

Spark M. Matsunaga ES PTA

Testimony for Superintendent's FY 2011-2016 CIP Recommendation

On behalf of the Spark M. Matsunaga and Longview PTA, I respectfully submit this testimony to the Superintendent for consideration in the FY 2011 CIP recommendation.

To begin, Spark M. Matsunaga would like to thank the Superintendent and the Board of Education for supplying our school and students with 15 new portables. As stated in our Matsunaga CIP Cluster Testimony for FY 2010, we hoped that this portable option would benefit our students and school as well as allow the Board of Education to eliminate the need for a costly boundary study at our school as plans to relieve building overutilization in our cluster elementary schools in the FY 2011 appropriation move forward.

As an historically large school, Matsunaga has successfully and consistently educated our students since its doors opened 10 years ago. This is reflected in Matsunaga's high test scores, low teacher turnover and widespread community support. The community supporting Matsunaga Elementary school is thrilled with the level of education our children are receiving. As a high performing school, we are a clear reflection that the practices and policies of Montgomery County's Board of Educations bring results.

As the Board moves forward to relieve overcrowding at elementary schools in the Northwest cluster, we, the Matsunaga parents, respectfully request that our community and school boundaries remain intact -- maintaining our diverse population and strong Matsunaga family. In addition, the option to leave Matsunaga intact is fiscally responsible -- allowing the Board of Education and our school to fully maximize the County's investment of 15

new portables on our school site. Relocating current Matsunaga students and underutilizing those portables before their time is unnecessary.

We respectfully request that as you move forward in planning to alleviate overcrowding in the Northwest cluster that you retain current Matsunaga boundaries - permitting us to continue to successfully educate our students, leaving our diverse community intact, and maximizing the use of our new portables.