

**Testimony of Carroll Lovelace for the Gaithersburg Cluster on the  
FY 2008 Operation Budget  
January 10, 2007**

Good evening, President Navarro, Dr. Weast and the members of the Board of Education.

My name is Carroll Lovelace, the Gaithersburg Co-Cluster Coordinator (along with Steve Augustino) and I am here tonight to speak on behalf of the Gaithersburg Cluster.

First, I would like to thank the board members for being present and giving me the opportunity to speak in favor of the FY 2008 operation budget.

I would also like to welcome all of the newly elected and appointed board members. I look forward to working with you on behalf of all the students in the MCPS.

The Gaithersburg Clusters schools have benefited over the last several years with the modernization and a gym added to two of our elementary schools and a 16-room expansion at Gaithersburg High.

We look forward to the addition and modernization of Washington Grove ES in 2008 and a replacement facility in 2012 of Gaithersburg High. I stand here before you ask that these projects stay on track.

The Gaithersburg Cluster supports the MCCPTA compact for the FY 2008 Operations budget and ask for your total support of it.

The Gaithersburg Cluster would like to be sure that the maintenance of our current school facilities, middle school reform, additional professional support, and school safety remain funded.

Gaithersburg High is scheduled to be replaced with a modern facility in 2012, however; we are still in desperate need to continue the maintenance of the HVAC and immediately makeover the bathrooms that are in a horrible state. We ask for your support for funding to repair and or replace these issues. We are also requesting additional professional support to assist the staff as we look to add more academies for college and career development. We need to increase the diversity in hiring professionals at all levels.

We like to see more funding provided for safety to all of our MCPS families.

The Gaithersburg cluster is requesting an additional Education Facility Officer (EFO) at the high school because of its' large student population. The additional officer would cover the middle and elementary schools.

As the parent of a middle school 8<sup>th</sup> grader, I have recognized the need to have more emphasis put on reading and writing skills in order to be better prepared for high school. There needs to be more rigor and student support to bring out the best gift in every student.

MCPS needs to continue to fund intervention plans for students not meeting standards for the grading and reporting policy and plans for students not meeting academic eligibility requirements.

We must also pay attention to those students who fail at the 9<sup>th</sup> grade level to avoid them from dropping out.

We ask that MCPS continue to fund the after-school enrichment programs at our middle schools.

In closing, I appreciate your time and continued support to bring about changes and to enhance the partnership that we have established. Let's continue to work together to keep our schools and community safe and healthy.

Thanks You!