

APPROVED
28-2000

Rockville, Maryland
November 8, 2000

The Board of Education of Montgomery County met in special session at the Carver Educational Services Center, Rockville, Maryland, on Wednesday, November 8, 2000, at 7:15 p.m.

ROLL CALL Present: Mrs. Patricia B. O'Neill, President
 in the Chair
 Mr. Stephen Abrams
 Mr. Kermit V. Burnett
 Ms. Sharon Cox, Board Member-Elect
 Mr. Reginald M. Felton
 Mrs. Beatrice B. Gordon
 Mrs. Nancy J. King
 Mr. Walter Lange, Board Member-Elect
 Mr. Christopher Lloyd, Student Board Member
 Ms. Mona M. Signer
 Dr. Jerry Weast, Secretary/Treasurer

Absent: None

RESOLUTION NO. 726-00 Re: **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

On recommendation of the Superintendent and on motion of Mr. Felton seconded by Mr. Burnett, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

Resolved, That the Board of Education approve its agenda for November 8, 2000.

Re: **BOUNDARY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR
ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS IN THE SENECA
VALLEY CLUSTER**

Mr. Joseph Lavorgna, director of the Department of Planning and Capital Programming, gave the background, community involvement, committee criteria, and the committee evaluation of the options. The Superintendent has recommended Option 6, which would result in the reassignment of a number of communities west of Route 270 to elementary schools closer to them that have space available. In regard to zones used in the boundary committee process, this recommendation would result in the following assignments:

- Zone R5 from Dr. Sally K. Ride Elementary School to S. Christa McAuliffe Elementary School
- Zone R4B and Zone R7 from Dr. Sally K. Ride Elementary School to Waters Landing Elementary School
- Zone R4A from Dr. Sally K. Ride Elementary School to Lake Seneca

- Elementary School
Zones WL2 and WL3 from Waters Landing Elementary School to Lake Seneca Elementary School

The recommended boundaries would be implemented for the 2001-02 school year. This recommendation includes phasing in boundary changes, with students in Kindergarten and Grades 1-4 affected in 2001-02.

Re: DISCUSSION

Mrs. King inquired about the Sally K. Ride Elementary School's area that goes into the Seneca Valley Cluster. How long will this boundary change remain, and how soon would there be another boundary decision for Ride? Mr. Lavorgna replied that when the Clarksburg High School is opened, there will be another boundary study. Mr. Crispell thought the elementary boundaries would remain stable.

Mr. Felton asked how the community's criteria were supported by the Superintendent's recommendation. Mr. Lavorgna replied that the recommendation, as evaluated by the Boundary Committee, meets most of the criteria, except moving the minimum number of students and split articulation for middle school assignments.

Mr. Felton wanted to know the differences in ESOL, FARMS, and minority students. Mr. Lavorgna replied that the racial composition, ESOL, and FARMS would not change significantly as a result of the new student assignments.

Mrs. O'Neill asked about the construction and enrollment projections for Christa McAuliffe and Fox Chapel elementary schools. Mr. Lavorgna answered that both communities were mature, and there was no significant growth in those areas.

**Re: BOUNDARY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR
NORTHWEST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL #6**

Mr. Joseph Lavorgna, director of the Department of Planning and Capital Programming, gave the background, community involvement, committee criteria, and the committee evaluation of the options. The Superintendent recommended Option #4A, which would result in the reassignment of most of the new development in the area south of Clopper Road to the new school (Zones 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, and 15), as well as the reassignment of the Rolling Hills Apartment community (Zone 2), to the new Northwest Elementary School #6. Northwest Elementary School #6 is now under construction within Zone 10 at 13902 Bromfield Road, Germantown, Maryland. The recommended boundaries would be implemented in September 2001 with the opening of Northwest Elementary School #6. The recommendation includes phasing in the boundary change, with the new school opening with Kindergarten and Grades 1-4, so that all Grade 5 students in the 2001-02 school year continue their assignment at Ronald McNair Elementary School. This recommendation is presented in a map at the end of this paper.

Accompanying the map is a table displaying the effect of the recommendation on school enrollments and demographics.

The recommendation creates a split assignment for the large Woodcliffe Park community. This community of more than 1,200 housing units is incorporated in Zones 11, 12, 13, and 14. Active home construction and occupancy are under way only in Zone 12. Construction of homes in Zones 11, 13, and 14 has not yet begun. The recommendation retains Zone 11 in Ronald McNair Elementary School and reassigns Zones 12, 13, and 14 to Northwest Elementary School #6.

