

**ROCKVILLE CLUSTER**  
**FY 2012 OPERATING BUDGET TESTIMONY**  
**01/18/2012**

Good evening, I am Amy Hartley, the Rockville Cluster Coordinator. Our cluster thanks the members of the Board of Education for your efforts on behalf of our community. We generally support MCCPTA Operating Budget Compact and Priorities and attempts to maintain real annual Maintenance of Effort (MOE) standards.

As you are aware, the Rockville Cluster is composed of five elementary schools, Earle B. Wood Middle School and Rockville High School.

Our top priority is to at least maintain current programs and staff levels. Current class sizes, course diversity, and programs need to be maintained in order to continue our growing academic achievements.

Rockville High School needs to have adequate staffing and support structures for the staff that allows RHS to offer its IB, pre-IB, AP, Honors, AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) and regular courses. Class size and course diversity are both important to student achievement and are both tied to staffing levels. RHS has several successful programs including: International Baccalaureate, Protect Lead the Way (PLTW), a nationally recognized journalism academy and an engineering academy. These programs are crucial to the health of RHS as a learning community. This year we are proud that we have a senior class that has students that have been accepted to: Yale, Georgetown and Princeton.

In order to continue this success at RHS we support smaller class size at all levels. The resources put into our middle and elementary schools are critical for preparing students for the success in high school. We are seeing more prepared students at RHS than ever before and we much keep moving forward.

Class size and support of our dedicated teachers have paved the way for student success. At Wood our dedicated teachers, with the support of the administration, are now hosting webinars to give students extra help for test preparation – such as for the upcoming Algebra mid terms and HSA. We need to ensure we support our teachers! Wood Middle School and the elementary schools similarly support maintaining the resources needed to execute existing programs. With the support of an amazing staff and administration, Jeannie Dawson and her team have moved Wood to new levels of achievement with the investment of resources given to Middle School Reform.

Class size is never more important than at the elementary school level. It is critical to maintaining and improving our achievements in reading and math. Especially, at a time when we are implementing a challenging new elementary curriculum while gaining an increased number of students who are eligible for Free and Reduced Meals or where English is a second language. We would like to thank the BOE for support of staffing. Maryvale and Meadow Hall have both received a part time student intervention teacher

and they have started working with students. There is no question that this will help student achievement.

Rockville parents, staff and students strongly support keeping the resources needed to maintain or, with added student population, increase class diversity. Adequate staffing is our top concern. The Rockville cluster thanks you again for your efforts and hopes that you will strive to maintain support of the Operating Budget in tough times.