

Dear Board Of Education Members and our new Superintendent Dr. Smith,

Good morning! My name is Ting Mei Chau and I am representing our organization, Chinese American Parents Association of Montgomery County (CAPA-MC). The mission of CAPA-MC is to support Asian American, primarily Chinese American parents and children to get informed, involved and engaged in public school and community matters, by building a bridge between BOE, MCPS, PTA, parents, and our community at large.

In our community, many families are mostly first generation immigrant parents with various educational and professional backgrounds. As much as we share the common goal of excellent education for our children, we realize that the Asian American parents' voices are missed in various education areas. Deemed as "model minority and the silent majority.", we have our unique challenges because of language, cultural, communication, and democratic participation barriers, which often are invisible to others. These challenges hurt even more when we are talking about Public Education, especially with MCPS's mass education system - more than 156,000 students and 12,000 educators!!!

Only by working together with parents, teachers, policy makers, and students, we could move forward toward our goal - to raise and educate children to be well-rounded, productive and responsible future world-class citizens. So, CAPA-MC has been working with Board of Education and MCPS to get our voice heard effectively. We have shared our community survey results with MCPS on our major interested areas, including academic excellence, school safety and anti-bullying, language and cultural education programs, and community involvement. We appreciate your great assistance and kind support in this process. For instance, in the recent Metis Report on the Choice and Special Programs, recommendations 3a has caused major concerns in our community. We have been actively communicating with you all and we are making great progress. We urge BOE and Dr. Smith to take the feedback from our community into consideration and continue to get us involved in the development of major policies and discussions.

We appreciate Board of Education and MCPS very much for involving us as community support partners. We are also very grateful for the responsiveness of BOE members and MCPS's leadership. CAPA-MC look forward to working with MCPS to make this outstanding public education system even better for all children in the future. Thank you.

Ting Mei Chau

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