

supporting personnel, and other staff). Since we are an educational institution, we need to commit to the learning, development, and growth of our people. In a technological and information society, people and their intelligence are the key assets that make the difference.

"In my campaign, I stressed my continued commitment and support for a rigorous curriculum -- a curriculum that has high expectations for individual student achievement. In addition, I emphasized the importance of providing the necessary tools for staff to implement successful teaching and learning.

"I also said we need to speed up our efforts in technology. On Monday, The Washington Post reported that 6.9 million personal computers were purchased in the last year. Moreover, they predict that 'first-time computer buyers will turn out in droves this holiday shopping season.' Our staff must develop better ways to make technology an integral part of our students' learning, and this must be done soon.

"We need to invest more in our staff training, continuing education, and professional and personal development. We need to continue to engage our parents, staff, and citizens in our community as partners in educating our children. It was disheartening when I saw there were so many blank votes in the Board of Education category. We need to reach out to all segments of community because public schools are important in the well-being of a community and the quality of life whether or not citizens have children in the school system.

"In my second term on the Board, I am committed to addressing two important school system needs:

"First, I will address our need to have a good management information system and a good educational information system. I want to ensure we have the database we need to monitor and guarantee educational, administrative, and fiscal accountability.

"Second, I will address our need to be more creative and strategic. Because our nation's future competitiveness is dependent on how well our workforce is educated, I want to ensure that Montgomery County is the best public school system in the United States.

"Now I would like to say something about my two departing colleagues, Mrs. Carol Fanconi, and Mrs. Fran Brenneman. We were the freshmen Board members in 1990. Carol and Fran are great and gentle ladies. Both of them have the best interests of children at heart. Mrs. Fanconi is a strong and able advocate for children with special needs. This year she has been a great leader and has guided the Board through some difficult budgetary times. Mrs. Brenneman is a strong and able advocate for our

'mainstream' children, that is, most of our students. She has this uncanny sense about the pulse of the community. I will miss both of them. The Board will miss their direct and important contributions.

"For my two new colleagues, Mr. Reggie Felton and Mrs. Nancy King, I welcome you and look forward to working with you. I got to know Reggie and Nancy quite well on the campaign trail, and I respect their insights into the issues we face. I know they will make significant contributions to MCPS. Thank you."

Re: STATEMENT BY MR. FELTON

Mr. Felton made the following statement:

"I am indeed honored and very, very proud to become a member of the Montgomery County Board of Education. I am honored because today our county still ranks among the very top public school systems across the nation. I am honored because the residents of Montgomery County still want the very best public education for our children. I am honored because 79,431 voters chose me to be their advocate for a quality school system. I want those voters and the rest of the community to know that I take this commitment seriously and willingly, because I believe that we must continue to invest in all our children.

"I am also filled with enormous pride, for having been elected to this important position. Over the past seven months, since my campaign began, I have talked with hundreds and hundreds of concerned citizens. You have told me of your concerns with the many critical issues facing our community which threaten our ability to deliver quality education. You have told me of how much you value our educational opportunities here in Montgomery County, and of the increasing needs which must be addressed because of the changing socioeconomic demographics of our community. You have told me of your desire to address the needs of those who require special education and special accommodations, and special programs because of language barriers. I want you to know tonight that I have heard your concerns, and that I am committed to ensuring that these needs are addressed in an effective manner.

"But I am also proud because you have told me that you, too, are willing to become more actively involved in the education of our children. For those of you who followed my campaign closely, you heard me talk about the need for more partnerships with the business community and the community at large. I know that you now understand that if we truly want to maintain a quality public education system, it will also take increased personal participation on the part of all of us.

"Within this county, we have a wealth of talent. I believe there are very few, if any, needs that we have which cannot be met by our own citizens. We must just have the will and commitment to share. With nearly 50% of our taxes going toward education, and approximately only one in four households having school age children, it seems fairly evident to me that the continued success of our school system mandates that all of us become more actively involved. Yes, we still need help with raising money for uniforms...but we also need help in the professional development of our teachers and staff...we also need assistance in effectively applying technology to our learning environments...we also need help in mentoring your students who have few role models in their lives...we also need you there to work with students to reinforce their skills...and we also need you there, because in some cases, no one else is. I am committed to a more user friendly system for volunteers, and I challenge you to join me and the thousands of other community residents like you who realize that the system cannot meet these increasing needs alone.

