Hello, my name is Errol Rose –

As a parent of a current Martin Luther King student who has grown up within the Seneca Valley cluster, it is important to me and my family that the schools within the boundary study are as equitable as possible. No recommendation however measured will satisfy every parent, student or teacher within the affected area. I feel that the solution recommended by Dr. Smith is the best option from among the many presented. The solution addresses the three key components of the study: Demographic Characteristics of the student population, geography and facility utilization.

With this option the FARMS (Free and Reduced Priced Meals) rate for Clarksburg High school would increase from 27.5% to 28.5%, would decrease slightly for Northwest High School from 22.5% to 21.6% and would decrease from 39% to 34.5% for Seneca Valley High School. The facility utilization rate would be reduced for Clarksburg by the year 25-26 where the projected utilization would fall from 146% to 118%, Northwest would decrease from 118% to 113%, and increases utilization for Seneca Valley from 49% to 99%.

The recommendation by Dr. Smith addresses the facility utilization by alleviating the population pressure on Northwest and Clarksburg high schools, maximizes the capacity of Seneca Valley high school, over the 6-year planning period. The recommendation addresses the demographic characteristics of the student population by balancing the percentage of FARMS students from among the three high schools. Again as Dr. Smith notes the FARMS percentage is a strong indicator used to evaluate poverty in schools. The level of poverty in a school correlates to academic achievement of students. It addresses the geography component by maximizing the number of walkers within the boundary area.

As an Educator myself I know that no option will ensure 100% equality, yet it is important to strive for equity. Equity in this case, means making sure that every student has the support they need to be successful. Equity in education requires putting systems in place to ensure that every child has an equal chance for success. In my opinion, option 11A comes the closest to ensuring equity, fairness and inclusion for all involved.

Thank You