

TESTIMONY
OF
LINA JUYO
TO THE
MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
COMMUNITY FORUM
AT
ALBERT EINSTEIN HIGH SCHOOL
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Lina Juyo
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Good evening members of the Board:

My name is Lina Juyo. I am an 11th grade student at Clarksburg High School. I'm also a Peer Educator with the HIV Prevention program at Identity. First, I want to say how grateful I am for the education which MCPS has provided me over the years. I was nine when I came to the United States. Thanks to the education I received, and the support from my parents, I'm proud to say I do very well in school.

In my opinion, students need to be motivated to do well in school. I believe that the will to succeed is inherent in all people; many folks simply need the right type of encouragement in order to tap into their potential.

During difficult economic times, I think MCPS should invest more resources in bilingual counselors who would be available to work with a student as an individual, and meet periodically with students to discuss academic progress. I have personally seen how many counselors appear bogged down by administrative work and scheduling when they could be doing more of what they originally came to do: counseling. I personally get more motivated to do well in school when I get one-on-one attention and support, and I believe that most students feel this way as well.

I consider myself very fortunate for taking advantage of the education I receive through MCPS, and for having strong support from both of my parents. However, I recognize that a lot of my Latino peers are not as fortunate as I am, whether it's because their parents are always working

to provide for their families, or because they are so focused on making ends meet that they have a hard time looking into the future. Instead, many students often get bad guidance from friends or the street; we all know that this leads to poor decisions which in turn affect schoolwork and motivation, not to mention the numerous social troubles that result.

My community has a rich and diverse cultural history. Oftentimes though, stereotypes of my community keep us from realizing our potential. Many Latino youth need to be motivated, and I believe that culturally and linguistically competent school counselors could provide what my community needs. I believe MCPS has the responsibility to help inspire all students who are not fortunate enough to grow up with the culture of academic support at home. Not only would my community benefit, but I believe that Montgomery County will be better off as a result.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony today, and for the opportunity to express my opinion.

Lina Juyo