"In the months ahead, we will find ourselves making choices that will impact this community for many years to come. It's easy to sit back and point blame..it's easy to second guess...but I ask that you not only offer your opinion and testimony on what we should or should not do, but that you also offer your specific recommendations on how we may continue to improve the performance of all our students, in spite of reducing resources.

"I am committed to an improved assessment methodology which clearly identifies those programs which truly make a difference in the performance of our students...and I ask that you also become an assessor individually and collectively to ensure that programs which have no significant impact in the performance of our students are quickly eliminated in order that such limited resources may be used to support those that do have significant impact.

"In closing, let me first thank my family...my wife, who has actively supported me in this endeavor...my son, who is very excited about having his dad on the Board...my sister and brother-in-law who have contributed one and one-half prospective students for our system, and my mother, who is here this evening from Chicago, and a retired teacher and counselor with the public schools in that city, who served as an outstanding model for teachers throughout that city, and the other members of my family who have always valued public service. Then I'd like to thank the hundreds of volunteers who aggressively worked to ensure that our message reached the voters, many of whom are here this evening. And a special thanks to Ernie Mannino, my opponent, who agreed with me very early in the campaign that we would keep focused on the issues. And, of course, you the voters of the

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community who believe in me. For your respect, your confidence, and your commitment, I shall be forever grateful."

Re: STATEMENT BY MS. GUTIERREZ

Ms. Gutierrez made the following statement:

"I would also like to take this moment to thank those who helped me get here one more time. The first time around I think you don't know quite what it was you are getting into. The second time you know what you are getting into, and to have the kind of strong, continuous support that I enjoyed is truly an honor.

"It is the second time around, and there has been so much personal growth these last four years. I have learned so much. I have learned that, indeed, education was a hidden passion for me. It is something that does not end simply because you are on or no longer on the Board. I know that for my two fellow colleagues who are having their last night as official Board members, it is not going to end, and we know that we are going to have them as advocates and supporters because we have been bitten.

"I would like to also thank the people I have been working with for the last four years for making their very strong efforts for what was a very tough four years but also a very proud four years. I would like to thank the superintendent and his executive staff, the administrators, the teachers, and all the support staff that make this school system work at a top rate every single day.

"I know from my fellow Board members sitting here we started out four years ago with quite an ambitious agenda. We set out 12 action areas, and I think we could have added some more when we started out, but we figured that 12 sounded like a good number. I feel so proud that in all 12 action areas that we felt were high priority areas we were able to make significant accomplishments. These included academic excellence, strong policies in early childhood education, and math and science which revolutionized the way that Montgomery County is teaching science and the way it is going to teach it in the future. We are truly ahead of many other school systems in the way we have restructured in this area. Special education. Limited English proficiency. Many of these areas we have focused on and added new strengths to the programs.

"In the area where one does not necessarily pay a lot of attention because it was not thought of as a Board function, they had made an enormous difference by looking at the school system as a management and planning system. Four years ago there was no Success for Every Student Plan, and now it was part of the everyday language. This had helped to give them a more consistent framework and a vision for the school system. It was going to carry them forward for many years. They had their long-

range planning efforts and the corporate planning and reaching out to the business community. That was an enormous achievement for the Board.

"Another one was the use of technology in a way that they had never really used it before. We have embraced it thoroughly and come to realize that it is absolutely fundamental for us to use technology in the most effective way as soon as possible if we are going to meet the challenges, not only in the management and operations of the schools but in having education accessible to all students. There is more information now outside of the classroom than inside. Technology is going to help us open doors for many kids who may never have the opportunity. That is another great achievement of this Board.

"We also had enormous challenges in restructuring, streamlining, and cutting back budgets. We were doing all of this while the school system was growing very, very rapidly and growing in diversity. We are still going to be in that situation. So these challenges that we have had as a previous Board will continue, and I am certain that the new Board members will buckle down the way we had to and face the very difficult moments and make those decisions. They had the challenges of growth, limited resources, and less public support for public education. We are going to have to work closer together as a team and as advocates and leaders of one of the best school systems that I have ever known.

