

list in front of it.

Staff was requested to look at the immediate budget process in relation to public hearings. In the long-range, staff was to consider options raised by Board members and propose a process in the spring with alternatives for goal setting, community input, and long-range planning which would result in Board long-term objectives reflected in multiyear budgets.

Re: PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT PROCESS

Board members heard a presentation by Mrs. Charlotte Joseph, PIBS coordinator, on the second National Institute on Parent Involvement in Education. Staff reported on Head Start and Chapter I parental involvement and discussed various ways of involving parents in education including staff training. Already underway was a survey of all schools on their parental involvement activities. Board members were informed that criteria used to evaluate the performance of a principal included a section on how effectively the school had involved parents and the broader community. Board members discussed way of reaching those parents who were not in contact with the school as well as the need to share successful practices.

Board members agreed that MCPS already had a great deal of parental involvement but no overall goal or policy. The superintendent suggested tying together all the ongoing activities in some way that would set an overall goal for the school system for involving and helping parents. Board members said that the key issues were how they defined parental involvement in MCPS, where they were going with involvement, and how would they know when they had achieved whatever goal they set. Dr. Cronin indicated that it was now up to the Board to propose future directions on this issue.

Re: WEIGHTED ENROLLMENT/CLASS SIZE ISSUES

Dr. Pitt reported that staff had developed a paper on weighted enrollment in MCPS. Dr. Vance noted that they had suggested some variations of weighted enrollment, and while they had continued to survey school systems, it was clear that MCPS was far ahead in methods of staffing.

It seemed to Mr. Ewing that this issue had several objectives. The first was to meet the concerns of staff for dealing with the problems of workloads imposed by heterogeneity in the classroom. The second was to make mainstreaming work in its broadest sense. The other side of the coin was to avoid tracking of students. MCPS ought to be clear on why they did weighting and why they might want to do more of this in the future. He suggested building this into the goal setting process and what they wanted to accomplish. Dr. Pitt suggested that one of the things they wanted to reexamine was the pull out process for special needs. It might be well for a group of principals and curriculum people to examine this.

Dr. Shoenberg shared some enthusiasm for the present system and the ESOL method. He pointed out that in the Carnegie study there was the notion of a lead teacher who was a manager working with a variety of personnel in the classroom and asked that staff see how that notion could be applied in MCPS. Mrs. Praisner agreed with Mr. Ewing's remarks and with the idea of a committee looking into options. She also suggested looking at the flexibility pilots about this issue.

Dr. Pitt requested more time to think about a committee to look at better utilization of staff in the schools. Dr. Shoenberg suggested that this issue was one more piece for the Board's priority setting discussion. Mr. Ewing said that it was important for the Board to be clear as to why they were doing this and to have a statement in language the general public could understand.

Re: ADJOURNMENT

The president adjourned the meeting at 11:10 p.m.

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY

HP:mlw