



them to get into a situation where the public perception was that this was the choice that had to be made.

Mrs. Shannon invited MCEA to join the Board in a search for a clue to the two-thirds of the people in the county who did not have children in the public schools. She felt that the key was to turn these people on to the schools. Dr. Eberly remarked that in conversations with Council members they did not talk about education, and he wondered whether that meant they were really not concerned about education. He asked whether the superintendent had an opportunity to negotiate before the county executive's budget target was released. The superintendent replied that he had met with Mr. Gilchrist. At that time he had reminded Mr. Gilchrist about the economic advisory committee report which stressed the need for a strong school system in Montgomery County. He explained that the executive's argument was that the schools were receiving one of the bigger percentage increases if they looked at the budget in terms of cost per pupil.

Dr. Eberly reported that the executive had promised to discuss the budget with the superintendent before the target figure was released. Mrs. Praisner commented that if this were the case they would have to decide on how to handle that conversation beforehand. If they could decide how to communicate in this circumstance, she wondered why they couldn't communicate with the general public. She felt that MCPS did an excellent job of talking to itself but didn't do a good job of talking to the rest of the county. She said they had to discuss the financial benefits to Montgomery County of having a good school system. Mr. Ewing stated that they were a vested interest group, and that raised the question of how to get to people who were not part of the vested interest group and could use their prestige to support education.

Mr. John Spitzberg stated that as a parent and taxpayer he would say to the executive that he did not have the prerogative to make a statement he would not raise taxes without involving a whole lot of people. He said they should not talk along the idea of taxes not being raised this year. He felt that it was possible to talk about a tax increase without alarming the general public. Dr. Cronin suggested that perhaps the Council would listen to the Chambers of Commerce and the realtors. Mr. Walter Rogowski called attention to the number of people who voted for the Board of Education and for Council members. He said that he had never seen so much activity around a Board election, and many people supporting the Board members did not have children in the schools. He commented that in the past three years he had not seen much Board activity at the County Council, and he had not seen quotes from Board members that the public had to come out and support the public schools and the budget of the Board of Education. He suggested that the Board call press conferences to get the public out. He indicated that MCEA would help the Board in every way possible, but they were not going to do it alone. Dr. Shoenberg felt that they had to study the budget before sounding off to the Council, and he thought that in the next few weeks there would be

opportunity to make public statements.

Mr. Robert Pine thought that they needed a proactive stance with the county executive. He had attended hearings where the public had supported the public schools and yet nothing had come of it. Dr. Cronin felt they were talking about the silent majority who did not have children in the public schools, and he wondered how they could give that silent majority a voice. It seemed to Mr. Ewing they were saying that the Board should take some leadership and start the process of involving the employee organizations as soon as possible. He indicated that the Board had not discussed this and would need to do promptly. In past years other organizations had taken the lead, and for the Board to do this would be a departure from past practice. Ms. Benita Connelly felt that the teachers would work with the Board to support the public school system.

Dr. Eberly stated that sometime in the future he would like to talk to the Board about collective bargaining. He pointed out that the budget had not been cut regarding negotiated items, and if they could expand the contract to include such things as class size they would get the funding.

Dr. Eberly reported that one of the concerns at their general assembly was the lack of heat in the schools. He felt that they had to resolve this problem. MCEA was also interested in taking some initiatives in instruction. Mr. Mark Simon reported that at this school as in other high schools they had mandated programs having to do with human relations and hate/violence activities. But while these programs were mandated, it was up to the local school and the individual teacher to do something about it. He felt that if there were good ideas at the local level these could be collected centrally and shared with other schools. He said that he had been working on an assembly program for Black History Month and if it were successful they might be interested in seeing something like this implemented on a wider scale. Mr. Ewing asked that Mr. Simon inform the Board of the date of the program.

Mrs. Praisner said she would like to talk about Board mandates and how they could allow some latitude at the local school level. Mr. Simon commented that there was a fine line here, and they had fought to safeguard teacher initiative.

Dr. Cronin stated that in relation to the bargaining process he would like to see the Board separate the two roles: contract dimensions and the classroom dimension. Dr. Eberly commented that teachers wanted to be taken seriously on instructional matters, and on occasion the teachers felt the Board had not taken them very seriously. Mr. Spitzberg reported on a discussion at the General Assembly concerning the whole structure of the EMTs. As a special education teacher, he felt that he was not being heard.

The Board and leadership of MCEA discussed the superintendent selection process including desired characteristics for the new superintendent and future directions for the school system.

Re: Elementary School Administrators

The Board and leadership of the elementary principals group discussed the superintendent selection process.

Re: Secondary School Administrators

The Board and representatives of the secondary school administrators discussed the superintendent selection process.

Re: Adjournment

The president adjourned the meeting at 11:05 p.m.

President

Secretary

EA:mlw

