

Good afternoon, happy Thursday, and thank you for the opportunity to testify on the Master Facilities Plan. My name is Mary Melchior and I am a parent of three boys at Langdon education campus and a member of our LSRT.

I continue to be concerned about the MFP. The further extension you have given for this document seems to have gotten the city a much longer document of about the same quality as we saw last fall. The details for Langdon are problematic at best. The vague language used to describe Langdon does not make clear whether the MFP is an evaluation of current conditions or a draft concept for further work. It clearly does not acknowledge our Montessori program, but I'm not totally sure what their thinking is. The long term enrollment projections for the facility are 450, we were at 446 last week, but next year we will be adding an 8<sup>th</sup> grade, and hopefully a third special education classroom.

Langdon is currently scheduled for modernization in 2014. Obviously no one wants their school at the end of the line for these projects, but given the information provided I have no way to evaluate the rationality of this schedule. It seems to in large part to have been put at the end of the line in the old MFP, when it served an elementary school population in an elementary school building. It had problems because of its age, but was serviceable. Now we are an ele-middle school in an elementary school building, which presents very different problems, but it stays at the end of the schedule. Specifically we don't have a Gym adequate for a middle school, or generally for our larger population. We have no lockers rooms, or hall lockers for our middle school children. All our kids are currently using cubbies for their belongings appropriate for elementary schools.

We are completely non-compliant with ADA. The only wheelchair accessible part of the building is the cafeteria and adjoining bathrooms. Those and all our bathrooms are equipped with smaller commodes for small children, and none are ADA compliant. The MFP lists some damaged asbestos tiles in some unused rooms on the upper floors, but we have no unused rooms on upper floors. Although we have repainted and repaired ceilings, I don't believe we have had any contractors in the building qualified for asbestos abatement. This raises the fear that some of our children and staff are being exposed to asbestos on a daily basis. The paint done this summer continues to peel in many places.

The MFP lists our roof as being in fair condition, which is true if rain getting into the building only when it's windy is fair. Our boilers have been repaired, but no zoning has been accomplished so that our new energy efficient windows are open all winter in many classrooms so they are not intolerably hot. Some of our teachers make it a priority to get in early to get their windows open so they don't lose the first hour of the school day to the "sauna effect."

I also see no evaluation of the energy efficiency of various buildings. The Chancellor has said that our high energy bills are an expense that needs to be fixed. There should be a quick and dirty analysis to determine which our least efficient buildings. Then assessments by building to see where quick inexpensive fixes could immediately create improvements, and then do a cost benefit analysis by building of energy improvements needed.

Generally there is no apparent rational weighting of priorities to explain the scheduling. If such a rationale exists, it is hidden.

Langdon is one of the elementary schools in the system that welcomed the opportunity to keep our kids through 8<sup>th</sup> grade, largely because we had confidence that we could do a better job for our kids than the schools they would be going to. We expected to see inputs to support this expansion by adding facilities to meet the needs of a middle school population. No facility changes for our middle school have

occurred and based on the MFP they seem far off, while some other schools with similar changes or with no major program changes are much earlier in the queue

Finally I want to say that the renovation of Phelps is fabulous and I look forward to that standard being met across the system, as do many parents. But this is a serious problem as the modernization standard at Phelps is unsustainable. We cannot spend that kind of money in all our schools, but now we have the reality that families expect that kind of investment in their school. We could come closer if we had an adequate planning and bid process that was controlling costs, but I think the current plan guarantees that the District will be overspending for every project in the system. I understand almost \$3 million dollars were spent at Langdon in 07-08. I don't think we got our money's worth.