learn and work in.

OMHS is crumbling. These students have enough to deal with, with the general pressures of being a teen trying to learn and succeed in high school to give themselves and their families great opportunities. In addition to that, our children face the threat of gun violence on a regular basis. Add all of that to a building that crumbles around them more and more each day and I just don't know how they are as successful as they are. How many of them suffer anxiety every morning? While we can't control the lack of national gun control laws, we can remove some of the negative health impacts and stressors. My children are good students. They like their classes and teachers. They also worry about going into that school building and at least once a week I have to assure them that they aren't getting cancer or lung diseases from that building, but the reality is that there are kids in our community dealing with mold-related health issues from that building. The temporary fixes are just not lasting long enough anymore. We can only pay for remediation for mold and asbestos so many times.

Oakland Mills (OMHS and OMMS) students and staff deserve better than this trial by mold and flooding and collapsing ceilings.

Thank you,
Jessica Mahajan
Oakland Mills parent