



Oakland Mills Community Association
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Good evening. My name is Jonathan Edelson, and I am the chairman of the Oakland Mills Community Association (OMCA) and speaking on its behalf.

OMCA strongly supports the full funding of the Board of Education's capital funding request for Fiscal Year 2024. This funding includes \$4.4 million to begin the process of much needed renovations to Oakland Mills Middle School as well as an addition that will alleviate critical lack of middle school seats in Howard County by adding capacity in a central location with land and infrastructure already in place to accommodate the expansion.

We also support the Board of Education's capital plan, which lays out clear priorities and addresses both capacity needs and long-needed capital improvements to buildings that were originally constructed over 50 years ago, including Oakland Mills High School.

This budget and plan will finally address long-standing issues with school facilities both within Oakland Mills and throughout the county, and we look forward to the day when students and teachers in Oakland Mills are no longer carrying 20 percent of the deferred capital maintenance burden for the Howard County Public School System.

Thank you for this opportunity to speak with you about the capital budget.