



**MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL**  
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

**OFFICE OF THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT**

**MEMORANDUM**

January 7, 2013

**TO:** Christopher Barclay, President  
Board of Education

**FROM:** Nancy Navarro, Council President *NN*  
Valerie Ervin, Chair, Education Committee *VE*

**SUBJECT:** School Security Issues

We all share a heightened sense of concern about school safety issues following the tragedy in Newtown, Connecticut last month. All Councilmembers are confident that the Montgomery County Public Schools are a safe and secure learning environment for our children, and we appreciate the ongoing focus of the Board of Education on this critical priority.

The Council has heard from the community, as we are sure the Board has also, about specific facility safety issues. Parents have expressed concern about elementary schools that do not yet have access control systems and other electronic security measures in place. The Council has already approved funding to install access control systems, camera systems, and visitor management systems in schools through the Capital Improvements Program project for School Security Systems. As you know, this funding was requested and provided to accomplish the work over several years, with completion expected in FY14. A total of \$1.5 million is approved in FY14 for this project.

On behalf of the Council, we urge the Board to consider how this key school security system work can be accelerated and completed more rapidly than currently planned. Please let us know how quickly the installation work can be carried out, and whether the Board would like us to appropriate any of the \$1.5 million in approved FY14 funding in this fiscal year to increase the pace of work. If the Board requests additional FY13 capital funds in this project, we will schedule that request promptly, and all Councilmembers will give it their full attention.

We look forward to hearing from you soon on this important security issue.

**c:** Councilmembers  
Isiah Leggett, County Executive  
Joshua Starr, Superintendent