Good evening Superintendent Smith, President Evans and members of the Board,

My name is Kevin Meldorf and my wife and I have a 5th grader at Ronald McNair Elementary School and a 7th grader at Kingsview Middle School. I am here tonight to show support for the Superintendent’s recommendation on the Boundary Study for Clarksburg, Northwest, and Seneca Valley High Schools. I am sure that the majority of people here tonight would rather not have anything change. However, due to new construction and population growth, there are real challenges with overcrowding at our schools that need to be addressed to ensure that every child has the opportunity for a safe and quality education.

In order to ensure fairness and promote the mission of the Montgomery County Public Schools the Superintendent’s recommendation meets the goals of diversity, geography and facility utilization.

- The plan reduces the FARMS and ESOL rates at Seneca Valley ensuring greater diversity at the school while minimally changing these metrics at Clarksburg and Northwest.

- The plan maximizes opportunities for students to walk to school which will ensure minimal impact on an already overburdened road system.

- The plan provides the greatest relief to Clarksburg which faces the biggest overcrowding challenges while providing some relief to Northwest. Furthermore, it guarantees that Seneca Valley will be appropriately utilized and ensures that the tax money spent to expand and revitalize the school will be realized.

- Finally, I really appreciate that the plan does not increase split articulations from the middle schools to the high schools. The transition from middle school to high school is challenging for kids and keeping familiar faces together is an important factor in reducing teen anxiety and ensuring academic and social success.

For these reasons, I am asking that the board will approve the Superintendent’s recommendation on the Boundary Study for Clarksburg, Northwest, and Seneca Valley High School.

Thank you for your time this evening.