

**Testimony of Young Activist Club, Piney Branch Elementary School
Before the Montgomery County Board of Education
June 14th, 2012**

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Heather DeMocker

- We are tired of waiting for this project to move forward.
- **Please put the motion to approve it as new formal business on today's agenda.**
- **And take up the motion at your next meeting before your summer break.**
- Our future and health are being impacted by polystyrene.
- You have acknowledged our schools need to find alternatives and we have a ready pilot project to test an alternative.
- It's your obligation to protect your students.
- We have money for a pilot program to test reusable trays and the Piney Branch PTA will pay for the dishwasher lease, the trays, and all installation costs, which are not that much.
- We'd also like to pay for someone's time to load, operate, and unload the dishwasher but we understand there are rules against the PTA directly paying for workers.
- We trust we can find a solution like letting Piney Branch ES keep the savings from not buying styrofoam trays to pay for the extra staff time.
- No major kitchen design is needed. Don't believe it if you're told there is.
- We've had at least 3 different experts come to the school and tell us our project could work within all MD code and for the budget we have.
- The success at Oak Park, Illinois, schools shows it is possible. Let us to do a test here. Why not?
- This pilot project deserves to go forward. It will benefit all of MCPS by sharing cost data and important information on worker hours needed to run a dishwasher. It is within your power to let this project go forward and direct staff to work with PBES staff and the PTA to implement it.
- **We're asking you to vote on this before you recess for the summer. We deserve a vote this year. Please put in on the agenda today as new business and vote to approve our dishwasher project at your next meeting.**
- Thank you in advance for your support today.