

April 14, 2016

Dear Honorable Mayor Muriel Bowser,
Chairman Phil Mendelson,
Chairman David Grosso,
Councilmember Vincent Orange,
Councilmember Anita Bonds,
Councilmember Elissa Silverman,
Councilmember Brianne Nadeau,
Councilmember Jack Evans,
Councilmember Mary Cheh,
Councilmember Brandon Todd,
Councilmember Kenyan McDuffie,
Councilmember Charles Allen,
Councilmember Yvette Alexander, and
Councilmember LaRuby May:

cc:

Deputy Mayor of Education Jenny Niles
Chancellor Kaya Henderson, DCPS
Director Nathaniel Beers, DGS
Joe Weedon, DC State Board of Education
Commissioner Daniele Schiffman (ANC6C01)
Commissioner Karen Wirt (ANC 6C02)
Commissioner Scott Price (ANC 6C03)
Commissioner Mark Eckenwiler (ANC 6C04)
Commissioner Chris Miller (ANC 6C05)
Commissioner Tony Goodman (ANC 6C06)

Our school, Capitol Hill Montessori at Logan (CHML), recently received the email below from DCPS. The email from Patrick Davis, in the Office of the Chief Operating Officer, to our principal states *“there has been a recommended change to project timeline for your school. Unfortunately we were not able to fit your school in the FY17-22 CIP.”* We are asking your help to determine what process took place to ultimately recommend this change, why CHML students continue to be excluded from much needed renovations, and why this process has not been transparent. Most importantly, we ask that when you consider the budget that the Mayor proposed, that the Council request the Mayor put CHML on the modernization list in the FY 2017-2022 CIP.

When we opened Logan in 2011, we had 158 kids in grades PK3-5th grade. In five years, we have more than doubled our student body, added grades 6th through 8th, and now have 329 kids in PK3-8th grade. Families are excited to become part of our school. In fact, we had 898 students apply for 80 slots this year, and last year we had a waitlist of approximately 360 children. Our families come from every ward in this great city.

Despite this growth, we are the only Ward 6 based elementary school that has **not received any modernization**. We have never had any phase 1 modernization. Originally, we were promised modernization in 2014. Each year it has been pushed back, until most recently to 2019. Then CHML received the below email to say we will have no modernization until after FY 2022, at least an 8+ year delay, meaning our current kindergartners will benefit from the modernization only if it happens in FY 2023. Our parents contribute day in and day out to make this school a positive and supportive learning environment and our parents believe in the DC public system, but the fact of the matter is that this proposed budget and the lack of transparency surrounding it is completely disheartening, frustrating, and unacceptable to our community.

Our children's school building desperately needs a modernization. Our school boiler breaks down, causing school to have to close. This has already happened this year forcing our children to miss a day of school. In addition, we have very old windows, which exacerbate the temperature issues within the school. The school is regularly over 75 degrees all year long. Most of the windows do not open. Some of the windows are blacked out so no natural light can come through. Also, we have exposed wires. Recently one child was almost hurt from an exposed wire and a defective outlet. Without funding for repairs, students are being told to avoid the wire and outlet as they pass in the hallway. The bathrooms are in disrepair. Urinals are covered in trash bags and there are cracks in the walls around the sinks that present a dangerous environment. Our middle school is operating in a trailer. We are in no way able to operate for modern day learning. We have an antiquated P.A. system that only reaches certain classrooms. Teachers should have phones in every classroom. We do not have the wiring and broadband needed to accommodate modern day testing and digital learning. And the building is not developed for its modern day use of a full capacity, PK3-8th grade school. These issues in the short-term create an uncomfortable and unsafe environment, and in the long-term could have possible consequences to our children's health and ability to learn, compete for high school slots, and succeed in college and career.

We are lucky that we have an amazing principal, teachers, parents, and student body that are making things happen to foster learning and build a community despite the building needs. As a Montessori school in the DCPS system, we fight every day to offer a unique education, yet be understood by the Council, DCPS, and the Mayor. We have been working hard to promote the overall need for more capital budget towards all schools. However, it appears our calls for overall improvement within all DCPS schools, have come without any benefit to CHML.

When our leaders fail to step up to provide the most basic repairs to our school, that sends a strong signal to our community, our teachers, and most importantly our children that they do not matter. The children are very aware of the situation. Many of our children wear layers throughout the winter, so when they arrive at school they can immediately undress to short sleeves. In the winter and spring, for those classrooms lucky enough to have windows that open, that method is used to control the temperature.