Re: **OVERVIEW OF THE SUPERINTENDENT'S
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PLAN AND
RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Recommended FY 2002 Capital Budget and Amendments to the FY 2001-2006 CIP represent what is required to provide the facility needs for MCPS students in growing communities, for the modernization of older facilities, and to continue program initiatives to promote student performance. The expenditure recommendation totals \$166.7 million for FY 2002, an increase of \$36.4 million over the approved FY 2002 Capital Budget, and totals \$762.5 million for the six-year period, an increase of \$107.0 million over the Adopted FY 2001-2006 CIP. These figures represent the increasing cost in construction and the growing and diverse needs of county schools. The capital improvements made through this CIP are investments in the future of Montgomery County children, the economic vitality of local communities, and ultimately the quality of life in the county.

Re: **DISCUSSION**

Mrs. King noted the predictions for enrollment; however, parents complain about the over-enrollment of their schools. Mr. Crispell replied that 88 percent of the schools were within 5 percent of the projections.

Mr. Felton inquired about state funding formula, and the MCPS class-size initiative. Dr. Weast replied that the common wisdom is that MCPS should receive 50-percent funding for construction from the state; in reality, however, it is more like 20 to 25 percent. Because of the MCPS need for space and construction costs, MCPS will seek a legislative change to the formula. Due to the rising costs of construction, the funds for one elementary school were lost this past year.

Mr. Felton thought the school system should explain the state's funding formula to the community. Mr. Lavorgna said he was on a work group that was meeting with the state's school construction staff about square-foot allocations, class-size reductions and all-day kindergarten. Dr. Weast added that special education and ESOL programs in MCPS are growing disproportionately to other counties. In his opinion, MCPS must get more capital dollars or envision other models of utilizing time.

Mrs. O'Neill noted there was a consideration of a two-tiered school time at Montgomery Blair High School. Therefore, the Board may have to look at the impact on high schools in the near future. Dr. Weast agreed that staff will need to research alternatives if enrollment continues to grow.

Ms. Signer said if Greenwood Elementary School's gymnasium was not built in 2002, it would not have a construction project and would fall further down the list on the point ranking. Mr. Lavorgna replied that was right.

Mrs. King asked the Superintendent to keep the Board informed on the relocation of the Gateway Alternative Program.

Mr. Felton asked what type of dialogue about the Damascus Cluster that the MCPS staff was having with Council staff. Mr. Lavorgna replied that staff had briefed the Montgomery County Office of Management and Budget on the CIP strategies and John T. Baker Middle School. Mr. Felton asked if there was a commitment from the County Council's representative from that area. Mr. Lavorgna replied that she had been briefed, and she understands the needs and is aware of the costs.

Mrs. King asked about Damascus High School's hallways, which are very congested, and said the community is asking if there is any way to ameliorate the situation. Mr. Hawes replied that there was not a simple solution. A new corridor in the back of the school would cost about \$1 million. The real answer is to relieve the overcrowding in the school.

Mr. Lloyd asked about the modernization projects and new school construction. How much is the added cost factor in building schools up rather than out? Mr. Lavorgna replied that new schools have three-story elements. Beyond three stories, different building structures and fire ratings drive the costs up. Mr. Hawes added that it is 5 -10 percent cheaper to go up rather than out.

Mrs. King asked about South Lake Elementary School and the six-room addition. The community is concerned about safe access and if access to the school would change with the addition. Mr. Lavorgna stated the safe-access project for that school will be looked at through the feasibility study.

Mrs. Gordon asked the Superintendent to provide information on why the Page Elementary School modernization has two less regular classrooms. Mr. Hawes volunteered to meet with Mrs. Gordon at school to discuss the modernization.

Mrs. Gordon asked the Superintendent to consider the Wheaton community's desire for an early childhood center when Connecticut Park is reopened. Mr. Felton would like a collaboration with the program staff and facilities staff to ascertain the best educational setting for children. Ms. Signer asked where the programs housed in Connecticut Park would go. Mr. Bowers stated that staff is constantly looking for options to house staff.

Mrs. O'Neill noted that Parkland Middle School was overutilized, and she was concerned about the impact of capacity on the educational programs at the school. Dr. Weast stated that staff was examining all aspects of the educational programs with the facility issues, and staff would be analyzing possible alternatives.

Mrs. Gordon asked the Superintendent to correct the legislative districts in the CIP.

RESOLUTION NO. 727-00 Re: **ADJOURNMENT**

On recommendation of the Superintendent and on motion of Mr. Abrams seconded by Mrs. King, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

Resolved, That the Board of Education adjourn its meeting at 9:05 p.m.

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY

JDW:gr