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For Immediate Release

Montgomery County Public Schools Unions Respond to County Councilmembers Funding Proposals

Rockville, MD – MCPS’s three unions, Service Employees International Union Local 500, Montgomery County Association of Administrators and Principals, and the Montgomery County Education Association, jointly commend Councilmember Will Jawando’s commitment to honoring our employee contracts and providing funding to advance our community’s school priorities.

We are also deeply concerned about Council President Natali Fani-Gonzalez’s proposed funding plan that balances the County’s budget on the backs of hardworking students and county employees and would result in the County renegeing on its commitments to MCPS educators, educator support professionals, county employees, students, and their families. “Educators rely on the contractual commitments that are made to them – they make everyday and long-term decisions based on these commitments. We are discouraged that the Council President’s plan proposes violating those commitments,” said MCEA president David Stein.

“Montgomery County cannot balance its budget on the backs of the very people who keep our schools running every single day,” said SEIU Local 500 President Pia Morrison. “Our bus drivers, paraeducators, cafeteria workers, building service staff, and office professionals are the backbone of MCPS – and they deserve to have their contracts honored, not undermined. We appreciate Councilmember Jawando’s leadership and commitment to fully funding our contracts, and we urge the full Council to do the same.”

"Our administrators and system leaders negotiated a two-year compensation agreement in good faith, grounded in a shared commitment to serve students at the highest level," added Dr. Christine Handy, President of the Montgomery County Association of Administrators and Principals. "Honoring our agreement ensures stability, supports our employees, and ultimately protects the quality of education our students deserve. The County Council must come together

to identify responsible solutions, including the use of reserves and the generation of revenue necessary to meet the needs of the community they serve. Anything less is unacceptable.”

“Councilmember Jawando shows a clear commitment to Montgomery County schools, families, and educators,” MCEA Vice President Danillya Wilson continued. “A commitment to funding our schools will have a real-world impact on all students and schools. It means smaller class sizes for MCPS students, stronger special education services, and the ability to recruit and retain the educators our students rely on every single day.

SEIU Local 500, MCAAP, and MCEA also call on the entire County Council to vote next month to fully fund next year’s school budget. “What we ultimately need to see is action from the Council to fully invest in our county’s blue-chip stock: our schools and students,” said President Stein. “The Council cannot and should not balance the County’s fiscal challenges on the backs of students and county employees.”

SEIU Local 500’s more than 20,000 members work in the public sector at colleges, universities, public schools, and nonprofits across Maryland and Washington, D.C. From the workplace to the corridors of Annapolis, we’re leading the fight to ensure employees gain the right to bargain collectively, advocating for better working conditions, and championing 21st-century benefits for a 21st-century workforce. For more information, visit www.seiu500.org.

The Montgomery County Association of Administrators and Principals (MCAAP) is an affiliate of the American Federation of School Administrators (AFSA) Local #146 and serves as the employee association and union that represents more than 850 administrators and supervisors in Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS). These positions are covered by two recognized units: the Montgomery County Association of Administrators and Principals (MCAAP) and the Montgomery County Business and Operations Administrators (MCBOA). MCAAP represents and protects the working conditions, professional, and employment interests of its members through negotiated agreements. For more information, visit mcaapmd.org.

MCEA represents more than 14,000 classroom teachers, school counselors, speech pathologists, media specialists, and other educators in Montgomery County, MD. MCEA is committed to ensuring that public schools are excellent places for students to learn and for educators to work. For more information, visit mceanea.org.