

PRESENTATION TO THE COUNTY COUNCIL IN SUPPORT OF INCREASED FUNDING FOR GBTLA

APRIL 11, 2023

- MY NAME IS DAVID HILL, AND I AM HERE TONIGHT AS A BOARD MEMBER OF THE GEORGE B. THOMAS, SR. LEARNING ACADEMY, A/K/A THE SATURDAY SCHOOL
- I AM HERE TO ASK YOU, OUR COUNTY COUNCIL, TO MODIFY GBTLA'S BUDGET ALLOCATION FROM THAT INCLUDED BY THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE
- SPECIFICALLY, WE ASK THAT YOU ADD AN ADDITIONAL \$400,000 TO THE \$ AUTHORIZED TO GBTLA IN THIS YEAR'S BUDGET
- GBTLA WAS STARTED IN 1986 BY THE MU NU CHAPTER OF OMEGA PSI PHI FRATERNITY. WE STARTED OUT WITH 21 STUDENT AND 19 VOLUNTEER TUTORS TO ADDRESS THE ACHIEVMENT GAP FOR AFRICAN-AMERICAN STUDENTS IN THE COUNTY
- SINCE 1986, GBTLA HAS GROWN THROUGH A PARTNERSHIP WITH MCPS AND THE COUNTY'S HHS TO SERVE THOUSANDS OF STUDENTS ANNUALLY
- OPERATING OUR CENTERS IN HIGH SCHOOLS ACROSS THE COUNTY, OUR PROGRAMS HAVE DEMONSTRATED SUCCESS WHILE SERVING DIVERSE POPULATIONS OF STUDENTS WHO BENEFIT FROM THOSE PROGRAMS
- BASED UPON HISTORICAL DATA, STUDENTS THAT GO THROUGH OUR TUTORING AND UPLIFT PROGRAMS OUTPERFORM THOSE FROM SIMILAR BACKGROUNDS THAT DO NOT ATTEND SATURDAY SCHOOL
- WITH MY TESTIMONY I AM SUBMITTING LETTERS FROM TWO OF OUR CENTER DIRECTORS EXPRESSING THE IMPACT WE MAKE ON THE STUDENTS WE SERVE
- IF GBTLA DID NOT EXIST TODAY, IT WOULD NEED TO BE CREATED BECAUSE WE MEET AN UNMET NEED IN THE COMMUNITY
- GBTLA HAS WON ACCOLADES IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY AND BEYOND AS A MODEL FOR TUTORING PROGAMS AND CONTINUES TO BE PART OF THE FABRIC OF THIS COUNTY
- DESPITE THIS TRACK RECORD, THE CE'S BUDGET CUT MORE THAN \$560K FROM GBTLA'S PRIOR APPROPRIATION

PRESENTATION TO THE COUNTY COUNCIL IN SUPPORT OF INCREASED FUNDING FOR
GBTLA

APRIL 11, 2023

- IT DID SO BY CLAIMING IT WAS RIGHT-SIZING THE ALLOCATION GIVEN THE DROP IN THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS SERVED BY GBTLA
- AND IT IS TRUE THAT WE ARE SERVING FEWER STUDENTS TODAY THAN WE DID PRE-PANDEMIC. AND THERE ARE MANY REASONS FOR THAT FACT
- DURING THE PANDEMIC, WE SHIFTED TO PROVIDING SERVICES VIRTUALLY, BUT FOUND DEMAND FOR EVEN MORE VIRTUAL LEARNING ON SATURDAY AFTER LEARNING IN FRONT OF SCREENS THROUGHOUT THE WEEK, WAS NOT SOMETHING STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES WERE INTERESTED IN
- AND AN EVEN BIGGER CHALLENGE GBTLA CAME TO FACE AND STILL FACES IS THAT WITH THE BENEFIT OF CARES ACT FUNDING, MCPS HAS CREATED ITS OWN TUTORING PROGRAM, OUTSIDE OF ITS PARTNERSHIP WITH GBTLA
- AND USING CARES ACT FUNDS, MCPS 1) PROVIDES TUTORING SERVICES FREE OF CHARGE (GBTLA CHARGES A NOMINAL FEE) AND 2) MCPS PAYS ITS TEACHERS (MANY OF WHOM WERE FORMALLY TUTORS IN GBTLA CENTERS) \$85/HOUR WHERE WE ARE ONLY ABLE TO PAY \$38/HOUR
- GBTLA IS HERE BEFORE YOU BECAUSE WE WANT TO BE AS VIBRANT A PART OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY'S FUTURE AS WE HAVE BEEN PART OF THE PAST 36 PLUS YEARS
- WITH THE WORST OF COVID BEHIND US AND RECOGNIZING THAT THE CARES ACT FUNDING THAT UNDERLIES THE MCPS FREE TUTORING PROGRAM WILL RUN OUT, GBTLA STANDS READY TO FILL A NEED IN OUR COMMUNITY
- EVEN NOW, KIDS NEED TUTORING SERVICES BASED ON AN ESTABLISHED METHODOLOGY AND FRAMEWORK FOR SUCCESS SOURCE. THAT IS GBTLA
- EVEN NOW, ALL OF OUR STUDENTS NEED SUPPORT AND UPLIFT FROM TEACHERS THAT CARE ABOUT THEIR SUCCESS AND WELL-BEING, ENOUGH TO WORK ON SATURDAYS. THAT IS PROVIDED BY GBTLA

