

Testimony of Mr. Jerome J. Klobukowski
Commissioner of the Town of Poolesville
Before the Montgomery County Council
On The FY 2013 Montgomery County Operating Budget
April 11, 2012

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

Building this year's budget will be just as challenging as last year, but we ask that programs which increase the intellectual curiosity and capacity of our students be preserved and we ask that the Poolesville Cluster's operations needs, as outlined in the attachment to my testimony, be incorporated.

Although this is a capital issue, the current Poolesville High School Modernization date 2021 needs to be accelerated and the work needs to be accomplished within this decade.

PHS's national and local recognition validates the success of the Whole School Magnet and the Independent Studies Programs, including Project Lead The Way. They provide our cluster's students and those from other county clusters, a greater opportunity to experience an enriching, and challenging academic environment in a wide variety of disciplines and to prepare them for their future academic endeavors and life itself. We also recognize that not all students will participate in the Whole School Magnet or Independent Studies Programs, but we hold their aspirations and desire for future success just as dear. We want to ensure that those students are offered programs which provide them with the skill sets required to succeed in the future.

The Agricultural Reserve has garnered the county accolades for the preservation of open space and agricultural land; however, the resultant lower population density should not be used as justification to limit educational programs offered or close schools within the cluster. This is a matter of educational equity. This needs to be permanently resolved by recognizing that the Poolesville Cluster is unique among the county clusters; and to this end we ask the Board of Education, MCPS and the county council to formally adopt the Poolesville Cluster Roundtable's recommendations:

Approach 0 – to 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, and

Approach 7 – to adopt a liberal transfer policy which allows elementary and middle school students to enroll in Poolesville Cluster schools.

Our community takes great pride in our students' achievements, which continue to be reflected in their scores on state and national tests, and the results of annual surveys and evaluations which have appeared in the Washington Post and Newsweek magazine. The continued recognition that Poolesville High School has received, as well as the recognition that our middle and elementary schools have received for consistently achieving Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP), bears witness to the hard work of our cluster's students, their parents, the teachers, and staff of their schools.

Poolesville Library serves the largest geographic area in the county, with the nearest other library located 12 miles away on Quince Orchard Road. Our library is an integral component of the county's educational system, an adjunct to life-long intellectual pursuits, a place to excite young minds, a vital resource for information, and a haven for a little solitude and relaxation. Poolesville Library and its staff are an extremely important and a valued part of our community. Therefore, we request the library receive the essential support it requires to serve our community.

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

We understand that this is an extremely difficult time; however, we would request that reductions be limited to those that do not have unintentional negative impacts on student instruction or services which support our citizens.

I would like to thank you for allowing me this opportunity to discuss these issues, and I wish all a good evening.

Attachment (1) To
Commissioner Jerome J. Klobukowski
April 11, 2012 Testimony
On the Poolesville Cluster FY 2013 Operating Budget Requests

1. Poolesville High School
 - a. Continue funding Project Lead The Way
 - b. Continue funding of the Whole School Magnet Program

2. John Poole Middle School
 - a. Restoration of:
 - (1) Two full-time counselors from the 1.5 currently allocated
 - (2) An on-site technology specialist vice sharing a service provider as currently in place.
 - (3) A full Time Music Teacher from a .8
 - (4) The Staff Development Teacher Position
 - b. Netbooks for all students
 - c. Drawing Class

3. Monocacy Elementary School
 - a. Restoration of a:
 - (1) Full time Reading Specialist Position
 - (2) Full time Staff Development Teacher Position
 - b. Open Out of Cluster Student Transfer Policy
 - c. Promethean Boards and associated equipment – will have one per classroom by the end of this quarter

4. Poolesville Elementary School
 - a. Restoration of the Staff Development Teacher Position
 - b. Restoration of the Reading Resource Specialist
 - c. Additional Paraeducator Hours
 - d. Promethean Boards – provide one and associated equipment per classroom