The DGS Facilities Condition Assessment for the MFP for FY 2015 did not include CHML. The CIP lists the DGS Facilities Condition Assessment first in a list of conditions generally necessary for eligibility under the CIP. To set the right priorities for DCPS facilities, the DGS has to have a full and comprehensive set of assessments (system-wide). Otherwise, there is no reasonable basis

for arriving at decisions on the priorities included in the CIP. It appears from our review that CHML was not even positioned to be given due consideration. This is not reasonable. We were also excluded from the FY 2014 analysis as well. In FY 2013, our school's assessment review resulted in a "n/a" and a "TBD" next to our school so it does not appear there is anything reasonably recent to make an assessment.

To address this concern, we want to know how the facilities at CHML were assessed vis-à-vis the other schools in the DCPS when identifying priorities for inclusion in the proposed CIP. Absent a fair comparative (transparent) assessment, the whole process is arbitrary. We recognize priority-setting is difficult, but our families and students deserve to know if the process for arriving at those proposed priorities was fair and justifiable. If not, we need your help to fix that and ensure CHML is on the modernization list in the FY 2017 budget.

We are a strong community dedicated to seeing our school succeed. But we need your help. Please do all you can to ensure CHML is on the modernization list in the FY 2017-2022 CIP and to make this process more transparent.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

| CHML Family Name | Ward |
|----------------------------|-------------|
| Lisa Gail Rucker | 1 |
| Shameeka Peak | 1 |
| Souleymane Diallo | 1 |
| Ben Steinberg | 2 |
| Kempf family | 3 |
| Anastesiia Zinchenko | 4 |
| Deon Young | 4 |
| Hermon Bunch | 4 |
| Khalilah Woodland | 4 |
| Nadine Peters | 4 |
| Scott Guggenheim | 4 |
| Abdol Henderson | 5 |
| Arthur Tomelden | 5 |
| Craig Gilbeaux, Jr. | 5 |
| Derrick and Denita Price | 5 |
| Gimbu Smith | 5 |
| Jeanne Choi | 5 |
| Jessica and Jose Young | 5 |
| Johanna Polsenberg | 5 |
| Jolie Schwarz and Tim Holt | 5 |
| Kim Bursic | 5 |
| Marlon Allen | 5 |
| Mary Melchior | 5 |
| Michael and Laura Zehr | 5 |

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|---------------------------------------|---|
| Mr. & Mrs. David Blango | 5 |
| Sheila and Lamont Clark | 5 |
| Stephanie Coleman and Tony Tomelden | 5 |
| Taurica Wallace | 5 |
| Tracy Davis | 5 |
| Warren Nott | 5 |
| Alexander and Erika Hoppes | 6 |
| Amanda McClean and Douglas Black | 6 |
| Amy and Irving Jones | 6 |
| Amy Clement and Isabelle Dikland | 6 |
| Andre Simmons | 6 |
| Anji Keating and Michael Hess | 6 |
| Anna Biedzinska | 6 |
| Anya and Chris French | 6 |
| Benjamin & Courtney Schwalen | 6 |
| Benjamin Barbin and Brooke Rosenblatt | 6 |
| Carlet Harris | 6 |
| Carrie Wilks and Michael McCarthy | 6 |
| Cathy Duvall | 6 |
| Cheryl Zimmer | 6 |
| Christine Klein | 6 |
| Claire Montaut & John Reid | 6 |
| Corrie Clark and Andrew Turner | 6 |
| Danica Petroschius | 6 |
| David Johnson | 6 |
| Demitra Pappas | 6 |
| Elizabeth Nash and family | 6 |
| Erica Kavanagh | 6 |
| Evelyn Antonsen | 6 |
| Fajr Majeed | 6 |
| Fonta Gilliam | 6 |
| Frank Nickerson | 6 |
| Gabriella Boston | 6 |
| Gergana D. Ivanova and Todor H. Hinov | 6 |
| Grace Steckler | 6 |
| Greg and Sara Burns | 6 |
| Greg Whitsell | 6 |
| Hanna Yetayew | 6 |
| Heather Whitlow & Thomas Paquin | 6 |
| Helena Smolich and Scott Carlson | 6 |
| Hyojung and Seth Garland | 6 |
| Jack deKluiver | 6 |
| Jamice Harrison | 6 |
| Jeff and Leah Young | 6 |
| Jeff Janicke and Jill Wheeler | 6 |
| Jeffery & Kimberly Trinca | 6 |

