

Magruder PTA Cluster Comments on County Council Operating Budget
April 5, 2010

Good evening Montgomery County Council,

My name is Patrick Dunn and I am one of the Magruder PTA Cluster Coordinators. Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you.

The Magruder PTA Cluster thanks you for your past support of the Montgomery County Public Schools. In these difficult economic and budget conditions, we believe that the County Executive's proposed operating budget is the least problematic of the options we've seen. There are significant cuts proposed through out the county operating budget that facilitate maintaining a safe and effective learning environment including MCPS and county departments. We urge you to not make additional cuts to the budget. These are dire budget times and we recognize that the County Executive's office, MCPS, and you are working to make very difficult decisions. MCPS and its staff have agreed to significant cuts that are, in some ways, unprecedented. The public safety department's education facility officers for the schools will be reduced. The school health aides will have reduced hours. If passed as is, this proposed budget will require another waiver from the state for maintenance of effort funding.

If there is any unexpected increase in County revenue and a possibility of restoring operating budgets, we encourage you to consider the departments that impact our children and their education, health, and safety.

The Magruder PTA Cluster supports the County Operating Budget testimony and recommendations of MCCPTA and its president, Kay Romero, who represent a large and highly motivated group of education advocates. We recognize that the budget cuts are needed at a County level and will work with MCPS and the Board of Education to ensure that the crown jewel of the County's public service offerings to its citizens, its public school system, will suffer the least possible impact.

We all must continue to strongly and persistently advocate state officials for the funding we deserve. Rest assured that we are working with the MCCPTA in relentlessly advocating our Montgomery County representatives in Annapolis for an equitable share of the state education funding resources.

Thank you for your time. The Magruder PTA Cluster looks forward to working with you in the future.

Patrick Dunn, Magruder PTA Cluster Coordinator