APPROVED 23-2002

Rockville, Maryland September 18, 2002

The Board of Education of Montgomery County met in special session at the Carver Educational Services Center, Rockville, Maryland, on Wednesday, September 18, 2002, at 6:55 p.m.

ROLL CALL	Present:	 Mr. Reginald M. Felton, President in the Chair Mr. Kermit V. Burnett Ms. Sharon W. Cox Mr. Walter N. Lange Mrs. Patricia O'Neill Dr. Jerry Weast, Secretary/Treasurer
	Absent:	Mr. Stephen Abrams

Absent: Mr. Stephen Abrams Mr. Mihyar Alnifaidy, Student Board Member Mrs. Nancy J. King

The Board of Education met with the Executive Board of the Montgomery County Association of Administrative and Supervisory Personnel (MCAASP) and discussed the following topics:

- 1. Board of Education Goals for 2002-03
- 2. Extended learning opportunities
- 3. Assuring and maintaining safe schools
- 4. Administrative staffing
- 5. A&S Professional Growth System

After introductions and welcome, Dr. Shirley thanked the Board for agreeing with the philosophy and concept of the structure of the union, and he asked the Board about its goals for the immediate future. Board members responded that they thought it was important to stay the course with the initiatives set in place over the past three years. The Grading and Reporting Policy will be a major change, and other important policies will be reviewed and revised, as needed. Other areas of priority include staff training, parent involvement, professional development, leadership and the expanding roles of principals.

Board members noted that the perception is that MCPS is a bureaucracy, and parents do not feel welcome. People get upset with the process; not the answer. There needs to be a positive message sent into the community about school improvement and staying the course with the initiatives.

The refreshment of technology is a concern, and technology support is stretched thin. Partnerships are part of the answer, but businesses are amazed by what MCPS does with antiquated equipment. Another issue is communicating with parents and providing translations – both written and oral.

The administrative staffing, especially in elementary schools, is in need of review. This is critical since the principal is the instructional leader, who supervises staff and must evaluate professional staff using the new system. A MCAASP subcommittee is reviewing several models of school governance. If a new school governance model is adopted, it might help with the recruitment of new principals. Resource and staff development teachers should be encouraged to seek careers in administration since they are already school-based leaders.

The committee studying the Professional Growth System will have a report in March. Process has been slow, but it is important to develop something that will last.

An alternative setting for a disruptive student is preferable to an expulsion/suspension of a student. Therefore, alternative centers should be expanded so that students can remain in an educational setting. If student achievement is bolstered, there is a possibility that there would be less need for disciplinary action and alternative centers.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY

JDW:gr