

Administrators Focusing On Learning...Our First Priority
Montgomery County Association of Administrative Supervisory Personnel
Elementary School Administrators Association
Secondary School Administrators Association
Testimony before Montgomery County Board of Education
October 12, 2006

Good Evening Dr. Haughey, members of the Board of Education, Dr. Weast. I am Rebecca Newman, president of the Montgomery County Association of Administrative & Supervisory Personnel (MCAASP). I am here testifying on behalf of the Elementary School Administrators Association (ESAA), the Secondary School Administrators Association (SSAA) and the almost 700 administrators our organizations jointly represent. Our members are the school system leaders whose responsibility each day focuses on assuring that outstanding teaching is occurring for every student, that rigor is a standard part of every student's educational experience, that students come to a safe school environment every day, and that our schools meet the achievement targets set by you, the Board of Education.

Before commenting on the interests of my organization in relation to the FY2008 operating budget, I would like to take this opportunity to applaud you for your leadership in creating a vision that has led the way to:

Increasing the academic achievement for all children in MCPS,

Providing opportunities for young children to extend their early education through all-day kindergarten,

Reducing class size to support instruction,

Providing substantial support and resources to our schools and offices,

Being willing to openly address what is yet to be accomplished for children, especially those of color, and

Demonstrating commitment to your employees by supporting the Professional Growth Systems that reach every employee.

In relation to the FY2008 operating budget that you will be addressing in the next several weeks, we are requesting that you support the following areas:

Full funding of the negotiated agreements of the three employee organizations;

Full funding of the benefits for employees;

Continuation of the multi-year initiative to place an assistant principal in every elementary school;

Continuation of the initiatives already in schools that have proven successful in increasing student achievement; and,

Continued support for the full implementation of the Professional Growth Systems for all employees.

Simply put, we know that you cannot do everything. However, we are asking that you continue to do what has proven to "work" for both students and employees. Thank you.