

October 16, 2008 – Community Forum at Albert Einstein High School

Testimony of Ana Alvarado, Representing the Parents and the Padres Latinos en Acción, of Rolling Terrace Elementary School to the Montgomery County Public Schools Board of Education.

Good evening to Board members, parents, MCPS staff, students and guests. My name is Ana Alvarado, and I represent the parents, the Parent Involvement Committee and the Padres Latinos en Acción of Rolling Terrace Elementary School in Takoma Park. A good educational foundation is the most important gift that parents and educators can give our children.

During these difficult economic times, the priorities that the Montgomery County Public Schools Strategic plan should focus on during the 2009-2010 school year to improve achievement for all students are as follows:

- Continue with rigorous academic standards and expectations for all students in the areas of reading/language arts and math with ongoing testing and monitoring to make sure all schools make AYP.
- Continue to attract and retain highly qualified and enthusiastic teachers for our schools. We need to continue to recruit more minority teachers and staff who better represent the actual composition of our minority student populations.
- Continue supporting TITLE I schools. The support provided addresses the increasing economic and academic needs of the students and families in our county.
- Continue supporting all the ESOL programs in our schools where ESOL populations continue to grow and hire additional ESOL Parent Community Coordinators and counselors needed to support them.
- Continue supporting school based Parent Community Coordinators, especially in schools with high immigrant populations. These Coordinators help parents learn how to best support their children in school and navigate successfully through the MCPS system, and

they foster active parental involvement and community leadership skills.

- **Continue with the Partial and Full immersion Language programs.**
- **Continue with our Paraeducators' support of students and teachers**

In the case of Rolling Terrace Elementary School, many of our families are immigrant families. The immigrant parents sacrifice so that their children get the best education. Our parents pay taxes and work to support their children's education. Education is so important that we cannot afford our schools to cut instruction in any way.

It is a fact that the immigrant populations of this county are growing and the children of this county will be the workforce of the future. We need an educated and skilled workforce. It is imperative that you, the Board of Education continue to fund the instructional and supporting programs we have at Rolling Terrace Elementary and all other Title I schools in the county.

Thank you for your attention and considerations of our requests.