"Reggie and Nancy, welcome. Carol and Fran, we'll miss you. Best of luck in your new endeavors. Thank you."

Re: STATEMENT BY MRS. KING

Mrs. King made the following statement:

"A year ago if anyone had suggested I would be sitting here as a Board member, I would surely have told them they were crazy. But I guess as part of my progression from PTA volunteer to PTA President, Cluster Coordinator and MCCPTA President, this feels like the right place to be, and I am thrilled to be here this evening.

I, of course, had several reasons to run for the Board. I'd like to introduce some of those reasons -- my husband, Jim, our daughters, Pamela, Erin, and Keri, and one special grandchild, Jordan. They really have been my motivation and have been a great support. They are also quite happy for the campaign to be over so they don't have to wear those embarrassing yellow T-shirts any more, nor do they have to be in any parades for a while.

"The volunteers I have to thank are too many to mention here tonight, but you know who you are and please know how much I

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appreciate your help. Two special people do deserve recognition though. Diane Cockrell, my campaign chair, has been like my right arm through the campaign. Though she hadn't been a campaign chair before, she learned from others, did all the right things, and has been a terrific friend. She had a great knack for picking out a good street, and knocking on doors of people we didn't know and asking them to put up sign in their yard. Linda Burgin was my treasurer, and she did a terrific job, too. Although Linda has said for the past month or so that she will never be a treasurer again because she really hates doing those election reports, she has done an outstanding job, and my thanks go to both of you.

"What I would like to share with you this evening is what I have observed thus far, in the month since the election. During the campaign, especially at the many forums, two of the main concerns that came up were the need for program oversight and accountability. I am so impressed at how much program oversight and accountability are already being done. I agree that there will always be lots of room for change and improvement, but what I want to convey tonight is that the picture looks so much better to me than I ever thought it would. Somehow that kind of news never gets driven home. It never hits the papers or the local news stations. Parents would be so impressed to see how much effort does go into the education of our children. We do have a great school system, one that I hope will never stop changing and improving.

"With tough budget times now and at least in the near future, it is imperative for the school system, the Council, county executive, MCCPTA, and the community to keep our focus on our 117,000 plus children, and work together to find creative ways to fill their needs. One of my goals for this year is to keep talking to the PTAs, clusters, and different constituency groups, to keep the lines of communication open. I look forward to working with the Board and all of you for the next four years to make sure that our star shines brighter. Thank you."

Re: PRESENTATIONS TO MRS. BRENNEMAN AND
MRS. FANCONI

Mrs. Gordon and Dr. Vance presented Mrs. Brenneman and Mrs. Fanconi with albums of photographs for their four years on the Board of Education. In addition, Mrs. Fanconi received an engraved gavel for her year as president of the Board.

Re: STATEMENT BY MRS. BRENNEMAN

Mrs. Brenneman made the following statement:

"I must say this school system is efficient for those of you who do leave. Let me just tell you what it was like yesterday.

Yesterday first thing in the morning I got a call from the Board Office telling me to arrange pick up of all my equipment, to make sure that I would bring in any equipment that I could carry tonight, to let me know that I would be parking way out there. Then it hit me what happened this morning. This morning I woke up at 3 a.m. because it hit me that they were so efficient that my last paycheck came yesterday.

"These are very difficult comments to make. I have written them 10 million different ways, and I will probably read some. I have some advice to give. I divided it into some advice, some "isms" or advice given to me, and some thank yous.

"First of all, let me congratulate Reggie, Alan, Ana, and Nancy. You will have a wonderful time. Reggie and Nancy, I will give you some of my advice. Like I tell my students, and I teach remedial reading at Montgomery College, if they are all getting A's and they are doing everything right, but they are not getting A's then they have something else possibly to learn. Since many of my students aren't getting A's, then they have something to learn. I am sure you are all getting A's, but you never know where you can improve. Let me just give you a little advice.

"The first bit of advice I gave to someone else earlier this week who is about to take office. My first bit of advice is 'do the right thing' not what is necessarily considered politically expedient but what you believe is the best thing to do. Remember, you have to look at yourself in the mirror the next morning. So you better be able to live with the decision that you made the night before or in some cases, many weeks before. Do the right thing.

