

A Glimpse
at What Cloverly
MIGHT look Like
in 2011-2012



MCPS and Budget Impacts

Are you willing to take a
stand?

Direct Effects on Cloverly Children Due to Budget Cuts

- A Combo 4th/5th grade class – A class room that has both 4th graders and 5th graders with 1 teacher. This teacher will be conducting “parallel teaching”
- A 1 teacher to 20 students for 1st and 2nd grade reading initiatives. This translates to 2 hours and 20 minutes hours of reading per child per week for 1st and 2nd graders.
- Reduction in school Counselor working hours.
- Unrepaired areas of moisture, potentially leading to mold in classrooms

Here's How it Works

- The **Superintendent's** 2012 Operating Budget Recommendations is the means by which the Board of Education makes their budget request to the **County Council**. The Superintendent also creates a "List of Potential Reductions".
- The **County Executive** (Ike Leggett) recommends a proposed budget to the **County Council**.
- The **County Council** holds hearings in April and votes to adopt the budget in May.
- The **Board of Education** then decides how to utilize the funds that the County Council provides.
- The **School Principal** plans for changes at his/her school, necessitated by the list of potential reductions.

Simple, Right? **WRONG**

What You May Not Know

- MCPS expected to experience **\$85 million dollars in budget cuts**
- The Superintendent's FY2012 Operating Budget Recommendations proposed a 2.8% increase over the FY2011 budget, to cover increased enrollment of 3,340 students and inflation-related cost increases.
- The **County Executive** (Ike Leggett) recommends a proposed budget allocating \$2.1 billion for education (which takes state funding into account), the same amount provided in FY2011
- The **State of Maryland** also provides funding to MCPS. The state has a "**Maintenance of Effort**" (MOE) requirement, which stipulates that the county provide at least the same amount of funding, per pupil, as provided in the prior year. If the County Executive's proposed budget is adopted, this requirement will not be met and Montgomery County will face a loss of state aid as a penalty for noncompliance. The state is considering making changes to the per pupil funding requirement.
- Recently, Ms. Brunson received preliminary staffing allocations for next year and she has been working with the school leadership team to develop plans. Members of Cloverly Staff also testified in Annapolis on budget impacts.
- The Superintendent's List of Potential Reductions reflects cuts that may be made if the County Council does adopt the budget recommended by the County Executive.

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/budget/fy2012/pdf/PotentialFY12BudgetReductions.pdf>

Northeast Consortium

(our feeder schools)

James H. Blake HS (9-12)
Paint Branch HS (9-12)
Springbrook HS (9-12)


- Briggs Chaney MS (6-8)
 - Cloverly ES (K-5)*
 - Fairland ES (K-5)*
 - Galway ES (pre-K-5)
 - Willam T. Page ES (pre-K-5)
- William H. Farquhar MS (6-8) (shared with Sherwood Cluster)*
 - **Cloverly ES (K-5)***
 - Sherwood ES (K-5)*
 - Stonegate ES (K-5)*



Will your children be attending these other schools?

Major Issues in Our Cluster Schools

- Expected **\$85 million dollars in budget cuts**
- **Staff Reductions, staff reductions, staff reductions** to support the expected increased enrollment throughout Montgomery County. MCPS are expecting more students and less money.
- 1.5+ hour commute for students attending Farquhar MS during school modernization
- Elimination of Middle School After School programs
- Elimination of Music Programs in schools throughout the cluster
- Safety Concerns related to lighting and security
- Increased class sizes to 30+ students throughout the cluster, due to the expected student enrollment increases
- Lack of classroom space to support the number students, in conjunction with the lack of available portables

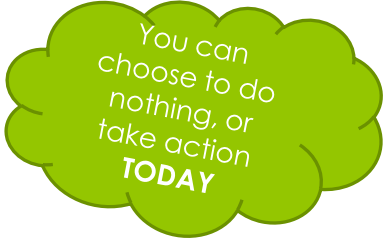


Why present a
Problem
without a
solution

So Now You Know The Problem

- What Can **YOU** Do?
 - **Attend the Cloverly PTA Informal Advocacy Social** that will facilitate discussion on concerns, and Question (**Friday March 25th 7:00pm BCMS**, while parents wait for children participating in the Family Dance at BCMS)
 - Contact the **County Council**. They claim to have heard from very few constituents regarding the proposed budget! (sample email will be sent on cloverlypta listserv)
 - Contact the **State of Maryland**. The MOE requirement was instituted in order to keep counties from cutting funding for education

- What Can **YOU** Do? (continued)
 - Contact the **Board of Education** and let the Board of Education members know your priorities. Remember, after they receive their final budget from the County Council in May, they will make final decisions about how to allocate the funds.
 - **Attend one of the County Council public hearings** on the budget on April 5 at 7:00 p.m., April 6 at 1:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m., and April 7 at 1:30 p.m. and 7:00p.m. Efforts to arrange for a large turnout of education advocates at these hearings are being organized.
 - **Attend the April Cloverly PTA meeting** to hear what strategies will be put in place to cope with the budget cuts.
 - Post your concerns on the Cloverly PTA website under the Advocacy link.



You can
choose to do
nothing, or
take action
TODAY

Things to Note...

- When contacting the County Council, let them know that education is important to you and remind them that the school system is the #1 reason people move to Montgomery County. (Interesting to note that all of our Council members campaigned on an education platform but are now reluctant to acknowledge that the school system is the county's greatest attribute!)
- Encourage county residents who don't have children **within the school system (only 25% of us do) to advocate for education funding. When our school system declines, the appeal to new residents will also decline and, as a result, our property values will drop.**
- **BEWARE** When you contact the County Council with specific issues (for example, class size), they will respond to you agreeing that education is a top priority, but that they have no control over that issue. The decision to increase class size is made by the Board of Education. While this is true, the Board of Education can only act within the confines of the budget provided.

For Questions

Contact the Cloverly PTA Advocacy
Committee at
cloverlyptaadvocacy@gmail.com

Or via the Cloverly PTA website,
www.cloverlypta.com