

Larry E. Edmonds
Executive VP, PTA, (2006-2008)

To: Esteem Montgomery County School Board

I would like to thank Dr. Weast and the MCPSB for allowing me and the many concerned parents to express our concerns over the needed reduction in class sizes at Burtonsville Elementary School. As the Executive VP of the PTA, and parent of an enrolled student at Burtonsville, this issue has reached epic proportions and needs to be addressed before the school year goes into the second quarter, for not only the well being of our children's education being at stake but the current staff as well.

The parents of the children affected by the overcrowding of students in many of our classrooms has been noted and brought to the attention of our school staff, and local superintendent Dr. Hermann. The parents know that the school board, Dr. Hermann, and our beloved principal Ms. Smith have always kept our children's well being at the forefront of their minds, and the parents also understand how serious they take the education of our children. As parents we understand the states current deficit issues and the necessary cutbacks in certain programs, but our children's education is an extremely important issue facing the future of our great state of Maryland and a needed one.

The school boards own commitment to reducing class sizes shows their desire and the concerns they have as well, and the initiatives they have taken to work diligently in those areas do not go unnoticed, but immediate action is necessary to correct the situation at BES, before the lack of attention and foreseen overcrowding continues into future years classes. A 26 to 1 or 27 to 1 ratio seems like a high number for any individual teacher to

partake in; being in business and having over 25 employees of adult age can be extremely challenging ordeal, let alone 26-28 small children of the more hands on age, as most parents know 1 child can be a handful.

Currently the school has two open classrooms available for new teachers needed for the first and second grade classes, and the many concerned parents would appreciate any assistance Dr. Weast and the school board could assist us with at this time. Thank you from all of parents here tonight, and those who will be watching this program from home, we as concerned parents await your response to this extremely sensitive issue we are currently facing.

Thank you,

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