"Point number two, once you give your word, keep it. Being able to trust someone's word is, I believe, the most important characteristic you can possibly have.

"Number three, don't let the swish of your skirt change. Or to be more gender neutral, remember that you still put your pants on like everyone else, one leg at a time.

"Number four, the school system loves each one of you and will lavish you with attention. Soak it up and learn an awful lot; however, keep your arms length. Challenge is good and debate healthy. You are all here to deliver an excellent education, but you are not here to rubber stamp the administration.

"Number five, remember to vote and then walk away from it. You win some and you lose some. Leave your losses at the table. Don't bring them home or into your vote. Keep your sense of humor. It may not be the same as your colleagues, but believe me you will need it. People say you need to be thick skinned. No. Hurt feelings are really hurt feelings. Just remember your

friends are those who will support you, love you, tell you when you are wrong, and still love you.

"Please stay in touch with the public. Remember the parents, but also remember the people who don't have children in the school system, the community, and the business community who are there to lend their strong support. Those are the things that I have learned while I have served as a Board member.

"Let me give you some advice in the form of 'isms.' There are some very important and very special people whom I owe a great deal of thanks to over my last four years and before. They gave me many bits of advice. One of the first people I talked to before I even ran for the Board was Mike Subin. The Mike Subin-ism is 'remember, you will always have your birthday.' Number two which is one that I often fall back on, and after your votes you will remember that. An Ike Leggett-ism is 'what goes around, comes around.' A Linda Rigsby-ism, 'it will come back to haunt you.' My mother would just let me know that guilt kicks in. A Phil Rohr-ism, 'Fran, do what you want, but are you sure that is what you want to do.' A Paul Vance-ism, 'a real friend does not exploit another friend's vulnerabilities.' A Wells-ism and a Lange-ism, 'I still love ya.' This is an important one to remember because as Sharon DiFonzo said, 'someday you, too, will be yesterday's fish wrap.'

"Let me give now some very special thanks. The first thanks to my children, Adam and David. My children have been real troopers. They have worked on my two campaigns so they have lived with the candidate. They have lived with the Board member, and they are holding up pretty well. In fact, I have to admit my older son tonight said in the car to me which really meant a lot to me that my experience on the Board has been his best experience. It has gotten him involved in politics. Let me tell you, those of you who have run for election, those leftover signs that you have made great posterboard. Just turn it over. Or for those of you who have children who run just cut off your name and your last name is still there. It works wonders. It has been his great experience as well, and that means a lot. He says that no matter how many children I have had some impact on, I have had a great impact on him. My younger son has grown used to eating lots of frozen pizzas, and in fact, he has acquired a taste and likes those better than the restaurant ones. So I thank you very much.

"Let me also thank Tom Fess and the Board Office staff. Can you imagine these people - Tom Fess and the staff - work for the eight of us with all of our styles and all of our demands, answer the public as well, and sometimes we don't thank these people enough. I just want to say a special thanks to you as well.

"To the executive staff, to the principals, teachers, and supporting services, you do one heck of a job. We don't always agree nor should we if we are to keep this system healthy. But you truly are experts in your field, and I thank you for all that you do.

"To my colleagues on the Board, thank you for your interest in children. Through our healthy debates, I believe that each of you have demonstrated your sincere desire to be advocates for our students.

"Now for some other very special individuals who have not only been my supporters but have been my friends and some people whom I have not mentioned. Let me tell you, you really learn who your friends are after the campaign is over, and you are not the winner. For the Olney-ites, you have stuck with me through PTA, through some ugly boundary changes, and two elections, and I thank you. To my treasurer, Owen Nichols, I give a special thanks. To my campaign coordinator, Linda Rigsby, thank you. I would also like to thank Marty Strombotne, president of MCCSSE, whose union supported me twice. I would like to thank Michael Lin and Charles Han, and all my fellow members and friends of the Organization of Chinese Americans who have been my strong supporters. I would like to thank Perche Rivas who calls me his daughter, and to Roscoe Nix who is not here because he is ill, who is a friend of mine who is always raring for a political debate, can yell at me for half an hour, and it is not even 7:30 in the morning yet. I would also like to thank the business community, especially in this last campaign. Many of these people took a lot of time out of their days to teach me all about zoning and planning and the very complicated process that they go through. They also deserve an extra thank you for all the hours that they devote to this school system, and very often they do not get thanked enough. So for anyone who is here from that business community who gives so many hours not only to me but to the school system, I thank you as well.

