

APPROVED
35-1998

Rockville, Maryland
November 11, 1998

The Board of Education of Montgomery County met in special session at the Carver Educational Services Center, Rockville, Maryland, on Wednesday, November 11, 1998, at 7:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL Present: Mrs. Nancy J. King, President
 in the Chair
 Mr. Geonard F. Butler, Jr.
 Dr. Alan Cheung
 Mr. Blair G. Ewing
 Mr. Reginald M. Felton
 Mrs. Beatrice B. Gordon
 Ms. Ana Sol Gutiérrez
 Mrs. Patricia O'Neill, Board Member-Elect
 Ms. Mona M. Signer

Absent: Mr. Steven Abrams, Board Member-Elect
 Dr. Paul L. Vance, Secretary/Treasurer

Re: **PUBLIC HEARING ON THE CAPITAL BUDGET AND
 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM**

The following people testified before the Board of Education:

1. Jerry Klobukowski, Poolesville Commissioners
2. Sharon Cox, MCCPTA
3. John Kerekes, Germantown Citizens Association
4. Jerry Heupel, Stephen Knolls
5. Linda Rigsby, Gaithersburg Cluster
6. Lucy McCallion, Watkins Mill Cluster
 - a. Karen Hagberg, Daly Elementary School PTA
 - b. Patti Sorensen, Neelsville Middle School PTSA
 - c. Sharon Kasnar, South Lake Elementary School PTA
 - d. Maureen Aprill, Stedwick Elementary School PTA
7. Alan W. Schwartz, Northwest Cluster
8. Larry Arch, Quince Orchard Cluster
9. Liz Smith, Poolesville Cluster
10. Laura Siegel of Bells Mill ES PTA, Churchill Cluster
11. Abby Rogers, Richard Montgomery Cluster
12. Karen Askin and Gigi Godwin, Wootton Cluster
13. Mary Ann Hess, Montgomery Blair Cluster
14. Michelle Turner, Einstein Cluster

- a. Bruce Johnson of Glen Haven Elementary School PTA
15. Kermit Burnett, Kennedy Cluster
 16. Karin Chenoweth, MCCPTA, Area I
 17. Carole Brand, Bethesda-Chevy Chase Cluster
 18. John Whitler, Walter Johnson Cluster
 19. Lafe Solomon, Whitman Cluster
 20. Robert Watters
 21. Kim Pellack
 22. Maureen Burns
 23. Hanja Chernika-Mack
 24. Kelly Olafsson
 25. Sue Davis
 26. Janet McElroy
 27. Gabriel Romero
 28. Ed Benjamin

Board of Education members made the following comments:

Mr. Ewing asked the Superintendent to respond to each point in Mr. Heupel's testimony and exhibits. The responses would give the Board a better understanding of the differences between the PTA's concerns and proposals and those of staff.

Ms. Signer requested an update on the situation at Washington Grove Elementary School regarding indoor air quality. In the CIP, the Superintendent proposed \$1.25 million for indoor air quality, and Ms. Signer asked for a list of all of the pending indoor air quality projects, the costs, the order in which those projects would be handled, and the total amount.

Mr. Felton asked for information on the boiler room at Daly Elementary School regarding what temporary measures might be used, if not permanent, and the costs. What was the perspective of the staff regarding safety?

Mr. Ewing requested information about the need for a safe drop off area at South Lake Elementary School. What was the situation? What could be done to improve that area? What would be the cost?

Mr. Ewing asked the Superintendent to provide an estimate of an addition to the Northwest High School of five more classrooms beyond what was presently proposed and ten more classrooms, and indicate what that did to the core capacity.

Ms. Signer asked the Superintendent to respond to the proposal that another addition be approved for Kingsview Middle School, why that was not in the CIP, and would an addition

be needed later.

Mr. Ewing asked for a response on Quince Orchard High School's heating and ventilation and air-conditioning system. What was the nature of the problem from the staff's point of view, what had been done, and what would it take to rectify the problem?

Mr. Ewing hoped that the Board would follow the advice in the testimony of the Quince Orchard Cluster. "The CIP should include all the legitimate capital needs of our system. Elected officials will have an accurate picture of needs only if they are included in the CIP. Self censorship was not an effective technique in achieving our goals."

Ms. Signer asked if the FACE schedule was accelerated, would the school system be able to install the air-conditioning units in time for the opening of Hoover in the fall.

Ms. Signer asked staff to respond to the issue of the plastic sheets to block the construction zones from the working classrooms at Churchill. She was under the impression that there would be fire walls and permanent barriers blocking the construction site from the students.

Ms. Signer requested information about the special education class that was proposed to be transferred to Churchill and the impact if that move was postponed.

Mr. Ewing asked staff to assess Richard Montgomery Cluster's proposal for Richard Montgomery High School and Rock Terrace School. What was the size of the site that includes Rock Terrace School and the CESC? What would be options for the creation of a new headquarters for MCPS?

Mrs. King asked for an update on the safety concerns at Lakewood Elementary School.

Mr. Ewing asked staff to provide information on what it would take to ensure that the auditorium at the old Blair would be fully usable when the new middle school opens. He thought the money should be put in the budget and, if a grant was obtained for construction costs, the budget would be reduced.

Mr. Felton requested information about partnerships that could be established with the County Council and the private sector to ensure that the auditorium at the new Blair middle school would be equipped to support the community as well as the school.

Ms. Gutiérrez asked staff to examine Eastern Middle School to ascertain what additional remedies could be provided beyond the eight-room addition. The condition of the present building was deplorable. Was the heating and air conditioning appropriate? Since modernization was not expected until 2017, what were the options of what could be done

beyond the eight-room addition or/and accelerating the modernization.

Mr. Felton asked how enrollment projections have been affected with the prospects of the revitalization of Silver Spring.

Regarding the Kennedy auditorium, Mr. Felton asked for an estimate fully equipping it to remedy the problems.

Ms. Signer requested a response to the suggestion that MCPS reopen the old Newport facility as a second middle school in the Einstein Cluster.

Ms. Signer asked for a response on the proposal that MCPS construct the four master planned classrooms at Glen Haven Elementary School.

Mr. Ewing remarked on the overcrowding at Montgomery Blair High School and the possibility of closing the school to out-of-area students (which would be a disaster to Blair). There needed to be some creative thought about a solution, such as a second high school.

In the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Cluster's testimony, Ms. Signer asked what staff could do to expedite and support a traffic light on East West Highway east of Chelton Road.

Ms. Gutiérrez asked for information on a plan to propose that the state support funding for air conditioning. What might be available? What action could be taken?

Given the projections for Walter Johnson High School's enrollment from 2002 until the modernization was completed, Mr. Ewing asked why the proposal was to add only 14 rooms when the school will be overcrowded the day the 14 rooms were available for use. He wanted more detail on what the data showed, and why staff did not propose a larger addition.

Mr. Ewing asked what was the feasibility and cost per year of accelerating the FACE air-conditioning initiative in order to complete the project in two years rather than three years.

The meeting ended at 10:10 p.m.

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY

PLV:gr