
From: Chelsea Broschart <chelseabroschart@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 29, 2025 4:33 PM
To: Bill_Barnes@hcpss.org; boe@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
Cc: jledelson.omca@gmail.com
Subject: Concern: Howard County Facilities

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Good afternoon,

As a resident of Oakland Mills Village, I am happy to see that construction has begun on the Oakland Mills Middle School (OMMS) Campus for those long-awaited improvements. Thank you for not deferring those projects further!

I am writing to express my support and expectation that the renovations to Oakland Mills High School (OMHS) will continue to be prioritized to begin in Fiscal Year 2027. The OMHS HVAC system was recommended for a major overhaul in 2009 (16 years ago), and it was never completed. Every high school opened before OMHS has either had a full systemic renovation or replacement. A high school opened after OMHS has also had a full systemic renovation.

I grew up in Howard County and am proud of my education experience. The thought of current students learning in these substandard environments is appalling. The OM Board of Directors' recent letter to the Board of Education can be [reviewed here](#), where you can find more details about issues with the building.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Chelsea Broschart

From: d Joyce-Griffin <djoyce410@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 30, 2025 11:10 AM
To: Bill_Barnes@hcpss.org; boe@hcpss.org; Ball, Calvin; CouncilMail; guy.guzzone@senate.maryland.gov; vanessa.atterbeary@house.maryland.gov; pam.guzzone; jen.terrasa@house.maryland.gov
Subject: Oakland Mills High School - Howard county

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Dear Superintendent Barnes and Members of the Board of Education,

The Oakland Mills Community Association and the greater Oakland Mills school community have taken comfort in the prioritization of Oakland Mills High School renovations after years of deferral and hours of first-hand testimony from teachers and students about conditions within the building. We trust that its place in the priority order will be maintained to ensure that a building, described in an independent assessment nearly ten years ago as, “unable to provide a conducive learning environment to both students and staff,” will be renovated.

In the past couple of years, portions of the school, including science rooms and the media center have been closed due to mold growth. For one day, the entire school was closed due to a pipe break. The auditorium temporarily closed when raw sewage flowed into it. This is the experience students and teachers have in the building. Not only is it not conducive to learning, but it’s also prohibitive to learning when key rooms or the whole building must close.

Over the past two summers, the building has been closed for emergency HVAC repairs. Our understanding is these repairs are meant to keep the system going for a few more years until there can be a full renovation. That system was described in the assessment referenced above as:

“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.”

That nine years of deferral is now 16 years and counting.

These emergency repairs, while potentially helpful, have not fixed all the problems. A few weeks ago, when the weather was still warm, there was a mechanical failure in the system that has been under repair for two summers. The band/orchestra room dropped to the 50s and the teachers were worried the string instruments would crack. Meanwhile, another classroom hit 88 degrees. But you don’t need us to tell you that; you can verify it with Central Office because part of the emergency repair was to put

monitoring devices in each room. You no longer have to rely on anecdotal information about the extremes in the building. We also noted that OMHS was reassessed by the state out of cycle during the emergency repairs.

While these repairs were desperately needed to keep the building habitable until it can be renovated, we hope this temporary fix to an ancient system followed by an out-of-cycle reassessment hasn't produced a misleading facilities score for the building. The bottom line is that the core of the building opened in 1973 and has never had a full systemic renovation in its history. Every high school opened before OMHS has either had a full systemic renovation or replacement. A high school opened after OMHS has also had a full systemic renovation.

It has been time to take care of OMHS for years, as evidenced by the assessment done in the mid 20-teens. We can't push this out any longer.

Sincerely,

Oakland Mills Community Association Board of Directors

Thanks,

d. Joyce-Griffin

From: AESPTA President <aesptapresident@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 6, 2025 11:50 AM
To: Bill_Barnes@hcpss.org; boe@hcpss.org; Ball, Calvin; CouncilMail; guy.guzzone@senate.maryland.gov; vanessa.atterbeary@house.maryland.gov; pam.guzzone; jen.terrasa@house.maryland.gov
Subject: Advocacy for Timely Renovation of Oakland Mills High School

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Dear Superintendent Barnes and Members of the Board of Education,

On behalf of the Atholton Elementary School PTA, we are writing to express our strong support for the long-overdue renovation of Oakland Mills High School (OMHS). As one of the feeder schools to OMHS, our families and students are directly connected to the future of that building and the learning environment it provides.

The mission of the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) is to *make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children*. In keeping with that mission, we believe it is our responsibility to speak up for our future Scorpions—the students who will soon walk the halls of Oakland Mills High School.

