

Einstein Cluster Testimony

February 16, 2010

Greetings Council members,

I apologize for not being able to deliver this in person, but snow rescheduling made it impossible.

The Einstein Cluster appreciates the Council's willingness to listen to its citizen in these trying budget times. The Cluster also appreciates the dire financial situation facing the county. We support Dr. Weast's proposed CIP budget and ask for the Council's full support as well. Overall the Einstein Cluster is in excellent shape. This is due in large part to the Council and MCPS's strong commitment to its first class school system.

However, we do have one issue which is addressed in Dr. Weast's budget and must come to fruition. Currently Oakland Terrace ES is grossly overcrowded with 785 students enrolled in Kindergarten thru 5th grade in school whose capacity is a little over 500 students. Frightfully, it is projected to be over 900 in two years. After much angst, worry and hard work on the part of parents and MCPS, we have reached a solution which involves moving the kindergarteners over to one of our middle schools, Sligo, for the next two years. While this is far from ideal the community has shown its commitment to doing what is best for all its kids and worked to make this solution possible. But this cannot be a permanent solution. Our cluster must open a new elementary school in the next two years to address our ever growing population .

The Einstein cluster needs this budget to be funded. Our 5 year-olds need this budget to be funded.

Thank you and good luck with the difficult task that awaits you,

Kelly Giblin

Einstein Cluster Coordinator.