

Oakland Mills High School Renovations Town Hall

Hosted by the Oakland Mills Community Association
December 4, 2025 - The Other Barn in Oakland Mills



oakland mills
we value connections



Agenda

7:30 pm - Welcome!

7:35 pm - OMHS and capital planning history

7:50 pm - How to get involved

8:05 pm - Next steps

8:15 pm - Open mic - Please share your experiences as well as your ideas to enhance or add to the advocacy already underway!

OMHS - A Brief History of Missed Opportunities and Deferrals



OMHS - A Brief History of Missed Opportunities and Deferrals

1973 - The original OMHS building opens. The original building has never received a full systemic renovation. HVAC indoor handling equipment was put into service this year with a useful life expectancy of 25 years. The equipment is now 52 years old.

1992 - The first addition opens. The original building is not renovated. HVAC equipment in addition has life expectancy of 20 years.

2003 - Construction of the second addition. The original building is not renovated.

2008 - First Gilbert Architects assessment of OMHS. Multiple inadequacies found, including major HVAC issues.

2009 - HVAC renovation, electrical repairs, replacement of interior doors, interior finishes, exterior work deferred.

OMHS - A Brief History of Missed Opportunities and Deferrals

2017 - Gilbert Architects Assessment references the deferred HVAC renovation from 2009 and concludes the building can no longer provide a conducive learning environment.

2021 - Despite \$111 million in deferred maintenance the former Superintendent does not include OMHS in the 10 year capital improvement program. OMMS and OMHS account for 20 percent of all deferred maintenance across HCPSS.

2021 - The Board of Education overrides the Superintendent and puts OMHS into the capital improvement plan for renovations in 2026

2022 - The former Superintendent's proposed capital plan defers the OMHS renovations by 11 years.

2023 - OMHS students, parents, teachers, and community members deliver hours of testimony to the Board of Education. The BOE restores OMHS for renovation to start in 2027.

OMHS - A Brief History of Missed Opportunities and Deferrals

2024 - OMHS reassessed by the state out of cycle during emergency HVAC repairs. This assessment later feeds, in part, the facility ranking that has OMHS below high schools built in the 90s and 2000s for capital needs.

June 2025 - BOE unanimously approves capital plan with OMHS renovations in 2027

October 2025 – HCPSS staff recommend to BOE to proceed with OMHS renovation and indicates that the new ranking system is not fully developed. BOE asks for an alternative to consider

November 2025 - BOE votes to remove OMHS renovations in favor of three other just proposed projects

OMHS - A sampling of what's happening inside the building

July 2021 - Mold in rooms 808 and 809

August 2021 - 13 water outlets with lead above 5ppb

October 2021 - Mold in room 809

May 2022 - Four fixtures with lead above 5ppb

August 2022 - Mold in Media Center, 808, and 809

September 2023 - Media Center closed due to mold. Also mold in 802, 808, 809

February 2024 - Pipe burst and HVAC issue. OMHS closes for the day

Summer 2024 - OMHS closed for emergency HVAC repairs; state performs out of cycle facility assessment during repairs

September 2024 - Raw sewage leaks into the auditorium from a broken pipe

OMHS - A sampling of what's happening inside the building

March 2025 - Pipe burst; students relocated to other parts of building

August 2025 - Drywall falls in girls' locker room; mold found on the back of the drywall

September 2025 - HVAC equipment failure causes band room to drop to 60 degrees and piano lab to rise to 88 degrees

November 2025 - Days after BOE vote, girls' locker room is 60 degrees

November 2025 - OMHS has one functioning boys' restroom

How to get involved

We are OM. We are strongest together.

These aren't empty words; there is strength in numbers. We showed that in 2023 when the Oakland Mills community turned out in large numbers to testify and sent many dozens of emails to the BOE, county, and state officials.

How to get involved - Write

Tell the Board of Education how you feel

You can write to the BOE at any time and as often as you like.
Send email to boe@hcpss.org

Tell them to recall their November vote and change it!

Share your experiences if you spend time in the school.

Feel free to rely on or repeat anything you learned tonight or any testimonies or letters shared by OMCA and the organizations supporting the school.

How to get involved - Write

Tell our county government how you feel

Copy them on what you send to the BOE, or send separate communications if you choose.

County Council: councilmail@howardcountymd.gov

County Executive: cball@howardcountymd.gov

How to get involved - Write

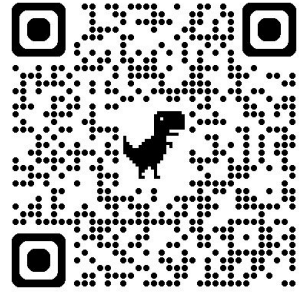
Don't forget our state government representatives!

Copy them on what you send to the BOE, or send separate communications if you choose.

