

Testimony of Commissioner Jerome J. Klobukowski  
Town of Poolesville  
Before the Montgomery County Council  
On The FY 2012 Montgomery County Public School System and County Operating Budgets  
April 6, 2011

Good evening Council members, I am Poolesville Town Commissioner Jerry Klobukowski. I am here representing Poolesville's Commissioners and citizens, and the citizens of the Western Montgomery County community whose children attend the Poolesville Cluster Schools, who use the Poolesville Library and who are served by the Montgomery County Police Germantown Substation and Upper Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Department.

Everyone recognizes the coming year's budget will be extremely challenging at all levels of government. We ask MCPS to seek greater internal efficiencies and eliminate position/program redundancies to preserve, and not sacrifice, programs which increase our students' intellectual curiosity and ability. A list of some of the Poolesville Cluster's operational needs is attached; and Ms. Donna Lowell, Poolesville Cluster Coordinator, will enumerate additional issues.

Although it is a capital issue, a specific date needs to be set for Poolesville High School's Modernization, with modernization commencing within the next five to six years.

Sacrificing maintenance for a short term savings results in larger future expenditures to correct resulting maintenance problems; therefore, the maintenance funds must be programmed to ensure PHS Indoor Air Quality Enhancements retain their long term effectiveness.

John Poole Middle School's Information Technology Systems Specialist (ITSS) position was cut; however, rather than cut the position why not broaden the service area to include the cluster's two elementary schools (which currently receive on-demand service) and provide close by support.

The age groups served combined with distance/transportation requirements to other in-county recreation venues make it imperative that John Poole Middle School Recreation Extra (Rec Extra) Program funding be restored. The program broadens students' horizons, focuses their attention on positive activities, and helps them develop personal interests and skills.

Staff, teacher and program reductions (e.g., Staff Development and Reading Resource teachers, ITSS) and program eliminations precisely illustrate why the Board of Education and MCPS need to adopt the Poolesville Cluster Roundtable's Approach 0 recommendation – Adopt a policy for schools in the Agricultural Reserve that recognizes their special status and accepts lower enrollment levels at these schools than in other clusters.

The Poolesville Library and its valued staff serve the largest geographical area in the county. It is a vital component of the county's educational system serving students attending local schools and colleges; as well as people from every social, economic, ethnic and age group. The decimation of its budget over the past three years is unfathomable and the proposed FY12 9.7% reduction, which would amount to a 34% reduction since FY08, is unconscionable. Meeting the needs of students and the community, the library is the best utilized, most cost effective service the county provides. Therefore, we request the library budget be restored.

We also request that the Montgomery County Police Germantown Substation and the Upper Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Department in Beallsville have the necessary staff and resources to quickly respond to calls and emergencies throughout Western Montgomery County.

Thank you for this opportunity to point out these issues to you, and I wish all a good evening.

Attachment (1) To  
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Town of Pooleville  
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1. Pooleville High School
  - a. Restoration of a Staff Development Teacher Position
  
2. John Poole Middle School
  - a. Restoration of a
    - (1) full Time Music Teacher from a .8 position
    - (2) Staff Development Teacher Position
    - (3) Information Technology Systems Specialist (ITSS) Position
    - (4) Recreation Extra (Rec Extra) Program
  - c. Drawing Class
  - d. Netbooks for all students
  
3. Monocacy Elementary School
  - a. Restoration of a:
    - (1) Full time Reading Specialist Position
    - (2) Full time Staff Development Teacher Position
  - b. Open Enrollment to Out of Cluster Students
  - c. Promethean Boards – provide one and associated equipment per classroom.
  
4. Pooleville Elementary School
  - a. Restoration of the Staff Development Teacher Position
  - b. Promethean Boards – provide one and associated equipment per classroom.
  - c. Paint exterior
  - d. Install new outdoor event sign board in front of the school
  - e. Replace current worn wooden Tiger Mascot sign on front of the building