

APPROVED
2-2008

Rockville, Maryland
January 9, 2008

The Board of Education of Montgomery County met in special session at the Carver Educational Services Center, Rockville, Maryland, on Wednesday, January 9, 2008, at 7:05 p.m.

Present: Mrs. Nancy Navarro, President
in the Chair
Ms. Shirley Brandman
Ms. Sharon Cox
Mr. Ben Moskowitz
Mrs. Patricia O'Neill
Dr. Jerry Weast, Secretary/Treasurer

Absent: Mr. Steve Abrams
Mr. Christopher Barclay
Dr. Judy Docca

Re: **FY 2009 OPERATING BUDGET HEARING**

The following people testified before the Board of Education:

1. Jerry Klobukowski, Commissioner of Poolesville
2. Jacob Weisman, student, Montgomery Blair High School
3. Alexis Eauclair-Holub and Megan Gotiangco, students
4. Luis Botello, individual
5. Jane de Winter, President of MCCPTA
6. Valerie Rivers, Gaithersburg Cluster
7. Pam Moomau, Walter Johnson Cluster
8. Deborah Missal, Bethesda-Chevy Chase Cluster
9. Karen Smith, Wheaton Cluster
10. Karen Sullivan, Kennedy Cluster
11. Faye Nabavian, Einstein Cluster
12. Pete Lafen, Blair Cluster
13. Juan Johnson, Seneca Valley Cluster
14. Paul Morrison, Quince Orchard Cluster
15. Sarah Defnet, Poolesville Cluster
16. Susan Burkinshaw, Northwest Cluster
17. Susan Conbere
18. Joan Blair
19. Karen Leggett
20. Rosemary Dove
21. Alma Orellana
22. Lisa Wroblewski

23. Laurie Lewis
24. Mark Ezrin
25. Rita Lewi
26. Carla Satinsky
27. Janice Miller
28. Gadi Romen
29. Berhanu Bedane
30. Charlie Majane
31. Patrick Herendeen
32. Diane Raynes

The Board of Education asked the following questions:

1. Mrs. O'Neill asked about guidance counselors. She asked for a summary of the improvements this year in high and middle school guidance counselors. What is the current ratios at high school? What would be the anticipated distribution of these additional elementary counselors?
2. Mrs. O'Neill inquired about 11th graders taking the PSAT paid for by MCPS rather than the 9th graders. Have the high school principals taken a position? After Dr. Lacey explained the decision of the school system, Mrs. O'Neill asked that the Board of Education be updated as appropriate.
3. Ms. Cox remarked about Walter Johnson Cluster's testimony on support for lunch hour aides. There was information about maintenance issues within the cluster. Where is the priority within the cluster? Have there been issues due to a lack of supervision during lunch? The cluster coordinator answered the questions.
4. Ms. Brandman asked for information as to the cost of an indoor air quality team.
5. In reference to the proposed six parent outreach coordinators, Mrs. O'Neill asked for the job description of the proposed positions. Where does MCPS currently have parent outreach specialists now? Are there performance measures to evaluate their effectiveness? How is it envisioned that these six additional positions would be deployed?
6. Ms. Brandman asked about the impact on classroom teaching and learning from the reductions in the magnet and immersion positions. She wanted a brief description about the anticipation on how that might be implemented, and what is the impact.
7. Mrs. Navarro inquired about the parent outreach positions, and what would be the training. There is a need to standardize the expectation of the positions and understand the flexibility to adapt to individual schools.
8. Ms. Cox asked for data on the safety issues regarding lunch hour aides.

- Have there been complaints? Have there been incidents?
9. Regarding the parent community coordinators, Ms. Cox asked if there is not a program that defines the responsibility in coordinating activities. Does MCPS have anything in place that evaluates the effectiveness of those positions. If so, what is it? What information is available?
 10. Ms. Cox noted there were a number of speakers that mentioned the need for program evaluation. She mentioned that the Board will be discussing this topic in the spring.
 11. Ms. Cox referred to the frustration with crossing guards and school safety. Has the community asked MCPS for a review of safety? Ms. Cox asked staff to check with the principal at Lakelands Park Middle School to ascertain the efforts that have been made.
 12. Regarding Seneca Valley Cluster's testimony, Ms. Brandman asked about IB Middle Years programs. How many programs does MCPS have, where are those programs, and what is the cost of one program?
 13. Ms. Cox wanted information about where there are high school IB programs and are there middle years programs in those clusters?
 14. Mrs. O'Neill referred to the support for the middle school magnet consortium. She noted that the superintendent's recommendation is \$1.2 million, and Mrs. O'Neill asked how those funds would be deployed by school and positions. Is transportation for out-of-area included in the funds? What is the cost of the transportation for students residing outside the consortium? What is the dollar amount of the savings for the other magnets for the release period?
 15. Ms. Cox requested information on the testimony of Janice Miller about the speech/language pathologists and the ratios. There is nothing mentioned in the summary about a reduction. What is the history for the past three years for related service providers? What are the numbers? What are the ratios?
 16. Ms. Cox inquired about speech/language pathologists, and the presentation from ASHA about workload. What has happened? Has that affected the staffing decision?
 17. Ms. Brandman asked if there were other reductions not reflected in the summary, and whether they are driven by enrollment or other factors. Could those be listed in an index?
 18. Ms. Navarro was interested in the realignment of parent support within the system. She stated that she would draft a memorandum to staff.

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY

JDW:gr