OMHS's attendance area is in House of Delegates districts 12A and 13

<https://msa.maryland.gov/msa/mdmanual/06hse/html/hsedist.html>

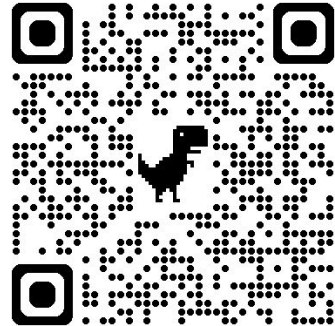
OMHS's State Senators are Guy.Guzzone@senate.maryland.gov and Clarence.Lam@senate.maryland.gov



How to get involved - Speak

There is a five-speaker public forum before most BOE meetings. Sign up and speak to the BOE on any topic, even if it is not on that night's agenda.

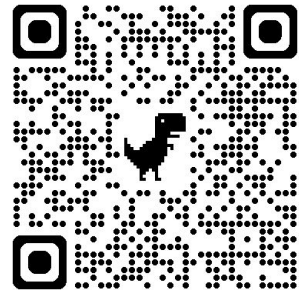
A [complete list of upcoming public forum](#) opportunities can be found on BoardDocs.



How to get involved - Testify

The County Executive holds budget hearings. Consider sending written testimony or sign up to speak. The County Executive cannot fund what is not requested, but he can still hear about the needs of OMHS and the whole school system as he works with the school system on their capital needs.

<https://www.howardcountymd.gov/budget/first-residents-budget-hearing-fiscal-year-2027>



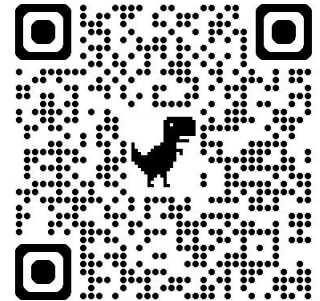
How to get involved - Stay Informed

Stay current with what's happening with the school system's capital budget and capital improvement plan at

<https://www.howardcountymd.gov/budget/first-residents-budget-hearing-fiscal-year-2027>

Also, look for updates at oaklandmills.org and Oakland Mills Village Facebook as well as school-related social media sites like PTSA, Booster Club, Fine Arts Boosters, SGA, Oakland Mills Schools Discussion group.

Sign up for Oakland Mills Village (OMCA) emails at oaklandmills.org



How to get involved - Share, Share, Share

Tell friends, neighbors, and family, and encourage them to get involved. Your neighbors live in the OMHS attendance area - if you don't see them here, ask them if they know about the ongoing OMHS deferrals and then share information if they aren't aware! We'll provide a link to this and a lot of other information at the end.

Next Steps

The BOE and the County Council have a quarterly joint meeting Monday, December 8 at 9:45 am.

Write to the Council tonight or tomorrow and encourage them to ask the BOE about the sudden change in plan for over \$160 million in capital funds!

councilmail@howardcountymd.gov

Next Steps

There is still time for the BOE to recall and change their quick and unexpected decision. Write or speak them to encourage this!

boe@hcpss.org

Upcoming public forums:

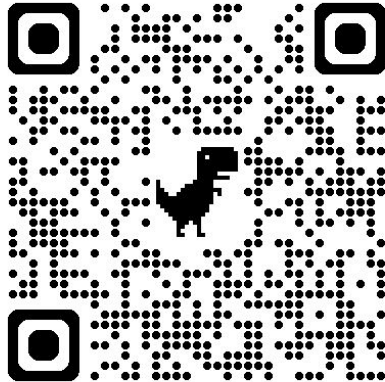
December 16, January 15, January 29

Next Steps

County Executive's First Budget Hearing

December 18, 6:00 PM

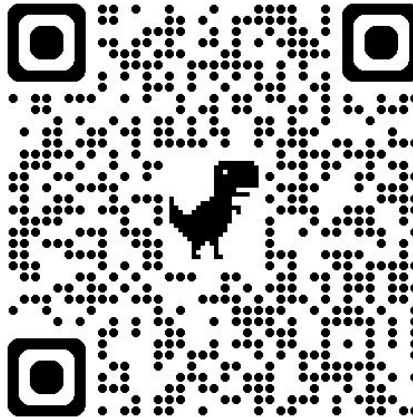
<https://www.howardcountymd.gov/News112425b>



Next Steps

Access and share this presentation, past OMCA testimony, a more detailed OMHS timeline, and much more at:

<https://tinyurl.com/OMCA-RENOVATE>



Almost Done!

Questions?

Open Mic

Please line up to the right if you would like to speak. We want to hear your experiences and your ideas. If you are a little shy about public speaking or we run out of time, please write your thoughts on the index cards provided and we will review all of them. Please include contact information if you would like a response.

Thank you!

Thank you for attending tonight!

Remember, OMHS is a great school with great teachers, staff, students, and programs. Now it needs a great building that enhances instead of inhibits the learning environment.



REBUILD THE MILL

