

**Einstein Cluster Comments to the Board of Education  
on the Proposed Operating Budget  
January 9, 2008**

Good evening. My name is Faye Nabavian. Diane Dickson and I are the Co-Cluster Coordinators for Einstein Cluster. We appreciate the opportunity to provide feed back on the FY2009 MCPS Operating Budget.

We support MCCPTA's testimony on the overall FY2008 Operating Budget. Tonight we look to focus our comments just a few areas, which we think will be important in our cluster as well as many others in Montgomery County schools.

The Einstein Cluster represents 5187 students of which includes 2265 students in elementary, 1226 students in middle school and 1696 in high school.

These are the topics of our testimony:

Elementary School lunch hour aide,

Middle School improvement,

School-based parent community outreach coordinators

**Elementary School lunch hour aide**

We appreciate the additional lunch hour aide positions and we hope to see even more aides to supervise our children during the lunch hour and recess time, decreasing the ratio to the lowest possible. We also like to know more about their training and what is being done to encourage these aides to remain in their position so MCPS does not spend additional money for training new staff.

**Middle school improvement**

We would like to ask for more data concerning the middle school reform program in the Einstein cluster so we can see if the programs are working. For the proposed expansion of the MSMC-style classes to Sligo and Newport Mill middle schools, it is not clear to us from the available data whether the program is successful and will increase student performance. If the program is being expanded and more dollars are being budgeted for, we would like to see data to support if the plan is working and how it is increasing student performance. If the magnet schools are attracting the high performance students from Sligo and Newport Mill middle schools, then will this new program initiative help our middle schools retain their students or will we continue to lose students to the established Middle School Magnet Consortium schools, which are close to our schools? We are pointing this out since \$10.2 million is budgeted for FY 2009 for middle school improvement.

**School-based parent community outreach coordinators**

We are pleased to see the additional community outreach coordinators, parent outreach coordinators are an essential to our school communities. This is a continued issue to assist our cluster to reach out and involve a large number of parents in our schools.

In closing, we thank you for the opportunity to comment on the operating budget. We look forward to continuing to work with you to achieve the goal of success for every student.