

Dear Members of the County Council,

My name is Kim Glassman and I am the Magruder High School PTSA President. I appreciate the difficulty that Montgomery County has with respect to the budget and that Magruder has now been fully removed from the current CIP. I am also aware that this is an off year and we cannot be returned at this time, however, I am writing to share the urgency to ensure that Magruder is returned to the CIP for the next budget cycle.

On [June 14, 2016](#), the Board of Education approved that Col. Zadok Magruder and Damascus high schools were added to the schools to be reassessed with the updated FACT methodology and revitalization/expansion program process. As of that June 2016 decision, Magruder had not been assessed since the 1990s. While there was a building addition in 1994, there has not been a major renovation to the original building since it opened in 1970.

In the FY2020 [CIP Master Plan](#) (page 45), released on July 1, 2019, MCPS wrote, “The Board of Education, superintendent of schools, and school community also recognize that even well-maintained facilities eventually reach the end of their useful life span and require upgrade to the infrastructure building systems and the need to address programmatic needs.” This CIP that MCPS identified Magruder as one of the schools identified for a major capital project, with the scope determined during the 2018/19 school year with an FY 2020 appropriation is approved to begin the planning for these projects.

### COL. ZADOK MAGRUDER CLUSTER

#### SCHOOLS

##### Col. Zadok Magruder High School

**Capital Project:** A major capital project is approved for this school to address various building systems and programmatic needs for this school. The scope of the project will be determined during the 2018–2019 school year. An FY 2020 appropriation is approved for planning to begin the architectural design for this project. A completion date will be determined in a future CIP.

#### CAPITAL PROJECTS

School	Project	Project Status*	Date of Completion
Col. Zadok Magruder HS	Major Capital Project	Approved	TBD
Judith A. Resnik ES	Classroom addition	Programmed	TBD

\*Approved\*— Project has an FY 2019 or FY 2020 appropriation for planning or construction funds approved in the Amended FY 2019–2024 CIP.

FY2020 CIP Master plan, page 101.

The FY2021 [CIP Master Plan](#) (July 1, 2020) recommended a one year delay for the Major Capital Project at Magruder High School. Magruder was then listed as a Tier 2 priority for reinstatement in the budget, with a completion date of September 2027. Mill Creek Towne was also listed as in need of an addition.

## SCHOOLS

### Col. Zadok Magruder High School

**Capital Project:** A major capital project is approved to address various building systems and programmatic needs for this school. An FY 2020 appropriation was approved for planning to begin the architectural design for this project. Expenditures for this project are included in the Major Capital Projects—Secondary and an appropriation will be approved in the next full CIP. This project is scheduled for completion in September 2027. In order for this project to be completed on this schedule, county and state funding must be provided at the levels approved in this CIP.

### Mill Creek Towne Elementary School

**Planning Study:** Projections indicate that enrollment will exceed capacity by more than 92 seats by the end of the six-year planning period. An FY 2021 appropriation was approved for facility planning to conduct a feasibility study for a possible addition to this school and identify a scope and cost for the project. Relocatable classrooms will be utilized until additional capacity can be added.

## CAPITAL PROJECTS

School	Project	Project Status*	Date of Completion
Col. Zadok Magruder HS	Major Capital Project	Programmed	Sept. 2027
Mill Creek Towne ES	Addition	Proposed	TBD

\*Approved\*—Project has a previously approved FY 2020 appropriation in the Amended FY 2019–2024 CIP or approved FY 2021 appropriation in the FY 2021–2026 CIP approved for planning or construction funds.

\*Programmed\*—Project has expenditures programmed in a future year of the CIP for planning and/or construction funds.

\*Proposed\*—Project has facility planning funds approved for a feasibility study.

In the [FY2023 Master Plan](#), MCPS shifted the Magruder date from 2027 to 2029.

### Col. Zadok Magruder High School

**Capital Project:** To address various building systems and programmatic needs for this school, a major capital project is planned. Expenditures for this project are included in the Major Capital Projects—Secondary and an appropriation will be requested for planning funds in a future CIP. Due to fiscal constraints, the County Council, in the adopted FY2023–2028 CIP, delayed this project two years. This project is now scheduled for completion in August 2029.

## CAPITAL PROJECTS

School	Project	Project Status*	Date of Completion
Col. Zadok Magruder HS	Major Capital Project	Programmed	August 2029
Mill Creek Towne ES	Addition	Proposed	TBD
Judith A. Resnik ES	Addition	Proposed	TBD

Now, in the current “off year” CIP FY2026 [Amendments](#), Magruder has nothing funded.

## COL. ZADOK MAGRUDER CLUSTER

### CLUSTER PLANNING ISSUES

#### Mill Creek Towne Elementary School

**Planning Study:** Projections indicate that enrollment will exceed capacity by 92 seats by the end of the six-year planning period. Therefore, enrollment will continue to be monitored and relocatable classrooms will be utilized, if needed.

Since 2019, MCPS and the Magruder community have been planning for our “major capital improvement”. During that time, items we have submitted through the CIP and work order process were denied because of this long planned, long anticipated construction.

For the last several years, we have highlighted areas in need of repair or replacement while waiting for this long promised “major capital improvement”. MCPS has marked each of our requests as “not planned” or “Major Capital Project August 2029 completion”.

As you will hear from all of our students, Magruder has needs that must be addressed. If the major capital improvement is simply never going to be, the Montgomery County must find ways to immediately address the construction needs at Magruder High School. Specifically

1. The exterior lights are old, dim, and tinted yellow. The entrances are not adequately lit and pose safety risks. Last year when I testified before the Board of Education, the response was that there are rules around the brightness of lights for the surrounding homes. Have you been to Magruder? The surrounding homes are not close. I live near Flower Hill - the new lights that were put in when we got the new parking lot in 2020 are fantastic. They shine brightly and are in close proximity to neighboring homes. I’m certain we can have lights at Magruder bright enough to be able to see when leaving events at night.
2. The rock filled path to the stands is steep and hazardous for visiting spectators. We need permanent steps with handrails to provide a safe and accessible entry.
3. We have little camera coverage of our Stadium field and back side of the building. The upper fields and other locations are not adequately covered by current devices.
4. The auditorium lighting and sound needs to be replaced and upgraded. While some lighting has been replaced, they only have a 3 month life span because of the outdated wiring system. The sound system goes in and out during student performances.
5. The lockers are broken and falling apart.
6. The restrooms need renovations to maintain proper repair.
7. The girls locker room is in extremely poor shape.
8. The roof leaks in several areas, resulting in mold throughout the building.
9. The elevators frequently go out of service.
10. The stadium field is uneven and full of divots, risking student injury. It becomes unplayable when it rains for too many days.
11. The parking lot does not drain properly and water pools after heavy rains.
12. The HVAC system is old and the heating and cooling is inconsistent throughout the building.

Magruder is a pretty small and a pretty quiet cluster. Removing a project that has been planned since 2019 while denying upkeep is not acceptable. The County Council must pay urgent attention to the capital improvement needs of our community. It is not acceptable to make promises you cannot keep, continuously delay or cut us from the budget, and make no plans to fund the much needed improvements to our 50 year old school facility.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kim Glassman', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Kim Glassman

Magruder HS PTSA President