

APPROVED
37-1999

Rockville, Maryland
November 11, 1999

The Board of Education of Montgomery County met in special session at the Carver Educational Services Center, Rockville, Maryland, on Thursday, November 11, 1999 at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL Present: Mrs. Patricia O'Neill, Vice President
 in the Chair
 Mr. Stephen Abrams
 Mr. Kermit V. Burnett
 Mrs. Beatrice B. Gordon
 Mrs. Nancy J. King
 Ms. Mona M. Signer
 Dr. Jerry Weast, Secretary/Treasurer

Absent: Mr. Reginald M. Felton
 Laura Sampedro, Student Board Member

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

The following people testified before the Board of Education:

1. Jerry Klobukowski, Town of Poolesville
2. Marilyn Balcombe, Clopper Mill West HOA
3. Frank Vrataric, Connecticut Avenue/Greenwood Knolls Citizens Association
4. Sally Sternbach, Chair, Silver Spring Regional Advisory Board
5. Diane Creed, Longview School
6. Kate Hurson, Carl Sandburg Parent Association
7. Tom Schick, Area 7 Cluster
8. Lafe Solomon, Whitman Cluster
9. Nick Farson, Wheaton Cluster
10. Marnie Jacobs, Walter Johnson Cluster
11. Carole Brand, Bethesda-Chevy Chase Cluster
12. Bill Waller, Kennedy Cluster (submitted written testimony)
13. Einstein Cluster – Michelle Turner
14. Heidi Coleman, Montgomery Blair Cluster
15. Carol Sheridan, Seneca Valley Cluster
16. Liz Smith, Poolesville Cluster
17. Larry Arch, Quince Orchard Cluster
18. Al Schwartz, Northwest Cluster
19. Gabriel Romero, Watkins Mill Cluster
20. Terry Schott, Magruder Cluster
21. Linda Rigsby, Gaithersburg Cluster
22. Dale Ryan, Damascus Cluster

23. Stephanie Jones
24. Merikay Smith
25. Carolyn Malone
26. Timothy Greene
27. Patti Giglio
28. Gail Melson
29. Andres Mejia
30. Debbie Klein
31. Carla Kish
32. Barbara Shulman
33. Jeff Chasen
34. Greg Cox
35. Robert Harris
36. Karyn McAuliffe
37. Sharon Constantine
38. Stephen Kaufman
39. Troy Priest
40. Richard Batch
41. Donna Beausoleil Brown
42. Jeannette Hayes
43. Geoff Edger
44. Jim Patterson
45. Maureen McNamara

Board of Education members asked the following questions or made the following comments:

1. Ms. Signer asked for clarification from staff about the issues raised by Mr. Solomon regarding the numbers of rooms currently in use in Whittier Woods and the number proposed to be used. Please clarify which of those rooms are science labs.
2. Ms. Signer asked Mrs. Jacobs to share thoughts with the Board before action is taken on the Town of Kensington's proposal for unification of students into the Walter Johnson Cluster.
3. Mr. Abrams noted that the Einstein Cluster had the same issue of unification with the Town of Kensington's proposal. The boundary review process could be accomplished in the spring if there is support from the two clusters.
4. Regarding Wheaton Cluster's testimony, Mr. Abrams asked staff to provide middle school options for meeting the capacity as presented in the testimony. How much would it cost?
5. Regarding Whitman Cluster's testimony, Mr. Abrams wanted to know the cost

comparisons of an addition to the high school versus the renovation of Whittier Woods. What would be perceived uses of Whittier Woods if the additional capacity was not obtained on that site.

6. Mr. Abrams suggested that the Blair Cluster strongly communicate with their delegates on the formula for state-funded construction to address capacity issues.
7. Mr. Abrams asked the Einstein Cluster if they could provide the Board with more specificity as to why a boundary review process should not be initiated regarding the Einstein and Walter Johnson cluster and the Town of Kensington. This should be differentiated from other clusters where this issue has been raised.
8. Ms. Signer asked staff for a brief rationale for the collocation for Stephen Knolls and Glen Haven. What is the educational rationale? What would be the impact on the operating budget for separate facilities and a collocated facility?
9. Regarding Blair Cluster's testimony, Ms. Signer wanted to know what additional capacity would be available in the school if the Level 4 special education is not moved there. What is the alternative for the placement of that program in the interim?
10. Mrs. O'Neill asked for the status and process for community involvement in looking at options or plans for Montgomery Blair High School.
11. In the spirit of collaboration, Mr. Abrams thought that Quince Orchard and Northwest clusters could develop an informal process for a more amicable and accelerated boundary adjustment to address demographics. In pursuing an alternative, he charged them to explore the ideas of informal collaboration prior to boundary process in an attempt to alleviate the inflexibility of the process. Again, he urged the clusters to communicate with their delegates to change the formula for state-funded construction.
12. Mrs. King noted that last spring there was a list of items that needed to be repaired at Poolesville High School. She asked for a comparison of last spring's list and the current list given to the Board.
13. Mr. Abrams suggested a temporary allocation of students from Redland Middle School to Shady Grove Middle School, and asked the clusters if they could present a proposal.
14. Mr. Abrams wanted to know from the Gaithersburg Cluster and the Mayor of Gaithersburg about the students from the King Farm development in relationship

to the Richard Montgomery Cluster's proposal.

15. Mrs. King asked how many schools were left in the county without air conditioning.
16. Mrs. King asked what about the feasibility of portable air conditioning for Montgomery Village Middle School prior to modernization. What would it cost?
17. Mrs. King asked about the student access to Southlake Elementary School. Please provide an update on the plans for Southlake.
18. Ms. Signer wanted an update on the facility modifications that were to be made to Gaithersburg High School. What is the status of the air quality issues? Are there delays in the upgrade of Global Access technology? How does their technology compare with other high schools that received Global Access at the same time?

The hearing ended at 10:10 p.m.

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY

JDW:gr