PRESENTATION TO THE COUNTY COUNCIL IN SUPPORT OF INCREASED FUNDING FOR
GBTLA

APRIL 11, 2023

- EVEN NOW, MCPS NEEDS AS MANY COMMUNITY PARTNERS AS IT CAN FIND TO HELP REVERSE THE LEARNING LOST DURING THE PANDEMIC AND IMPROVE THE OUTCOMES OF OUR KIDS. THAT IS THE ESSENCE OF WHAT GBTLA HAS DONE AND WHAT WE WILL CONTINUE TO DO
- WE HAVE BEGUN WORKING WITH THE NEW MCPS LEADERSHIP, AND NOW PLAN QUARTERLY MEETINGS BETWEEN GBTLA AND MCPS, THE FIRST OF WHICH IS TAKING PLACE LATER THIS MONTH
- GBTLA WILL BE AT THE FOREFRONT OF ASSISTING MCPS AND THE STUDENTS IT SERVES, BUT WE NEED YOUR HELP TO DO SO
- WE WANT TO CONTINUE TO BE PART OF ACCELERATING LEARNING, CLOSING THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP, PROVIDING WRAP AROUND SERVICES TO THOSE WHO CANNOT GET THEM ELSEWHERE AND UPLIFTING THOSE STUDENTS IN OUR COMMUNITY WHO DESPERATELY NEED OUR SERVICES
- THIS IS SO MUCH MORE THAN A LINE ITEM IN A BUDGET
- WITHOUT YOUR HELP, INSTEAD OF MOVING FORWARD TO ASSIST OUR KIDS, WE WILL BE FACED WITH REDUCING ACCESS TO THE SERVICES WE PROVIDE BY CLOSING CENTERS AND CUTTING THE NUMBER OF INSTRUCTORS
- NONE OF US WANT THAT RESULT
- FOR ALL OF THESE REASONS, WE ASK THAT YOU ADD BACK \$400K TO THE ALLOCATION FOR THE SATURDAY SCHOOL

Don L. Milner

GBTLA Center Director

Gaithersburg High School
101 Education Blvd
Gaithersburg, Maryland 20877
Don_L_Milner@mcpsmd.org

GBTLA History

George B. Thomas Learning Academy has been in existence for over 30 years. Once the program extended to 12 Learning Academies, Gaithersburg High School was and still is one of the largest learning academies in the Saturday School program. We are a minority majority site complete with a Pre-K program and a SAT program that not only prepares students for the SAT but provides College and Career awareness. Since our origin we continue to provide literacy and numeracy tutorials to grades 1-12. Our program supports and encourages the most impacted students in the Montgomery County Public School system. Parents bring their students from the Gaithersburg, Northwest, and the Watkins Mill cluster to engage in our educational services. We connect our students with mental, physical, and emotional wellbeing so they can succeed during the week at their respective Elementary, Middle, and High Schools. Gaithersburg HS hosts a community refrigerator so that students are able to have a meal for either lunch or dinner all stocked by local restaurants. We also provide Adult literacy classes for parents/guardians who sign their students up for our Learning Academy in turn supporting education across the board. We also provided parent support regarding knowledge of community resources and ways to increase learning opportunities at home for parents with children in the Pre-K program. These skills are provided in conjunction with Saturday school.

Employment Footprint

Saturday School employs Teachers and MCPS staff to implement a high quality tutorial service. Loss of programming would mean loss of employment of several MCEA and SEIU bargaining members who are committed to the students that they serve.

Impact Data

- **Parent Constituents**
 - 100% of Parents surveyed have shared that their child benefits from Saturday School.
- **Student Constituents**
 - On average 65 - 70% of students enrolled at our Gaithersburg site attend each week.
- **Lead Tutor Constituents**
 - 90% of the Lead Tutors report that they would return to Saturday School because they believe that their efforts are making a difference in student achievement.

GBTLA Paint Branch
Hardin, Daphne, Site Director
March, 30, 2023

The Burtonsville and Silver Spring demographics and economics near Paint Branch High School are ever changing. There are more families now headed by one person - one income, who may have a limited income and who may need that in person extended helping hands on the sixth day. We provide this to the community.

Every Saturday morning, through the platform provided by the GBTLA, Burtonsville and Silver Spring children and families fill the Paint Branch High School cafeteria to eat a nutritional breakfast and to participate in a motivational activity. After breakfast and motivation, the students are escorted to their classes by their competent and well-prepared teachers.

The student population is filled with a variety of needs that range from enrichment to recovery. Students receive lessons/instruction to fill in the academic gaps where they did not comprehend concepts in the regular school day, to get the opportunity to practice newly introduced concepts they did not grasp in the regular school day, and to get the one-on-one teacher assistance they needed to move to mastery of the new concepts or to move beyond the new concepts to the next higher level but did not get in the regular school day. In Saturday School, students receive opportunities to practice newly learned concepts, where they don't have the help at home to confirm and to build on those concepts. In Saturday School, students receive enrichment opportunities to build beyond the newly learned concepts because they were able to grasp the concepts more competently than their class peers. In Saturday School, students see, learn, and participate in advanced science activities provided by our community volunteers.

The GBTLA Paint Branch Center exposes our community of elementary and middle school students to the Paint Branch High School facility, helping them to transition when the time comes to a high school setting without the apprehension of uncertainty because they will have already walked the halls and will have already sat in the classrooms. Students need to have these experiences, and we provide these experiences.

GBTLA Paint Branch
Hardin, Daphne, Site Director
March, 30, 2023

The GBTLA Paint Branch Center works with our high school students to provide them in person extended teaching and support they need but cannot get in the regular high school environment because of time constraints and limitations. Our GBTLA site provides in person instruction and preparation for taking the SAT exam.

Our GBTLA Paint Branch Center is filled with competent, kind, loving teachers and experienced, educated, and committed Black male volunteers who are each prepared to be in person every Saturday to support our students and families and one another!