

Rockville Cluster Operating Budget Testimony 4/15/2009

Good evening, I am Roy Broussard, the MCCPTA Rockville Cluster Coordinator.

Our cluster strongly supports maintaining or increasing the level of funding in the current BOE budget. Our children's education is not the place to take the chances associated with marginal quality.

Rockville High School proudly embraces the name of our largest city. It looks to sustain upward academic momentum supported by quality staff, facilities, and programs. Its International Baccalaureate program is a major positive. Earle B. Wood Middle School needs continued support of middle school reform. No more cuts. Wood is grooming students for the rigors of Rockville High. Our elementary schools are asking for math teaching resources that would allow for more advanced Math to be taught to high aptitude students. The current Math pathways with large 4th and 5th grade class sizes are not meeting their needs.

Maryvale ES has a 40 plus year old middle school facility that looks very unappealing. It has "renovated" middle school restrooms that require steps for its students to use the toilets and sinks. The original small tile floors are a germ's paradise. Maryvale ES needs modest improvements in its landscaping and building and significant improvements in its restrooms.

The Rockville Cluster's population is as diverse as the county itself. It's about 45% White, 25% Hispanic, 20% African-American and 10% Asian. This council is well aware of the challenges and rewards of such a mix. A final appeal involves role models. We need increased quality – I emphasize quality - law enforcement and male Hispanic teachers in our schools. We appeal to you, our county leaders, to develop and execute a vision that more fully integrates county education and law enforcement systems. Build trust early in our student's lives. Consider curriculum that simultaneously supports law enforcement career paths, presents law enforcement to students in a positive manner, and encourages students to report crimes, not commit them. Similarly we encourage the development of education curriculum in middle and high schools with one of many possible goals being male Hispanics going to college with a desire to be teachers. Consider the many values of priming the career pump for two very important careers by having students walk in their shoes.

Thank you.