

Testimony of Mamie Albrecht
Before the Montgomery County Board of Education
Public Hearing on the Strategic Plan October 12, 2006

Proposal for Club Athletic Teams in the Middle Schools and Funding for Freshman Teams in High Schools

Premise

There are not enough school teams for the amount of students (400 try-out for 15 positions, which usually go to 8th graders, 7th graders left behind)

Students need to be kept busy after school, not staring at a screen for hours, which is the only other option for many. Or shopping as a daily past time! Too much energy is spent in driving back and forth for independent & county club teams. (Think future- School as community- think Green) Not enough time is spent in actual play.

*Once a week practices is not enough time to train students properly, nor get them in shape.

*Club teams should not be the responsibility of the MCDR. They should be the MCPS responsibility. These are our students, the schools are here for them first. Help build school spirit and school pride. Not a sense of alienation. High Schools have far too many students not to have 9th teams. JV Lacrosse teams are necessary! - How are players to receive scholarship \$ without proper training and exposure to a sport?

Proposition:

*6 th & 7 th grade field hockey	*8 th grade girls field hockey	Middle school track team
		*middle school tennis team
*6 th & 7 th grade girls lacrosse	*8 th grade girls lacrosse	6 th & 7 th grade girls basketball
6 th & 7 th grade girls soccer	8 th grade girls soccer	6 th & 7 th girls basketball
6 th & 7 th grade girls softball	8 th grade girls softball	8 th grade girls basketball
6 th & 7 th grade boys soccer	8 th grade boys soccer	6 th & 7 th grade boys basketball
6 th & 7 th grade boys basketball	8 th grade boys basketball	8 th grade boys basketball
6 th & 7 th grade boys lacrosse	8 th grade boys lacrosse	

Funds come directly from participants' families through pay pal. (\$ stays in the MCPS) Games and practices to happen after school, on school property. Coordinate with other middle school clusters for competitions. Allow Athletic Directors to hold authority and autonomy for use of fields & facilities, as well as, hold responsibility for success or failure. (Accountability not bureaucracy!) ***Funds once used as the "activity fee (\$25) can now go to 9th grade teams.

Foreseeable problems: Finding coaches (contact Universities, MK, teachers, parents, elderly, but still active retirees, etc...) Saying "no" to outside interests who want to contract the courts or fields Contact: Mamie Albrecht (301)869-7753 Marniefoz@comcast.net