

Good evening President Navarro, members of the board and Dr. Weast. My name is Misrak Zeleke and my son Uriah is in 3rd grader. I would like to start off by saying thank you for this opportunity to speak with you and to express my concerns.

I appreciate my child's school and the wonderful teachers he has. I hope that what I share tonight will give you helpful information that will benefit our schools, our teachers and other kids and their families.

This past Monday, I attended my son's open house and as I sat in my child's class I was concerned by some of what I saw. One concern was watching one teacher trying to help lots of kids. I know how difficult it can be just to manage one 8 years old kid and I wondered why the teacher didn't have an assistant.

Another concern was when the teacher asked each student to read their book and to complete their assignment with little to no help. I understand the teacher's desire for each student to learn to work alone but it seemed to me that a lot of student didn't understand what to do and that the directions were not clear. I am an adult and I didn't understand the directions. I wondered how much help the school system gives to teachers so that they can be clear when they give instructions.

I don't think it's a good idea to third graders a book, tell them to read then do the assignment without making sure they understand.

I believe that Montgomery county schools is doing a good job and I am glad that you want to do better. I hope that you will work to help our teachers so that they can do the best job they can for our kids.

Thank you