

Good evening, I am Suzanne Babich, PTSA President of Rockville High School. Our cluster thanks the members of the County Council for the time you have spent evaluating the budget on behalf of our community. Foremost we want to acknowledge the difficult job the County Council has this year and we are keeping our requests to a minimum.

The following Capital Improvement projects are already a part of the present plan and we ask that all three continue as important aspects of the budget:

- ❖ Barnsley and Meadow Hall need the recommended restroom renovations to stay on the schedule so that the facilities may be brought up to ADA standards making the restrooms accessible for all members of the community even those in wheelchairs.
- ❖ Maryvale Elementary School, a community focus school and home of the premier French Immersion Program is in serious need of modernization and we ask that this project maintain its present position on the modernization timetable.

The Rockville cluster population reflects the Montgomery County of 2010 in terms of diversity, ethnicity, and economics. Our elementary schools trust that they will be able to maintain present staffing and ask the Council to recognize the needs of students in our Reading Initiative program. Our Cluster struggles with the text and supply funds as they already are presently budgeted. We would ask that you sustain the funding of the minimal text resources. The PTA's of the Rockville Cluster do not have the constituency to bring in funds that supplement needed classroom materials in other clusters.

Recognizing our increasingly varied student population and growing number of English Language Learning students, our cluster elementary schools strive for all students to develop a basic level of learning which will enable them to be successful in high school as well as college. We ask your continuing support for teachers and staff development as more special needs children are served within the home schools of our cluster. We ask that you continue to support small group instruction for children who are not achieving that so very important first key; Reading skills. The Reading Initiative program gives the students of the Rockville Cluster the strong foundation they will need for all future learning.

For Wood Middle School, we ask simply maintenance of the recent Reform Initiatives and staffing levels which are both needed to continue our forward advancement as more students complete Algebra 1 each year.

Finally for Rockville High School, the number one priority is to do everything we can to maintain sufficient staffing at our school, one of the smallest in the county. Our fledgling programs have been a major asset in securing Rockville's strong position in the Challenge Index. Our award winning Journalism Academy and the IB Program need teachers in order to ensure the survival of these extraordinary programs. In a day and age when the United States continues to lose ground in the math and science area Rockville's Project Lead the Way shines as a program where research has shone participating students are five times more likely to earn a college engineering degree. We ask the County Council to do everything you can to maintain sufficient staffing at Rockville High School and throughout our Cluster.

Thank you for your time this evening and I wish you all the best in this trying time of fiscal challenges.