

Testimony of Mr. Jerome J. Klobukowski
Commissioner of the Town of Poolesville
Before the Montgomery County Board Of Education
On The FY 2013 Montgomery County Public School System Operating Budget
January 18, 2012

Good evening President Brandman, members of the Board of Education and Dr. Starr, and a Happy New Year to you all. I am Jerry Klobukowski, a Commissioner of the Town of Poolesville. I am here representing the Commissioners of Poolesville, Poolesville's citizens and the citizens of the Western Montgomery County community whose children attend the Poolesville Cluster Schools and those county parents whose children attend the Poolesville High School (PHS) Whole School Magnet Program.

Constructing a budget this year will be just as challenging as last year. A continued drive to seek greater internal efficiencies and eliminate redundancies within MPCPS will ensure the preservation of programs which increase the intellectual curiosity and capacity of our students. The attachment to my testimony lists some of the Poolesville Cluster's operations needs.

As a related matter and it is a capital issue, the PHS's current modernization date needs to be accelerated.

The recognition that PHS has received validates the success of the Whole School Magnet and the Independent Studies Programs, including Project Lead The Way. They provide our cluster's students and those from other county clusters, a greater opportunity to experience an enriching, challenging academic environment in a wide variety of disciplines and preparing them for their future academic endeavors and life itself. We also recognize that not all students will participate in the Whole School Magnet or Independent Studies Programs, but we hold their aspirations and desire for future success just as dear. We want to ensure that those students are offered programs which provide them with the skill sets required to succeed in the future.

As numbers drive everything, there needs to be a recognition that the Poolesville Cluster situation is unique from other county clusters and that the Board of Education and MCPS need to once and for all acknowledge this through the formal adoption of the Poolesville Cluster Roundtable's Approach 0 recommendation – Adopt a policy for schools in the Agricultural Reserve that recognizes their special status and accepts lower enrollment levels at these schools than in other clusters and Approach 7 - Adopt a liberal transfer policy which allows elementary and middle school students to enroll in Poolesville Cluster schools.

We understand that this is an extremely difficult time; however, we would request that reductions be limited to those that do not impact student instruction or result in unintentional negative program impacts.

Our community takes great pride in our students' achievements, which continue to be reflected in their scores on state and national tests, and the results of annual surveys and evaluations which have appeared in the Washington Post and Newsweek magazine. The continued recognition that Poolesville High School has received, as well as the recognition that our middle and elementary schools have received for consistently achieving Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP), bears witness to the hard work of our cluster's students, their parents, the teachers, and staff of their schools.

I would like to thank you for allowing me this opportunity to discuss these issues, and I wish all a good evening.

Attachment (1) To
Commissioner Jerome J. Klobukowski
January 18, 2012 Testimony
On the Poolesville Cluster FY 2013 Operating Budget Requests

1. Poolesville High School
 - a. Continue funding Project Lead The Way
 - b. Continue funding of the Whole School Magnet Program

2. John Poole Middle School
 - a. Restoration of:
 - (1) Two full-time counselors from the 1.5 currently allocated
 - (2) An on-site technology specialist vice sharing a service provider as currently in place.
 - (3) A full Time Music Teacher from a .8
 - (4) The Staff Development Teacher Position
 - b. Netbooks for all students
 - c. Drawing Class

3. Monocacy Elementary School
 - a. Restoration of a:
 - (1) Full time Reading Specialist Position
 - (2) Full time Staff Development Teacher Position
 - b. Open Out of Cluster Student Transfer Policy
 - c. Promethean Boards and associated equipment – will have one per classroom by the end of this quarter

4. Poolesville Elementary School
 - a. Restoration of the Staff Development Teacher Position
 - b. Restoration of the Reading Resource Specialist
 - c. Additional Paraeducator Hours
 - d. Promethean Boards – provide one and associated equipment per classroom