Over the past few years, OMHS has faced increasingly serious facility issues that directly affect students and staff. Portions of the building, including science rooms and the media center, have been closed due to mold growth. The entire school had to close for a day because of a pipe break, and the auditorium was temporarily shut down after raw sewage entered the space. These are unacceptable conditions for any school community, and they are not conducive to—or even compatible with—safe and effective learning.

We understand that Oakland Mills High School is currently prioritized to begin renovation in Fiscal Year 2027, and we appreciate that the Board recognizes the urgent need. However, given the school's long history of deferred maintenance, we urge the Board to protect and uphold that commitment and to ensure the project is not delayed again. Every year of postponement worsens existing inequities and sends a message that our community's needs are not valued equally.

Our students, teachers, and families are deeply proud of the Oakland Mills community. We want our future Scorpions to enter a high school building that reflects their worth, potential, and promise—not one defined by aging infrastructure and emergency closures.

We respectfully urge the Board to:

1. Reaffirm the Fiscal Year 2027 start date for OMHS renovations and ensure it remains on schedule.
2. Provide transparent updates to the community on progress and funding.
3. Engage with feeder school communities like ours to keep families informed and involved.

Thank you for your continued commitment to equity and excellence for all Howard County students. We look forward to seeing meaningful progress toward a safe, modern, and inspiring learning environment for the Oakland Mills High School community.

Sincerely,
Atholton Elementary School PTA Executive Board
Feeder School to Oakland Mills High School

Kesha Plummer on behalf of Atholton Elementary School PTA Executive Board
PTA President | Atholton Elementary School
Feeder School to Oakland Mills High School
aesptapresident@gmail.com

"When schools, families, and communities work together, great things happen."
— Unknown

From: Christine Pyers <cpyers@mac.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 5, 2025 11:03 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: OMHS renovation

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Dear Board of Ed ,

I am a proud graduate of OMHS class of 1982. I graduated in the first 10 years of the school's existence. I am now in my 60s- almost near retirement age.

The school is old and needs attention.

I have not followed the whole saga of the renovations but it seems that OMHS keeps getting moved to the back of the line-getting patched up and now limping along.

Please work to address the OMHS situation in an equitable way. Many students have graduated from here and many more students deserve a healthy, renovated environment so they can reach their maximal potential.

Thank you for all your hard work and attention to this matter.

Christine Pyers
OMHS graduate 1982
Sent from my iPad

From: Erica Davis <mcgowaer@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 6, 2025 10:05 AM
To: boe@hcpss.org; bill_barnes@hcpss.org; Ball, Calvin; CouncilMail; guy.guzzone@senate.maryland.gov; vanessa.atterbeary@house.maryland.gov; pam.guzzone; jen.terrasa@house.maryland.gov
Subject: OMHS Renovation - PLEASE
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Good Morning,

Today I need you to vote **YES** for a full renovation of Oakland Mills High School. As a Howard County alumna, an Oakland Mills “baby,” and now a teacher serving the very community that raised me, I have witnessed the disparities across our county for over 40 years. I’ve watched other neighborhoods receive new schools or the renovations their aging buildings required or simply wanted as if it were a wish list item—while Oakland Mills continues to be overlooked.

The pride we have as an Oakland Mills community shines through despite the conditions we face daily. But pride alone cannot patch leaky ceilings. It cannot stop mold from growing in our classrooms. It cannot replace the HVAC system from 1973 or remove asbestos that was found and dismissed. Our students and staff deserve better.

We teach and learn in a building with:

- **Persistent mold and unsafe air quality**
- **Leaky ceilings and no natural light**
- **Overcrowded classrooms and outdated infrastructure**
- **No secure entry for visitors, compromising safety**
- **Water quality concerns and a building that predates current COMAR standards**

These are not minor inconveniences. They are systemic failures. And they send a message—intentional or not—that our students and teachers are not worthy of the same safe, modern, and inspiring environment afforded to others.

It is deeply unfair to allow numbers and money—especially from another school lobbying to take our renovation spot—to outweigh the urgent needs of our students and staff. You wouldn’t live in a house with mold, asbestos, unsafe air and water, and no secure entry. So why would we send the Nation’s Best—Howard County, consistently ranked number one in the nation and one of the wealthiest counties—to a school with these conditions? Why do we continue to ignore what is obvious? Why do we apply band-aid fixes to deep structural wounds? Why do we delay action when the need is urgent and the

consequences are real?

It is with this heavy heart that I implore the Board of Education and our Superintendent to not only consider renovating Oakland Mills High School—but to vote YES and honor the promise made to our community.

We are important.

We are the legacy of Jim Rouse.

