

**Rockville Cluster  
Operating Budget Testimony  
1/21/2009**

Good evening, I am Roy Broussard. Amy Hartley and I are the Rockville Cluster Coordinators. Amy is unable to testify tonight due to illness in her family. On behalf of all gathered here I pray for prompt wellness in the Hartley family.

The Rockville Cluster is composed of five elementary schools, Earle B. Wood Middle School and Rockville High School. The cluster's population is as diverse as the county itself. Rockville High School's students are approximately 46% White, 24% Hispanic, 18% African-American and 12% Asian. 11 percent of our high school students are in special education and we have the 9th highest FARMS rate among Montgomery County high schools. The cluster draws from neighborhoods ranging from affluent to needy.

First, we would like to extend our thanks for your past support of our MCCPTA Operating Budget goals. We would also like to thank our teachers and administrators. We recognize their sacrifice in forgoing raises this coming year. It demonstrates the dedication they have to our community and children. We are grateful for their support. We are keenly aware of the major economic challenges we all face in our county. During these economic times – where we are forced to evaluate our priorities and make sacrifices – we in the Rockville Cluster would like to put forth the following priorities for FY10:

Support for increased rigor. Toward this end our cluster's top priority is seeing the fully funded, proper execution of the FY10 Operating Budget regarding Rockville High School's International Baccalaureate (IB) program and the Middle School Reform initiatives at Wood Middle School. Personnel, curriculum, and hardware should be continued at least at currently proposed levels. Our Elementary Schools are requesting a shared staff member to support teaching higher level mathematics classes. At all levels we support maintaining the recent reduction in classroom size.

**Safety, Security, and Discipline.** Our cluster sees its fair share of discipline issues. We are extremely interested in the safety and security of all of our students. We support the continuation of the “Ride by the Rules” program and any programs that allow our children to travel to and from school in safety. We advocate for a stronger partnership between MCPS and the Montgomery County Police Department. Wood Middle School needs a full time Educational Facilities Officer (EFO). This would directly support gang prevention and safe and secure environment priorities in addition to supporting counseling and outreach needs at Wood. Though funding for this program is the responsibility of the county council, we request that MCPS look for ways to support this effort.

Finally, Rockville Cluster supports the general goals stated in the MCCPTA testimony and its operating budget compact. We also support the MCCPTA resolution on the operating budget priorities.

Thank you.

Roy Broussard  
Rockville Cluster