



*Sligo Creek Elementary School Parent Teacher Ass'n*  
*Sligo Creek Elementary School*  
*500 Schuyler Road*  
*Silver Spring, MD 20910*

January 15, 2012

VIA E-MAIL

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Montgomery County Board of Education Members  
Carver Educational Services Center  
850 Hungerford Drive, Room 123  
Rockville, Maryland 20850  
E-mail: boe@mcpsmd.org

Members:

Christopher S. Barclay, President  
Shirley Brandman, Vice-President  
Philip Kauffman  
Judith Docca  
Laura Berthiaume  
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Dear Board Members:

In this difficult budget year, Sligo Creek Elementary School (SCES) asks that the Board of Education refuse to make any further cuts to the "classroom." The Board should refuse to cut any additional teachers or paraeducator positions; it should reduce classroom maximums to the levels from 2 years ago; retain funding for academic intervention positions; and ensure that the teachers have sufficient professional development in the new curriculum.

### **Class-Sizes and Teaching Allocations**

We urge you to opt for continued staffing versus increased educational materials or technology. Teachers in the classroom, not technology, make the biggest difference to students. Any cuts in school programs or services should have minimal impact on classroom instruction. We urge the Board to reverse the class size increases of two years ago, so that our students are taught in smaller classes, where teachers are more able to conduct small group instruction on an as needed basis.

In our school's case, the increase in class size, and the Board's decision to return to staffing for combination classes, meant that for the first time in our school's history, we had two

Academy grades (1st and 2nd grade) with only 1.5 classes each, the .5 coming from a 1st/2nd combination class. While the Board's staffing and class size decisions undoubtedly affected all MCPS schools, they dramatically affected our school, and our teachers have had to instruct our 1st and 2nd graders (with the new curriculum) at a very low staffing level.

We also ask that the Board increase support for academic intervention teachers; these teachers make such a difference to the students who need additional help. In addition, as an elementary school, next year, four of our grades will be using the new curriculum. While our parents and staff are excited about the new curriculum, and the new directions it will take our children, we want to be sure that our teachers have sufficient time to prepare for the new curriculum. This is particularly a concern for the current 2nd graders at our school, who are, and will continue to be, the "guinea pig" class for the new curriculum, as they progress through MCPS up until 12th grade. We ask the Board to ensure that there are sufficient resources in place for staff development to learn the ins and outs of Curriculum 2.0.

Sincerely

Diane Kelleher  
President, Sligo Creek E.S. PTA

Cc: Diantha Swift, Sligo Creek ES,  
Principal