We are worthy.

We are here.

We should NOT be ignored.

Sincerely,

Erica Davis

Howard County Teacher

Howard County Alumna

Howard County Parent

Howard County Advocate

From: Jessica Shoop Williams <jlshoop@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 6, 2025 8:09 AM
To: Bill_Barnes@hcpss.org; boe@hcpss.org; Ball, Calvin; CouncilMail; guy.guzzone@senate.maryland.gov; vanessa.atterbeary@house.maryland.gov; pam.guzzone; jen.terrasa@house.maryland.gov
Subject: Advocating for OMHS, again.
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Good Morning,

I am writing because yet again, Oakland Mills High School is at risk of being moved from on the HCPSS budget plan. I moved into the OMHS community 15 years ago, and nearly every year the community has been set into a panic as the incredibly needed school renovations have been pushed off to accommodate other, less urgent needs in the county. My children were not born when I began to hear about the issues at OMHS 15 years ago, but as it stands they will still go to a high school that has not seen major renovations since it was built in 1973. This is absurd. How am I supposed to keep my children in a school that has had major and very well known mold problems, ceiling tiles falling down, frequent classroom flooding, major air quality concerns, lead, and a long list of other issues? The truth is I will not, and many others feel the same way. We will be looking into other options for schooling if this goes on any longer.

While I don't have enough time to write a long email detailing the issues, and you probably don't have time to read it, I wanted to send something to let you know how very tired I am of being told that the disgusting school my children are slated to attend is "good enough" for our community, while other renovations are prioritized. And I am tired of being told I need to advocate AGAIN for this school that is obviously in great need. Please keep OMHS where it is on the budget plan, beginning in 2027, so that at least my children will be able to count on a year or two of education without the disruptions of a derelict school building.

Thank you for reading,

Jessica Williams

From: Jordon Schulman <jordonschulman@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 6, 2025 11:39 AM
To: bill_barnes@hcpss.org; Ball, Calvin; CouncilMail; pam.guzzone; Jen Delegate;
guy.guzzone@senate.maryland.gov; Vanessa.Atterbeary@house.maryland.gov
Subject: Oakland Mills High School Renovations Vote

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Good afternoon,

I'm writing as a parent of a freshman at Oakland Mills High School to urge you to move forward with the full renovation of OMHS. Hearing my daughter say that their library no longer has many books because they had to be discarded due to mold is deeply upsetting. This should never be the reality for any school in our county.

The school has been closed multiple times for HVAC and mold issues, and it is unacceptable for this to have become the norm. My daughter, who is also a student-athlete, reports that there is mold in the locker rooms as well. No student should have to encounter these conditions on a daily basis.

Students at OMHS deserve the same opportunities as every other student in Howard County—to learn in a safe, healthy environment with reliable HVAC systems, clean facilities, and a library full of books. These renovations are long overdue and have been delayed far too many times.

Oakland Mills is a special community with dedicated students, teachers, and staff who deserve better. Please do the right thing for them and vote to move forward with the long-awaited renovations.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to seeing positive changes ahead.

Sincerely,
Jordon Schulman

From: Maura Ward <maura.ward@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 6, 2025 10:55 AM
To: guy.guzzone@senate.maryland.gov; vanessa.atterbeary@house.maryland.gov; pam.guzzone;
jen.terrasa@house.maryland.gov; Bill_Barnes@hcpss.org; Ball, Calvin; CouncilMail; boe@hcpss.org
Subject: Honor the Commitment: Renovate Oakland Mills High School Now
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Dear Members of the Board and Leaders of our Community,

I am writing once again to urge you to move forward—without delay or dilution—with the long-promised renovation of Oakland Mills High School (OMHS). It is deeply frustrating that, year after year, the OMHS community must fight for what should be a basic guarantee: school facilities that are safe, modern, and equitable.

It is unacceptable that students at OMHS continue to learn in a building that is visibly deteriorating while other schools enjoy state-of-the-art facilities. Even more troubling is the pattern in which communities with greater financial and political capital feel entitled to challenge or derail long-overdue investments in schools like OMHS. This is not just a facilities issue—it is an equity issue, and it is a moral one.

The students, educators, and families of Oakland Mills deserve better. They deserve the same level of respect, investment, and opportunity afforded to every other school in Howard County. The renovation plan is not a luxury—it is a necessity. And it is a promise that has already been made.

To delay or reconsider this project now would be a betrayal of that promise and a clear signal that some students in this county are valued more than others. I urge you to stand firm in your commitment to the OMHS community and that renovation proceeds as planned.