"And my final thanks go to all the rest of you whether you voted for me or not. Though at this point, I think everyone did. When you run for election, you know that everyone voted for you. You have given me the privilege to have served you for these last four years. And for that I will always be indebted to all of you. Thank you for allowing me to hear that expression -- 'you are our Board member, the one we go to.' It truly has been a pleasure. Thank you very much."

Re: STATEMENT BY MRS. FANCONI

Mrs. Fanconi made the following statement:

"In the last four years I have learned to value many things that cannot be valued on a balanced sheet, that cannot be captured in

a data base or on a spreadsheet. I have discovered things I did not even imagine existed in myself, and I have learned that the more I have learned the more I know I don't know.

"Four years ago I was a lot younger, and a lot more naive than I am now. I began my term totally awestruck that 86,000 people had walked into a voting booth and chosen my name as the person they trusted to represent them to make the critical decisions affecting over 100,000 children and 15,000 employees. I could not even imagine shaking hands with that many people let alone representing their diverse views. It has been a true honor to fulfill that trust. I have worked hard to come to meetings prepared and tried to make each decision based on fairness, equity and adherence to the belief that we are obligated to provide the best possible educational opportunity for all children - no matter how diverse their needs. I am here tonight to pass the responsibility on to a very able Board with two excellent new members who will commit themselves to fulfilling this awesome task.

"It has truly been an honor for me to serve as a member of this Board. I want to especially thank my fellow Board members for the honor they paid me in electing me as their vice president and their president. The greatest praise one can receive is to be acknowledged by one's peers. I have thoroughly enjoyed the challenges of the office, and I so appreciate the support each of you has shown me over this last year.

"I leave with many memories of budget cuts, late night sessions, laughter, tears, heartaches, and triumphs. I have been heartened and reinforced in my belief in representative government. My most treasured memories will be of the truly marvelous people I have been fortunate enough to meet and work with during my tenure. I am constantly impressed with the expertise, experience, and commitment of our employees and our community members. I believe this Board has much to be proud of, and I am very proud to have been a member of this fine team. We are a very diverse and individualistic group. Although we come with very different talents and experiences, we have one strong commonality -- we all care deeply about children and understand that education is the great equalizer that is the only hope for breaking the cycle of poverty, decreasing the violence, and improving the economic viability of our county. Because of these strong beliefs, I believe we have been able to make well grounded, fiscally, and educationally sound decisions. And where we have made mistakes, we have been willing to go back and make corrections. We have comported ourselves in a manner appropriate for elected officials who set high expectations for the behavior of our staff and students. Although we have very strong, often differing, opinions on issues we have demonstrated that people of intelligence can disagree on substance but not be abusive to fellow Board members. We do not abuse staff at the Board table

and we treat our public with the respect they deserve. For this, I think we should be very proud.

"We have cut \$145 million out of the budget at the same time we've grown by almost 14,000 students, but I believe we made the best choices we could and put our emphasis where it has to be -- on the children.

"I had a favorite poem as a child that started, 'If I had a hundred dollars to spend or maybe a little bit more I'd run as fast as my legs could go straight to the animal store....'

"Well if I had a 'few million to spend or maybe a little bit more...,' as a Board member I'd have a few things I'd like to restore to our budget. The first thing I'd do is remove summer school from the enterprise fund. I continue to be diametrically opposed to charging fees for courses necessary for our students to achieve success and graduate. I believe it is fundamentally wrong to prevent equal access to education based on your ability to pay. I would restore the bus window so that no elementary student would go to school later than 8:30 a.m. and middle school students would remain in school longer in the afternoon. I think the changes we made in transportation in the name of saving money have had a very negative effect on family and children that we as a public institution should not have imposed. I'd restore activity buses and allow stipends so that schools could provide after-school activities so that kids would have valuable supervised activities in the afternoon. I'd set a five-year goal to restore all-day kindergarten which was I think one of the worst cuts we made and has seriously affected our ability to prepare children to succeed. I'd also greatly increase staff development, global access, and special education staffing levels such that true integrated education could occur for all students. And that doesn't begin to address the old decrepit buildings, broken furniture, lack of science equipment, ADA accommodations, etc., etc., that are necessities.

