

**MCCPTA ROCKVILLE CLUSTER**  
**FY 2011 MCC OPERATING BUDGET TESTIMONY**  
**04/07/2010**

Good evening, I am Roy Broussard, the Rockville Cluster Coordinator. I, representing our cluster, am here tonight to advocate on behalf of our children's education. When final decisions are made we ask that the benefit of any doubt be given to our children's and world's future.

The Rockville Cluster is composed of five elementary schools, Earle B. Wood Middle School and Rockville High School. We are relatively small but extremely complex. Three cluster schools are in Rockville city and four are not. Our schools are in multiple law enforcement jurisdictions. Snow removal involved numerous public and private activities. The cluster population mirrors almost exactly the diversity of the county both in terms of ethnicity and economic condition. The Rockville cluster's diversities uniquely present both opportunity and challenge. As a substitute teacher and PTA volunteer I have seen first hand that the challenges have to be handled well for the opportunities to be made available. When making your decisions remember that the Rockville cluster needs the resources necessary to meet the challenges associated with its unique diversities. If you, the county council, wish to see how you are performing, our cluster is the place to visit. Try being a substitute teacher in a 30-plus student general science class; you will truly appreciate the cliché "variety is the spice of life."

In general, the Rockville cluster supports the MCCPTA Operating Budget Compact, Priorities and officer testimony. Our top priority is keeping current staff levels. Class size, course diversity, and programs are where we must commit our resources. Rockville High School needs a student population that supports staffing of IB, AP, Honors, and regular courses in most subject areas. This year RHS will award its first International Baccalaureate diplomas and now has an approved engineering academy. These programs and the nationally recognized Journalism Academy are crucial to the health of RHS as a learning entity. Wood Middle School and the elementary schools similarly support maintaining the resources needed to execute their existing programs. Rockville parents, staff and students strongly support keeping the resources required to maintain or increase course and program diversity.

Staffing is our top concern. Availability of organized instructional material for all courses, optimized use of Ed-line and the participation of male roles models, including teachers or law enforcement, especially Hispanic, are other concerns.

The Rockville cluster thanks you for your efforts and prays that you will continue your wise ways in tough times.