English translation:

Good evening, Members Of the Montgomery County Board of Education,

My name is Yoicy Quintero, Venezuelan and resident of the county for a year. First of all, I would like to thank the efforts of Superintendent Dr. Smith and the Board of Education since without the initiative of bringing to light all the needs of our families we would not be in this process of necessary changes.

As a mother aware of the importance of a good comprehensive education, I am moved by the idea that my child can attend schools where equity and multiculturality is centered, in addition to quality educational programs. Therefore, I consider the evaluation of the demographic limits that allow an effective redistribution of the student population in schools to promote a better use of school facilities as well as the distribution in a more efficient and sincere way of the rest of the pertinent resources, both financial and human.

I believe that the best education that we can give to our young people is that which, in addition to providing them with certain knowledge in common and necessary areas of development, of course, such as science and mathematics, is even more important that it provides them with the necessary tools to relate with all people regardless of race, nationality, family income or intellectual abilities; but we teach them to be better human beings, any knowledge will have no real meaning.

But we cannot ignore that we are not all capable of understanding this type of proposals with only hard data, but out of organizations such as Identity that make every effort to participate in these decisions and bring us closer to reality; that is why I want to invite the Board of Education to seek a nobler way of presenting to the community the redistribution proposals, because what is not understood, does not generate interest and ends up being ignored and we certainly need all of us, Board, parents, students, community and government to reach the goals that benefit everyone.

And to the parents who listen to me we must make an extra effort to understand that redistributing to students in county schools also means redistributing experiences and cultures, which will undoubtedly make our children's learning process more enriching.

Regarding the proposed redistribution options, I consider that the 11th number is closer to what would be schools, both Middle School and High School, with a more equitable distribution of students by race, free lunch recipients and Esol students; decongests saturated ones and occupies those with greater capacity.

Lately, we request the Board of Education and MCPS to conduct a comprehensive needs assessment in line with the Be Well 365 Plan to determine the socio-emotional needs of the students and outline a plan for the implementation of services and programs to meet those needs.

Thank you very much.