

**CLOVERLY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
PARENT TEACHERS ASSOCIATION
800 BRIGGS CHANEY RD.
SILVER SPRING, MD 20905**

April 3, 2008

County Council
Montgomery County, MD
100 Maryland Ave.
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear Councilmembers:

On behalf of the Cloverly Elementary School PTA, I'd like to thank you for taking the time to consider our comments.

We are exceedingly concerned about staffing at Cloverly. We are very proud of our students' academic success and are committed to maintaining the high level performance we've worked hard to achieve. We have many classes that are at capacity this year and ask that the county support us by recognizing the value of smaller class size and addressing the need for adequate staffing.

Despite struggles with overcrowding that have resulted in teachers sharing classroom space and teaching in converted closets, we have been successful in providing rigorous academic opportunities for all of our students. We are very proud of the fact that the majority of our fourth grade students are in fifth grade math classes, and the majority of our fifth graders are taking Math A classes. We request that the county provide staff with the training and support that will enable them to effectively meet the needs created by increased rigor.

We support the proposed initiative to count special education students in general education enrollment at the elementary school level. We urge, however, that this initiative be closely monitored to ensure that inclusive classrooms are sufficiently staffed with general education teachers. We believe it is imperative that enough special educators are allocated so that the amount of special education support is based on the number of classrooms with special education students rather than solely on the number of students.

We urge funding of the additional Lunch Hour Assistant positions requested in the Superintendent's recommended budget so that adequate supervision is provided for students at lunch and recess. Funding of these positions, and providing standard training at a countywide level, will help to ensure the safety of the children.

We look forward to a successful future for MCPS, and we thank you for your concern for our students and our school.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Gruber
PTA President