



May 25, 2001

Dear DPS Board of Education:

After reviewing the McGlone Elementary, Montbello Center for 21st Century Learning innovation plan, I want to urge you to support their innovation status. Since its' inception, the FFEE has awarded over \$3 million dollars toward the improvement of public schools and has partnered with school districts, residents, and community leaders to provide the resources far northeast Denver's children need to learn effectively. The Montbello neighborhood needs high quality schools and the McGlone innovation plan clearly raises the standards of excellence for some of our neediest DPS students.

The students at McGlone need strong advocacy to ensure that they receive equal access to high quality teachers and resources in order to accelerate student achievement. Innovation status will allow the new leadership to use their budget flexibly in order to provide 21st century resources for students who otherwise would not have access to current technology. This will allow students to develop the technology skills they will need to be successful in today's competitive world. In order to ensure that McGlone's students have high quality teachers, the new McGlone principal will also be expecting her teachers to participate in mandatory professional development that goes above and beyond typical DPS requirements.

I support McGlone's mission to "serve neighborhood families from diverse cultural, economic, and linguistic background". I also support the vision of "preparing students intellectually, linguistically, technologically, and socially, to succeed in the 21st century." The vision I have for the children in the far northeast is that they have quality schools to choose from and my hope is that innovation status will allow school leadership the ongoing flexibility it needs to develop a calendar, hire a staff, and identify a curriculum that will continually best serve the needs of its students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amy Schwartz". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "A" and "S".

Amy Schwartz
Executive Director