

14 April 2023

To Montgomery County Council:

I am writing to respond to the proposal to eliminate the Arcola Elementary School's Linkages to Learning Community School Coordinator position (CSC).

The lack of regard in providing ample notification for interested parties to participate in the hearing process on this matter unfortunately demonstrates a lack of care and concern for the recipients of the programs for which the CSC has responsibility.

At a time in our nation when children are being traumatized by reports of mass shootings taking place on school campuses, schools no longer offer the promise of sanctuary and opportunity that they have in the past.

However, there is one thing on which the children and families who benefit from the programs overseen by the CSC have been able to rely. The children and families have been able to rely on the caring connections and relationships they have been developed over time as the CSC gets to know the individual children, their families, their needs, concerns, needs, aspirations, and joys. And the children and families come to know and trust the CSC. Relationships built on mutual respect, care, and trust make a difference to all concerned in the classroom, on the playground, in the home, and in the community.

We all know that eliminating the CSC position and assigning the responsibilities of that position to the Community School Liaison (whom I imagine is already working full-time on their current responsibilities), will result in one person being overstretched and several children and families not receiving the type of care that they need. Eliminating the CSC position will not benefit anyone, most of all the children and families who will suffer from the loss of a dedicated CSC.

On behalf of all concerned, I implore you to consider the harm that would be caused by eliminating the CSC position.

Therefore, I urge you to reconsider your proposal to eliminate the Community School Coordinator and vote to retain the Community School Coordinator position along with the Community School Liaison.

Sincerely,

Denise Diaab
Associate Pastor