

## **Oakland Mills Education Committee Report December 8, 2015**

The committee met on November 10, 2015. Ellen Flynn Giles, Howard County Board of Education member and Oakland Mills Cluster representative met with the committee for a question and answer session. Topics covered included how clusters are assigned, Ms. Giles' personal thoughts on BOE elections by district, budget status and challenges, general renovation processes and specifics of OMHS renovation, and redistricting.

Each BOE member but the Chair has 2 high schools plus their feeders. The 2 groups are usually dissimilar by geography, age, etc. to give members a good sense of what different schools look like. Ms. Giles' other cluster is Atholton.

Maintenance of Effort is based on current enrollment even though projections indicate an increase of 1,600 students expected next year. There is no inflation factor for the Howard County MOE. The state can give additional geographic supplements, but the state feels Howard County classes are too small.

Renovations generally need economies of scale and other criteria are considered. For example, Wilde Lake was old enough to qualify for replacement. The county's whole budget for borrowing is less than what the school system asked for.

Specifically at OMHS, Gilbert Architects reviewed the facility so appropriate plans can be made.

Redistricting uses 11 criteria. The school system feels it is important to try to retain community schools, and there are options for support for schools facing challenges as a result.

### **Other Local School News**

Canopy construction at SFES should be complete this month. A new path connects the parking lot crosswalk to the CA path system. Most items on last year's assessment of the SFES/SF Neighborhood Center have been addressed.