



The Montgomery County Council of Parent-Teacher Associations

December 2, 2006

Board of Education
Montgomery County Public Schools
850 Hungerford Drive
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear Members of the Board of Education:

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on revisions to Policy FFA: *Naming Schools*. Our delegates considered the tentatively adopted policy revisions and unanimously endorsed the following comments at the November 28, 2006 MCCPTA delegate assembly.

MCCPTA strongly urges you to reject the revisions on Policy FFA, *Naming School Facilities*. We believe stakeholder input is vital to building a school and it starts with the naming process. Parents and community work together with MCPS to create a new school (or rename a reopened school) and engage in collaboration on facility design, color schemes and school mascot, and principal selection.

The process of naming a school must allow for the community to be a valued member in this important step; thus the procedures on creating a naming committee and for recommending selections. Creating a loophole for the Board of Education to waive community involvement entirely, as the revisions permit, is unacceptable to us.

You have a process for adding names to preferred list for community to consider when that name fits their school community. The Policy already includes the Board developing a list of up to four names for the naming committee to consider.

This revision is in direct opposition of the new Policy ABA, *Community Involvement*, where the Purpose states;

“The Board of Education is committed to fostering and supporting community interest and involvement because citizen support of MCPS is essential to student success. The Board of Education will ensure the ideas, interests, and concerns of its stakeholders are considered and valued in decision making processes and that input and involvement is sought and encouraged from a broad spectrum of our diverse community. The Board is committed to the maintenance and monitoring of ongoing and collaborative communication processes with the community.”

The message in the revised FFA, is that the Board wants to include the option to NOT consider the input of the stakeholders, NOR value their recommendations and, in fact, only communicate the final outcome. Our fears that the revisions of Policy FAA would lessen opportunities for parent and community involvement on facilities and long-range planning processes seem to be born out in the revisions of FFA

Sincerely,

Jane de Winter
President