



GREATER
ROCKVILLE
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Empower
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February 17, 2026

From:

The Greater Rockville Chamber of Commerce
1 Research Court, Suite 450
Rockville, Maryland. 20850

To:

The Honorable Grace Rivera-Oven, President
Montgomery County Board of Education
15 West Gude Drive, Suite 100
Rockville, Maryland 20850

The Honorable Natalie Fani-González, President
Montgomery County Council

The Honorable Marc Elrich
Montgomery County Executive

Dr. Thomas Taylor, Ed.D, MBA
Superintendent
Montgomery County Public Schools

Dear President Rivera-Oven, Members of the Board, County Executive Elrich, Council President Fani-González, and Dr. Taylor:

On behalf of the Greater Rockville Chamber of Commerce, which represents hundreds of businesses, employers, and community leaders across Rockville and the surrounding region, we write to express our strong support for restoring funding in the FY27–FY32 Capital Improvements Program (CIP) for both **Twinbrook Elementary School** and **Wootton High School**, and to urge the rejection of any option that permanently removes Wootton High School as a comprehensive high school serving Rockville.

High-quality, modern public schools are foundational to economic vitality, workforce development, business retention, and housing stability. The business community relies on predictable, well-aligned school infrastructure planning that supports both current families and future growth.

Twinbrook Elementary School: Equity, Workforce, and Community Stability

Twinbrook Elementary School serves as a critical anchor in the Twinbrook neighborhood. As a Community School and Title I school, it supports families through counseling, engagement programs, and essential wraparound services. The current facility, constructed in 1952, is no longer adequate to meet the needs of today's students.

The business community recognizes that educational equity is directly tied to long-term workforce outcomes. Students who learn in safe, modern, properly equipped facilities are more likely to succeed academically and contribute meaningfully to the regional economy.

Delaying or removing funding for the Twinbrook Major Capital Project not only postpones long-overdue facility improvements, but also undermines stability in a community that has advocated for this project for decades.

“A rebuilt school is not simply a facilities upgrade — it is an investment in Rockville's human capital pipeline.”

We strongly support moving forward with construction of a new Twinbrook Elementary School and encourage creative partnerships that may enhance its long-term community value.

Wootton High School: Capacity, Growth Alignment, and Economic Predictability

Wootton High School serves a growing corridor of Montgomery County.

From a business and economic development perspective:

- Permanently converting Wootton High School into a holding facility would remove durable, long-term capacity in a designated growth area
- Reducing long-term high school capacity in a high-growth corridor introduces uncertainty into housing delivery, APFO assumptions, and long-range planning.
- Predictability in school infrastructure planning is essential to maintaining investor confidence, supporting small businesses, and aligning public and private investment.

Additionally, Wootton High School is a community anchor within Rockville. Its walkability, neighborhood integration, and long-standing presence contribute to residential desirability, property stability, and local business activity. Removing or permanently displacing this school would have ripple effects well beyond enrollment metrics.

The Chamber supports a **full renovation or rebuild of Wootton High School at its current Rockville location**, preserving permanent capacity while addressing urgent facility deficiencies.

Fiscal Responsibility and Capital Sequencing

We recognize the significant fiscal pressures facing MCPS and Montgomery County. However, capital decisions must align with long-term growth strategy, infrastructure coordination, and economic sustainability.

Converting a permanent instructional asset into a long-term holding facility represents an inefficient allocation of limited public investment. Capital sequencing should preserve capacity in growth areas and avoid structural mismatches between school infrastructure and approved development.

Efficient, strategic investment today reduces future disruption, regulatory friction, and economic instability.

The Greater Rockville Chamber of Commerce respectfully urges:

1. Restoration of funding in the FY27–FY32 CIP for Twinbrook Elementary School.
2. Restoration of funding for the Wootton High School Major Capital Project.
3. Rejection of any option that permanently eliminates Wootton High School as a comprehensive high school serving Rockville.
4. Adoption of solutions that preserve long-term capacity in designated growth corridors and align with adopted master plans and housing goals.

Strong schools and strong businesses are inseparable. Investing in these projects strengthens Rockville’s workforce pipeline, housing stability, fiscal sustainability, and overall economic competitiveness.

We stand ready to work collaboratively with MCPS, the County Council, and the County Executive to support solutions that advance both educational excellence and economic vitality.

Sincerely,



Marji Graf
President & CEO
Greater Rockville Chamber of Commerce

cc: Montgomery County Councilmembers
Montgomery County Board of Education Members
City of Rockville Mayor and Council