"Unfortunately for kids, these wishes won't be actualized in the fiscal climate you face. In fact, you will probably be called upon for even more draconian cuts to meet the demand of fiscal constraints. Therefore, I want each of you to know that I trust and believe in you and know you will search high and low for every opportunity to provide the best education possible. And that you will not cut into the services so severely that the quality of education is fatally compromised. I am leaving each of you with one of my favorite buttons, it represents our diverse student body with many races, creeds, and colors including both the able and the disabled. All I ask of all of you is that you remember that for years we did not acknowledge that to meet the needs of all students you have to discuss the needs of all students when we discuss every topic. Kathy and Paul, I'm giving you one to remind you of the success we have had when each

presentation addressed all the children in the hopes that this is now a regular part of all presentations.

"Before I go I want to thank everyone who has helped me during my four years -- Tom, Mary Lou, Mel, Lois, Roz, Bev, Gail, and Sharon, you are truly wonderful. I remain eternally in your debt for all your hard work and dedication to the success of the Board.

"Paul, Phil, Kathy, and the exec staff, it has truly been a trip -- thanks for all the work you do to respond to the Board's demands and still run this gigantic business of education. You are the best, and I'm so very proud to have been able to work with you.

"I want to especially thank my family and friends for being there for me. I literally could not have survived with your support, caring, prodding, and understanding. I'd like to recognize someone who came tonight for his very special support. Mr. Harrison King was a Board member in the 50's from Laytonsville.

"Now I'd like to say just a word about the future you are facing. I was amazed and amused during the campaign to see that there were at least 29 candidates who appeared to be running for the Board of Education -- candidates for the County Council, county executive, and the delegation were pledging their personal actions to improve and strengthen education in the county. Many of them even took credit for the many accomplishments that this Board had taken action on. I suppose we should be very flattered that we have done a good enough job that others would claim responsibility for the results we've accomplished. And in actuality - 'to educate everyone takes everyone' - which means that none of our well-intentioned policies or our well-thought-out budgets to implement those policies could have been accomplished without the full support of the county executive, County Council, and the delegation. All of the candidates ran on a plank of improving education and public safety -- the reason I mention public safety is I feel the very best investment in public safety is assuring that children achieve because they are much less likely to be involved in violence and crime.

"Not one of the candidates elected ran on a plank of cutting education. However, now the rubber meets the road. Now the spending affordability limit is set \$20 million below what we need to provide the same quality services to 4,000 new students. The revenue collections are down, and it remains to be seen whether those campaign promises are more than rhetoric.

"The Children's Defense Fund has a great poster. It's a picture of a baby in diapers crawling away from the camera with a bulls eye on his butt. The caption is 'when it's budget cutting time, they always start with the easiest targets.' There are

reflecting that nationally the funding actions have not matched the campaign rhetoric. The United States is the only industrialized nation that has almost a quarter of their children living in poverty. Believe it or not, there are children in Montgomery County that do not get enough to eat, there are children in Montgomery County who do not have basic health care, and there are children in Montgomery County whose only hope of escaping the cycle of poverty is to get a quality education that will lead to employability. I hope our newly elected officials defy the national trends and put their rhetoric into action by funding the children's budgets including education.

"The Board of Education plays a critical role in being on the front lines of actually being able to take action to maintain equal access to education for all children. You have your work cut out for you this year. Please know I will be there cheering you on. But I do encourage you to create more public debate over the likely consequences of weakening MCPS because I don't believe the public understands the very real consequences to the viability of maintaining our economic base if we lose the ability to attract business to our excellent schools. Don't give up on your advocacy for those critical educational services. We need every one of our children to be prepared to meet the challenges of the 21st century for the welfare of our society and the productivity of our nation."

Re: REMARKS BY BOARD MEMBERS

Board members welcomed the newly installed members and thanked the outgoing members for their years of service.

Re: ADJOURNMENT

The vice president adjourned the meeting at 9:40 p.m. to a reception for new and outgoing Board members.

VICE PRESIDENT

SECRETARY

PLV:mlw