

***Testimony for Jane Lehrman, Poolesville Cluster Coordinator  
February 9, 2021***

My name is Jane Lehrman and I am testifying for MCCPTA. Thank you for this opportunity to speak about urgent issues in Wootton and Poolesville clusters.

For many years, Wootton cluster has requested a new high school. The problems with the building are significant. Wootton's building is not ADA compliant, the bus drop off area is unsafe, the building lacks reliable HVAC, and the pipes leak. In 1999, I subbed at Wootton in the computer lab and vividly remember the large trash cans that collected water that dripped from the ceiling. Sadly, the rebuild of Wootton High School has not been approved, but is only "programmed" for funding in a future CIP. This is some progress, but does not meet the needs of the Wootton community.

Regarding Poolesville High School, on January 28, MCPS approved the preliminary plan for the new building. The budget is much smaller than any other high school in the county. This negatively impacts the proposed design of indoor athletic space. Currently, PHS has 1 full gym, 1 auxiliary gym, 1 weight room, and random areas for practices. The current architectural plans show 1 refurbished gym, and an auxiliary gym. A separate weight room is not on the plans.

Newer high schools are built with "double gyms" that can be divided into two rooms. All smaller high schools and some middle schools have dividable gyms that will be larger than the new Poolesville High School space. The current plans indicate that only a single gym will be available to our students. This, plus the lack of a new weight room, means that the new design gives us less dedicated athletic space than the old school. The deficits that I am describing were publicly acknowledged at the January 28 BOE meeting.

In short, more money is needed for Wootton and Poolesville High Schools. Our communities will partner to advocate to the Assembly for more funding and will express our specific concerns directly to the members of the council. Together, I am sure that we can meet our shared goals. Again, thank you for this opportunity to speak today.