

Gaithersburg Cluster
MCPS/BOE Operating Budget Testimony Notes

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Highlights

- We support the Superintendent's Request for Maintenance of Effort level request
- We recognize difficult decisions may have to be made.
- We don't intend to suggest we know what's right or wrong for every school, every cluster or every student.
- Although it's not an Operating Budget issue, I want to thank the Board for our cluster's new facility at Washington Grove Elementary. Our community is thankful for the new building and look forward to the removal of the portable classrooms. Thanks to our Principal Susan Barranger and Assistant Principal Scott Curry and the WGES staff for all their patience throughout the building and renovation process.
- We would like to reiterate the importance of new facility at Gaithersburg High to ensure our high school students have the benefit of a top-notch learning facility.

Specifics

- Particularly opposed to cuts to regular education paraeducator positions and academic intervention teachers .
- Concerned about the effects these cuts would have on our Title I schools where their roles seem especially pivotal.

Other:

- Reiterate need to encourage increased parent involvement and volunteerism at schools. This may become more important if budget cuts become a reality.
- Work on expanding programs that encourage greater "team" efforts between school, PTA and home.
- Recognize our school system is fortunate to receive an array of grants. Consider working to increase our reach to business community for grants, stipends, etc. at local schools.