Sincerely,

Maura Ward

OMHS, OMMS and 26-27 AES Parent

From: Teresa Favero <teresa_zumbach@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 6, 2025 9:10 AM
To: Bill_Barnes@hcpss.org; CouncilMail; guy.guzzone@senate.maryland.gov;
vanessa.atterbeary@house.maryland.gov; pam.guzzone; jen.terrasa@house.maryland.gov;
boe@hcpss.org; Ball, Calvin
Subject: OMHS Renovations - DO NOT DELAY
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Dear Superintendent Barnes and Members of the Board of Education,

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In the past couple of years, portions of the school, including science rooms and the media center have been closed due to mold growth. For one day, the entire school was closed due to a pipe break. The auditorium temporarily closed when raw sewage flowed into it. This is the experience students and teachers have in the building. Not only is it not conducive to learning, but it’s also prohibitive to learning when key rooms or the whole building must close.

Over the past two summers, the building has been closed for emergency HVAC repairs. Our understanding is these repairs are meant to keep the system going for a few more years until there can be a full renovation. That system was described in the assessment referenced above as: “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.”

That nine years of deferral is now 16 years and counting.

These emergency repairs, while potentially helpful, have not fixed all the problems. A few weeks ago, when the weather was still warm, there was a mechanical failure in the system that has been under repair for two summers. The band/orchestra room dropped to the 50s and the teachers were worried the string instruments would crack. Meanwhile, another classroom hit 88 degrees. But you don’t need us to tell you that; you can verify it with Central Office because part of the emergency repair was to put monitoring devices in each room. You no longer have to rely on anecdotal information about the extremes in the building.

We also noted that OMHS was reassessed by the state out of cycle during the emergency repairs. While these repairs were desperately needed to keep the building habitable until it can be renovated, we hope this temporary fix to an ancient system followed by an out-of-cycle reassessment hasn’t produced a misleading facilities score for the building. The bottom line is that the core of the building opened in 1973 and has never had a full systemic renovation in its history. Every high school opened before OMHS has either had a full systemic renovation or replacement. A high school opened after OMHS has also had a full systemic renovation.

It has been time to take care of OMHS for years, as evidenced by the assessment done in the mid 20-teens. We can't push this out any longer. Our EXPECTATION is that you will do what's right. Do not delay, do not defer, and do not keep making our community beg you for this renovation any further.

Thank you.
Teresa Favero, Parent

From: Trelina Gonzalez Anderson <trelina.anderson@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 6, 2025 9:21 AM
To: bill_barnes@hcpss.org; boe@hcpss.org; Ball, Calvin; CouncilMail; guy.guzzone@senate.mayland.gov; vanessa.attebeary@house.maryland.gov; pam.guzzone; jen.terrasa@house.maryland.gov
Subject: KEEP OMHS IN CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2027!
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Dear Superintendent Barnes and Members of the BOE,

I am writing to you hoping that you continue to keep Oakland Mills High School in the Capitol Improvement Plan for immediate renovations. I have 2 children currently attending the Howard County Public School System, one at Oakland Mills Middle School and one at Oakland Mills High School.

Our family moved to Columbia in September 2021 and we were so excited to send our children to such a highly acclaimed school system. We were also thrilled to discover that our community was so tightly knit and supportive of each other, as well as others all around Howard County and the rest of the state. So imagine our shock to find that our local high school had over \$10M in deferred facilities maintenance! We were very worried to send our older child to this school for this reason, and to send our middle schooler to this school next school year.

This school has repeatedly had mold issues and continued poor air ventilation. Students have missed school days due to an HVAC issue that caused the school to flood. Ceiling tiles collapsed in the gym. There are many more issues but I think you get the idea. These are serious health and safety issues that affect the entire community, but especially the students and staff who are in that building every single day of the school year, and for some, beyond that.

Although not the fault of the current board it cannot be ignored that previous boards have routinely ignored these ongoing facility issues within OMHS and allowed the deferred maintenance to continue to build up. Had maintenance not been left to languish for such a long period of time - close to 20 years, as I understand it - perhaps we wouldn't be in such a dire state.

Oakland Mills is the most disadvantaged socioeconomic area within Howard County and for the board to continually ignore the health and safety needs of Oakland Mills High School within our community is pure negligence and frankly, shameful. I am asking that you move forward with the board's initial plans to renovate OMHS as is needed and necessary. While this renovation comes too late for my children, it is vital for the continued success of the young people who will attend after them. The future leaders of Howard County, the state of Maryland, and the nation are depending on you for leadership. Please do the right thing.

Thank you for taking the time to hear me,

Trelina Anderson
Oakland Mills resident and
Mother of HCPSS students