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|------------------------------------|---|
| Jennifer Lucas | 6 |
| Josh and Julia Kramer | 6 |
| Justin and Whitney Louchheim | 6 |
| Kafayat Husband | 6 |
| Karl and Shelby Reitz | 6 |
| Kelly Godsoe and family | 6 |
| Kevin and Mia Morrison | 6 |
| Kevin Jackson | 6 |
| Keya Chatterjee and Andrew Kravetz | 6 |
| Kurspahic Family | 6 |
| Laura Kim | 6 |
| Laurie Anne and Chad Ernst | 6 |
| Lisa Nipp and Mel Antonen | 6 |
| Lon Hamilton | 6 |
| Marta and Chris Pilla | 6 |
| Mary Hallam | 6 |
| Mary-Beth Lowery | 6 |
| Matthew Dunne and Emily Martin | 6 |
| Michele M. Anderson | 6 |
| Michelle and Gregory Adams | 6 |
| Paul and Jaclyn Davidson | 6 |
| Rebecca Levin | 6 |
| Robert St. Cyr | 6 |
| Sameena and Tom Kluck | 6 |
| Sandra Moscoso and Floyd Mills | 6 |
| Sarah von der Lippe | 6 |
| Scott and Katherine Weishaar | 6 |
| Seth Garland | 6 |
| Shawn Bardwell | 6 |
| Stephanie and Nyall Beggs | 6 |
| Susan Drake | 6 |
| Tiffany Hadgru | 6 |
| Tim and Beth (Betsy) Abdella | 6 |
| Todd and Christine Cochran | 6 |
| Tom Kavanagh | 6 |
| Tulloch and Hallam family | 6 |
| Vicki Elliss | 6 |
| Wallacetine Taliaferro Curtis | 6 |
| Wuhan Dansby | 6 |
| Yohanness Ayechea | 6 |
| Aaron Hippolyte | 7 |
| Azia Lloyd | 7 |
| Chevon Mathews | 7 |
| Clyde Watson | 7 |
| Dena and Sirraaj Hasan | 7 |
| Faye Sanders | 7 |

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|------------------------------------|---|
| Harold and Monica Thomas | 7 |
| Jasmine Welch | 7 |
| Julius Brown | 7 |
| Karen Berry | 7 |
| Latoya Johnson | 7 |
| Lindy Campbell | 7 |
| Marcella Horton | 7 |
| Melissa Green Tetaxr | 7 |
| Neal and Michele Pratt | 7 |
| Paul and Karima Woods | 7 |
| Ralph Barnett and Ivy Barnett | 7 |
| Ronald Briscoe | 7 |
| Sheila Capson Carr | 7 |
| Sherita Wallea | 7 |
| Susan, Matt and Caroline Wright | 7 |
| Tiffany L. and Julius L. Brown, Jr | 7 |
| Tina L. Patterson | 7 |
| Arletha and Boubaear Idrissa | 8 |
| Catrina Jones | 8 |
| Christina Plummer | 8 |
| Crystal Jacobs | 8 |
| Keith and Lela Golden | 8 |
| Kristin Garri and Garri family | 8 |
| LaTasha D. Hudson | 8 |
| Lloyd and Dionne Bryant | 8 |
| Tabitha Bennett | 8 |
| Vaughn Perry | 8 |
| Williams-Booker Family | 8 |
| Ann McCracken | |
| Jana Svolikova | |
| Saraly Mtz. Aranda | |

BACKGROUND:

Principal Eatman,

This email is to inform you that the Mayor has released the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for Fiscal Years 2017-2022 and there has been a recommended change to project timeline for your school. Unfortunately we were not able to fit your school in the FY17-22 CIP. Moving forward DCPS is budgeting to ensure that all schools receive a full modernization. We feel that this is the best approach to construction. Because we have enhanced the budgets for most of the projects moving forward, we were not able to fit in as many projects in the out years of the CIP. Like many of the other projects, the budget included last year in the CIP would not be enough to address the needs of the students and staff.

Our School Operations team will continue to work closely with you and your staff to ensure your school building is operating in a way to meet the needs of the students.

Thanks,
Patrick

Patrick Davis
Director, Facility Planning and Design
Office of the Chief Operating Officer

District of Columbia Public Schools