



Montgomery County, Maryland Section National Council of Negro Women, Inc.

Chartered 1969

www.ncnwmc-md.org

Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune, Founder
Johnnetta Betsch Cole, Ph.D., National Chair
Janice L. Mathis, Esq., Executive Director
Crystal L. Lee, Section President

P. O. Box 1512
Silver Spring, MD 20915-1512
April 14, 2020

Montgomery County Council
Council Office Building
100 Maryland Avenue, 6th Floor
Rockville, MD 20850

To Whom It May Concern:

The Montgomery County, Maryland Section of the National Council of Negro Women, Inc. (MCMD NCNW) strongly supports the Montgomery County Public School's (MCPS) budget request.

The 2020 COVID-19 pandemic has changed the landscape of all our lives in innumerable ways. We are very much aware that the current COVID-19 crisis is worsening long existing racial and ethnic inequities. As we tread these uncharted waters, we remain steadfastly committed to the students and families of MCPS. All students and school personnel will need the support of the full community as we put together a new normal.

Students who have struggled with attendance, self-esteem, motivation, direction and many of the other social, emotional and academic issues will require a BIG investment. We cannot afford to have "left behind" students. These students are our future.

We urge the Montgomery County Council to:

1. Remain committed to funding education as a basic essential.
2. Target areas for specific needs (after school programs, summer school).
3. Incorporate social, emotional, motivation, and inspirational seminars and workshops for students in highly impacted areas.
4. Identify community organizations and businesses to help in various areas of need.

We, the MCMD NCNW mentor African American girls at two MCPS. We know firsthand what a crippling setback the abrupt closure of schools had on some of the girls. The eighth graders and seniors will be making big transitions without the traditional closing before moving on.

We look forward to continuing our mentoring program, Females Achieving Maintaining Excellence (FAME) in the 2020 – 2021 school year.

The purpose of FAME program is twofold:

1. to foster cultural pride, a strong sense of resiliency and social skills for middle and high school girls
2. to provide middle and high school girls with relevant tools for life and to prepare them for leadership

Therefore, as a member of the Black and Brown Coalition, the MCMD NCNW urge the Montgomery County Council to fully fund the Board of Education's budget request.

Sincerely,

Crystal Lee

Crystal Lee

President

cryslee@comcast.net

301-412-4316 (Cell)

301-384-4975 (Home)