



Board members made the following comments and asked the following questions:

1. Mr. Abrams noted Ms. Barnes' emphasis on the athletic programs, and the relationship between the educational and athletic programs. He asked her to mobilize MCCPTA to contact delegates in Annapolis regarding Del. Dembrow's bill. This bill would be devastating because it would mandate a reduction in budget with no strategies for replacement of the funds. Mrs. O'Neill reminded those present that the senate delegation was scheduled to take up the bill on January 27, 2000.
2. Mr. Abrams again suggested that parents in the Blair Cluster contact Del. Dembrow and Sen. Reuben since sports and extracurricular activities would be significantly impacted if Del. Dembrow's bill is enacted.
3. Mrs. Gordon asked how many instructional assistants are in each elementary school, including all different categories of IAs such as Title I, first and second grade IAs, and general IAs.
4. Mrs. Gordon asked for information on the results of the Head Start pilot that was instituted two years ago.
5. Mrs. Gordon asked if the state had made any decision on whether or not the high school assessment for algebra would require the use of graphing calculators.
6. Regarding the Blair Cluster's recommendation of an after-school academic program, Mr. Felton asked what it would cost in terms of teacher stipends and transportation.
7. Regarding Einstein Cluster's testimony, Mr. Burnett asked if elementary school assistant principals would be assigned based on the impact of the need of students.
8. Mrs. O'Neill asked about East Silver Spring Elementary School and Head Start. What is the status and is there an expansion of Head Start?
9. Mrs. O'Neill noted MCCPTA's testimony about buses for athletics and asked if there were other alternatives in terms of scheduling athletic events that would keep student athletes in school. How many students are involved? What is the cost of adding buses for athletics?
10. Regarding the Northeast Consortium's testimony, Mr. Felton noted the counselor to student ratio of 1:250. He asked for the national guidelines and how does that compare to the state and MCPS.

11. Ms. Signer wanted to know how and to what extent the surrounding jurisdictions fund athletics.
12. Mrs. Gordon noted that there were additional building service worker positions in the budget. She had heard that there is a problem when building service workers are absent since there were no substitutes to replace them. She asked if the addition of more building service worker positions would address that issue.
13. After Sherwood Cluster's testimony, Mrs. Gordon noted that Chief Moose of the Montgomery County Police had an initiative of placing student resource officers in high schools. She hoped the clusters would give the Board feedback on this initiative.
14. Mr. Burnett tied his question to the Northeast Consortium's and the Pupil Personnel Association's testimony. He asked how many PPWs had bilingual skills and what has been done to recruit more PPWs with bilingual skills.
15. Mrs. O'Neill asked what assistance MCPS provides employees to receive the special certification necessary to become a PPW.
16. Mr. Felton asked for an update on PPWs in other school systems in terms of student-staff ratios.
17. Mrs. King asked how much it would cost to add an extra month to make teachers 11-month employees. (Ms. Mast's testimony)
18. Mr. Burnett asked for information on how many psychologists were bilingual and the efforts in place to increase their number.
19. Ms. Signer asked what the current pupil-teacher ratio was for elementary ESOL.
20. Ms. Sampedro asked how many school counselors are bilingual.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

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PRESIDENT

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SECRETARY

JDW:gr