

Today's Date

Dear Insert Name of Board Member,

I am writing to you today to urge you to support the Comprehensive Master Plan (CMP) recommendation for a major renovation and modernization for Druid Hills High School. This is critical work desperately needed in order to continue to serve the families of the greater Druid Hills community. There are significant issues with the campus facilities that require serious attention that minor repairs cannot address. Please follow the recommendations of the professional agency that you hired to assess all DeKalb County facilities and fully fund the renovation and modernization of Druid Hills High School.

To reiterate the need for the major renovation and modernization of Druid Hills High School:

- Druid Hills High School is the oldest high school facility in the District dating back to 1927.
 - Our Facility Condition Assessment (FCA) score was 69.8, and is only that high due to the inclusion of a newer Science Building that was added in 2010; without the scores of this building, we would most likely be at the bottom of the FCA and ESA rankings. 3 of our 6 buildings scored in the 50's. No other High School has a campus with this many failing buildings.
 - Our Educational Suitability Assessment (ESA) score was 57.6 reflecting the inadequacies of an outdated campus that includes an old elementary school that was poorly converted for high school use; 14 - 18 year olds are using a building built in 1950 for 5 - 10 year olds; the outdated cafeteria and gym date from the 1960's and our main building was constructed close to 100 years ago.
 - The campus is riddled with water and sewage issues, damage and flooding, mold and mildew, HVAC problems, collapsed underground pipes and other systemic issues that cannot be addressed without a major renovation.
- We are the smallest high school campus in the district, if not the state.
 - Severe lack of space for adequate modern classroom instruction, parking, parent meetings, community events, extracurricular activities; Our weight room cannot accommodate weight training equipment; student athletes can touch the ceiling making training inadequate vs. the other District High School facilities.
 - Not ADA compliant; students or faculty with disabilities cannot access many parts of our campus.
 - Due to the relatively small size of the campus, a thoughtful renovation could make the land use much more efficient and effective for a modern learning facility and address the "hodgepodge" method that the campus has developed over its 100 years.
- Major safety and security issues across the campus
 - Emergency vehicles cannot physically access the back of the building, including the sports fields (softball, track, tennis).
 - Numerous entrances/exit doors provide a security risk

Druid Hills High School has much to be proud of with our incredibly diverse student body and International Baccalaureate (IB) program. Our children deserve the same level of quality facilities and campus opportunities that you offer other DeKalb County High Schools. Please support the long overdue renovation and modernization of Druid Hills High School.

Sincerely,