

May 9, 2016

Dear members of Board of Education,

I am Julie Yang. The primary purpose of me being here today is to introduce myself to you. Put the face and the name together. I believe that Asian American Community and BOE can work together cooperatively and constructively in promoting great education in Montgomery County.

Many years ago, I came to this great country carrying one suitcase with a few hundred dollars in my pocket. Looking back, I marvel at the bravery of the young me. I realize that what propelled me was OPTIMISM. I believed that American is the land of opportunity and I could succeed here.

Now looking at my daughter who is in high school, I know that she does not share the youthful optimism I once had. She is so keenly aware of the spoken and unspoken quota of admissions for Asian Americans everywhere. These quotas are damaging to her outlook on the society and future.

Recommendation 3a in the Choice Report is one of these quotas. It fails to recognize that gifted education should be based on need.

MCPS has taken some great initiatives in recent years—small group instruction, culturally sensitive classroom, summer schools, equity specialist accessible for every school, and early talent development. I applaud all your effort. I will even suggest universal screening for all 3rd graders so that we don't miss anyone for GT. I believe a prosperous society needs everyone to succeed and to move forward. I think we can build up the pipeline for GT.

I am still an optimist. I hope that my daughter will know that there is no boundary to her dreams. In our one community of learners, sky's the limit for her academic pursuit.