

Good evening. My name is Amy Hartley and I am the Rockville Cluster Coordinator. The Rockville Cluster is composed of five elementary schools, Earle B. Wood Middle School and Rockville High School. We are relatively small but growing and extremely complex. Our schools are in multiple jurisdictions. Three cluster schools are in Rockville City and four are not. This creates a variety of complex issues from Snow removal, law enforcement and numerous public and private activities.

The cluster population mirrors almost exactly the diversity of the county both in terms of both ethnicity and economic condition. The Rockville cluster's diversities uniquely present both opportunity and challenge.

First I would like to express our thanks for the past support of the Rockville Cluster. The resources spent have made a great difference in the improvement of the education of our children and have been used very wisely. Even during these challenging economic times we need to be aware of needs and be careful that we are continuing to improve, grow and address needs.

Today I would like to focus on three important concerns: over crowding in our elementary schools, technology and the collocation of The Carl Sandburg Learning Center at Maryvale.

First, our elementary schools are over crowded. Our neighborhoods are turning over and more and more young families are moving into our desirable neighborhoods – that are supported by such excellent schools. We are happy to see that the classroom additions at Barnsley and Meadow Hall are in the CIP budget for future planning and would like to see them scheduled soon and moving the next step

forward. Barnsley has 9 portables, supporting about 200 students over capacity. Enrollment is growing rapidly and every year is over projections. Just 6 years ago Barnsley had only approximately 500 students, today it 675. The portables have taken away black top and field space - precious play space. This is not acceptable for our children – they need to have the space to run and be active at recess and PE time. The concern is that even a four-classroom addition will not be enough. Another example is Meadow Hall, it is 73 students over capacity – approximately 3 classrooms and needs another portable.

The second topic is technology. Meadow Hall, Barnsley, Maryvale and Flower Valley are behind in receiving technology. Meadow Hall and Barnsley do not have any Promethean Boards that some other schools have and are severely lacking in other computer technology. Flower Valley Elementary School would like to ensure they receive a much needed technology upgrade. We would like to ensure that funds in the current CIP budget are available.

Third, the community wishes to express its support for collocating the Carl Sandburg Learning Center. We feel that both communities will benefit from a facilities standpoint. Maryvale will get its MUCH needed modernization (the only school in the cluster not modernized) and the Learning Center will get an upgraded facility compliant with ADA.

Thank you.