

APPROVED
14-1988

Rockville, Maryland
March 1, 1988

The Board of Education of Montgomery County met in special session at the Carver Educational Services Center, Rockville, Maryland, on Tuesday, March 1, at 8:10 p.m.

ROLL CALL Present: Mrs. Sharon DiFonzo, President
in the Chair
Dr. James E. Cronin
Mr. Blair G. Ewing
Mr. Bruce A. Goldensohn
Mr. Andrew Herscowitz
Mrs. Marilyn J. Praisner
Dr. Robert E. Shoenberg

Absent: None

Others Present: Mr. Thomas S. Fess, Parliamentarian
Acting as Superintendent in the Absence
of the Superintendent

Re: ANNOUNCEMENT

Mrs. DiFonzo reported that the purpose of the meeting was to determine a list of finalists to be interviewed by the Board of Education for Mrs. Slye's seat. The Board would first establish a list of questions to be asked of the finalists.

Re: QUESTIONS FOR BOARD CANDIDATES

Board members decided on the following questions to ask of Board candidates:

1. The Board's principal activity in October and November is dealing with facilities and school boundary issues. What background do you bring to this discussion and decision-making process on these matters. (Shoenberg)
2. In the summer and fall, the Board is engaged with the superintendent in developing issues to be addressed in the operating budget. Over the past two budget seasons, since the election of the present executive and Council in 1986, the Board has experienced substantial cuts in its operating budget requests. What is your view of those reductions, what do you think was lost, if anything, and what position should the Board take in this and future years, faced with an executive and Council not supportive of school system program improvements: (a) back down, (b) keep asking for what is needed, or (c) compromise by asking for less in the hope of getting something funded? (Ewing)
3. Do you perceive of yourself as a special interest candidate? If not, what in your experience would assure the community you would be representative of a countywide perspective? (Cronin)
4. Since your term on the Board will be less than nine months, what do you see as the primary role and focus for someone who will serve on the Board for such a short period of time and what do you personally want to accomplish? (Praisner)
5. What qualifications do you have that will add to the Board's overall capability - either to complement and add to the Board's strengths or to fill the gap and correct its possible weaknesses? (Goldensohn)
6. Would you share with us your opinion on the Commission on Excellence Report and how you feel the Board should respond to that report? (DiFonzo)

7. What do you perceive as being the role of the student Board member in relation to the adult Board members? (Herscowitz)

Re: ADDITIONAL BOARD APPLICANT TO BE
CONSIDERED

Mrs. DiFonzo explained that the application of Mr. J. Ward Morrow had been postmarked February 26 and was received on February 29, which was after the February 25 deadline for receipt of applications. Mr. Herscowitz was in favor of accepting the application, and all other Board members were opposed.

Re: CERTIFICATION OF APPLICANTS

Mr. Fess reported that the supervisor of elections had stated that the 22 applicants were residents of Montgomery County and registered voters. However, there was no way of determining whether any of the applicants were subject to the authority of the Board of Education.

Re: APPLICANTS TO BE INTERVIEWED

Dr. Cronin named Mrs. Vicki Rafel. Mrs. DiFonzo named Mrs. Carol Fanconi. Mr. Ewing named Dr. Alan Cheung. Mr. Goldensohn named Mrs. Janie Johnson. Mr. Herscowitz named Mr. Graham Molitor. Mrs. Praisner had no additional names. Dr. Shoenberg named Mr. Edward Lehman. Mr. Herscowitz named Ms. Carrie Grady. Mr. Ewing named Dr. Pamela Roddy. Mr. Goldensohn, Mrs. DiFonzo, and Dr. Cronin had no additional names.

Mrs. DiFonzo pointed out that it would now take four votes to add an applicant to be interviewed and asked for nominations. There were none. Mrs. DiFonzo reported that since there were only eight semifinalists by consensus the Board decided not to narrow the field further. It was decided that the interviews would be held on March 14 and 15, starting at 7:30 p.m.

Re: ADJOURNMENT

The president adjourned the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY

TSF:mlw