

MEMORANDUM

May 25, 2012

TO: ALBERTO CALVALHO, SUPERINTENDENT AND CABINET,
M-DCPS BOARD MEMBERS, DCSMEC MEMBERS AND
ANYONE/EVERYONE WHO IS CONCERNED WITH THE
EDUCATION OF OUR CHILDREN.

FROM: JOE CORTESE
BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVE/CHIEF NEGOTIATOR
DCSMEC

I am very concerned with the financial situation this County, State and Country find itself in. Here at M-DCPS I am sure that our calamities are no different than other School Districts. The problem is that the Federal and State Government has not provided adequate funding to maintain the infrastructure of our Schools and thus has put our children at risk. This lack of funding is not solely due to the present financial meltdown but has been an ongoing trend for the past 20+ years, although the present situation may be the proverbial "straw that breaks the camel's back". We, the extremely frustrated Maintenance workers who have been charged with the task of providing a safe, secure and conducive learning environment are at our wit's end. Twenty years ago, at M-DCPS we had twice as many maintenance personnel and half the square footage of buildings to maintain. Today we are overwhelmed, overworked and underappreciated and in the spirit of these working class heroes I offer you the following for your contemplation.

The background of the entire page is a stylized American flag. The left side features a dark blue field with white stars, while the right side shows horizontal stripes in red, white, and gold. The text is centered on the white stripes.

The Ode of the Maintenance Man

*The best years of my life I have given away.
I've worked hard for my dollar, what more can I say.*

*My back is now crooked and my knees are a wreck
It's the lot of public servants, we should get more respect.*

*It seems now were the bad guys, the whipping boys of the press,
They begrudge us our pensions for a life filled with stress.*

*For when serving the public everyone becomes boss,
To have more than one master makes few happy, most cross.*

*But I trudge on regardless through the day to day grind,
To fix schools without funding, without losing my mind.*

*For I chose public service, as my father did too.
We were proud to be needed; we gave our best years to you.*

*But the rich don't pay taxes and the big lobbyist rules,
They get plenty for the private and crumbs for public schools.*

*So our buildings are crumbling no matter how hard we try,
To keep safe our children, in frustration now we cry.*

*So heed well this warning and have a good look around,
Because where will you go, when the walls tumble down?*

Joe Cortese, May 2012