

APPROVED
14-2009

Rockville, Maryland
May 26, 2009

The Board of Education of Montgomery County met at the Carver Educational Services Center, Rockville, Maryland, on May 26, 2009, at 6:20 p.m.

Present: Ms. Shirley Brandman, President
in the Chair
Mr. Christopher Barclay
Ms. Laura Berthiaume
Dr. Judy Docca
Mr. Timothy Hwang, Student Board Member-Elect
Mr. Philip Kauffman
Mrs. Patricia O'Neill
Dr. Jerry Weast, Secretary/Treasurer

Absent: Ms. Quratul-Ann Malik
Mrs. Nancy Navarro

or () indicates student vote does not count. Four votes needed for adoption.

RESOLUTION NO. 247-09 Re: **RESOLUTION FOR CLOSED SESSION**

On recommendation of the superintendent and on motion of Ms. Berthiaume seconded by Mrs. O'Neill, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present:

WHEREAS, The Board of Education of Montgomery County is authorized by the *State Government Article* of the *Annotated Code of Maryland* to conduct certain meetings or portions of its meetings in closed sessions; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board of Education of Montgomery County conduct a closed session on May 26, 2009, in Room 120 from 5:30 to 6:00 p.m. to acquit its administrative functions, which are outside the purview of the Open Meetings Act under Section 10-503(a) of the *State Government Article*; and be it further

Resolved, That this closed session continue until the completion of business.

** Mrs. O'Neill was temporarily out of the room

Re: **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

RESOLUTION NO. 248-09 Re: **AMENDMENT OF THE AGENDA**

On recommendation of the superintendent and on motion of Mr. Barclay seconded by Dr. Docca, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present:

Resolved, That the Board of Education amend its agenda to place Item 6.4 (Filling of Board Vacancy) after Board/Superintendent Comments.

RESOLUTION NO. 249-09 Re: **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

On recommendation of the superintendent and on motion of Mr. Barclay seconded by Dr. Docca, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present:

Resolved, That the Board of Education approve its agenda, as amended, for May 26, 2009.

** Mrs. O'Neill joined the meeting.

RESOLUTION NO. 250-09 Re: **CHAMPIONS FOR CHILDREN AWARDS**

On recommendation of the superintendent and on motion of Mrs. O'Neill seconded by Mr. Barclay, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present:

WHEREAS, The Champions for Children Awards were first presented by the Montgomery County Business Roundtable for Education in 2002; and

WHEREAS, The Champions for Children Awards are presented annually to the Outstanding Administrator or Supervisor of the Year, the Teacher of the Year, the Supporting Services Employee of the Year, the Volunteer Champion for Children, the Washington Post Distinguished Educational Leadership Award, the Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher Award, the 2009 Rookie Teacher of the Year, and the Business Champion for Children; and

WHEREAS, The Montgomery County Board of Education is proud to recognize the following recipients:

- ◆ Dr. Edward Shirley Award for Excellence in Educational Administration and Supervision—Mrs. Sandra E. Sengstack, certification coordinator, Office of Human Resources;
- ◆ Montgomery County Teacher of the Year—Mr. Bryan S. Goehring, science teacher, Takoma Park Middle School;

- ◆ Washington Post Distinguished Educational Leadership Award—Mrs. Cheryl D. Pulliam, principal, Oakland Terrace Elementary School;
- ◆ Washington Post Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher Award—Ms. Diane Kolata, Grade 5 teacher, Chevy Chase Elementary School;
- ◆ 2009 Rookie Teacher of the Year—Ms. Jaclyn E. Klueger, Grade 3 teacher, Sequoyah Elementary School;
- ◆ SEIU Local 500 Supporting Services Employee of the Year—Mrs. Feri Jahanmir, office assistant, Ridgeview Middle School;
- ◆ Volunteer Champion for Children—Arcola Elementary School Parent Teacher Association; and
- ◆ Business Champion for Children—Northrop Grumman Information Systems

now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Montgomery County Board of Education and the superintendent of schools recognize and honor our staff members and community partners who by their hard work, vision, and achievements are creating a better tomorrow for our students.

RESOLUTION NO. 250(a)-09 Re: **RECOGNITION OF THE ASIAN AMERICAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS**

On recommendation of the superintendent and on motion of Mrs. O'Neill seconded by Mr. Barclay, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present:

WHEREAS, The Asian American Education Association has awarded four \$1,000 scholarships to Montgomery County Public Schools students of Asian or Pacific Island descent who are planning to major in education and pursue a career as an elementary or secondary teacher; and

WHEREAS, The Asian American Education Association encourages and appreciates future educators from diverse heritages; and

WHEREAS, Montgomery County values and honors the contributions of Asian American students to our country, our state, our county, and our schools; and

| WHEREAS, The Board of Education is proud that Montgomery County Public Schools'

continues to recognize the accomplishments and contributions of Asian American students; now therefore be it

Resolved, That on behalf of the superintendent of schools, and Montgomery County Public Schools staff members, students, and parents, the members of the Board of Education congratulate the recipients of this year's Asian American Education Association awards:

Ms. Jennifer Park from Paint Branch High School
Ms. Vivi Sperling from Walt Whitman High School
Mr. Lixin Sun from Albert Einstein High School
Ms. Donna Yang from Thomas S. Wootton High School

RESOLUTION NO. 250(b)-09 Re: **THE GEORGE B. THOMAS, SR. LEARNING
ACADEMY, INC. HIGH ACHIEVEMENT
SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS**

On recommendation of the superintendent and on motion of Mrs. O'Neill seconded by Mr. Kauffman, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present:

WHEREAS, The George B. Thomas, Sr. Learning Academy, Inc. has awarded thirteen \$1,000 scholarships to students residing in Montgomery County, all of whom attend the Montgomery County Public Schools; and

WHEREAS, The George B. Thomas, Sr. Learning Academy, Inc. High Achievement Scholarship Program, sponsored by Verizon Maryland, rewards students who evidence high academic achievement and who have either consistently attended the Learning Academy or provided consistent, quality service to the Learning Academy as a volunteer tutor; and

WHEREAS, Montgomery County values and celebrates the contributions of our students' diverse backgrounds to our county, our state, and our country; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Education is proud that Montgomery County Public Schools continues to recognize the achievements of its diverse student body and its community partners; now therefore be it

Resolved, That on behalf of the superintendent of schools, staff members, students, and parents of the Montgomery County Public Schools, the members of the Board of Education congratulate the recipients of The George B. Thomas, Sr. Learning Academy, Inc. High Achievement Scholarship awards.

RESOLUTION NO. 250(c)-09 Re: **RESOLUTION ON RECOGNITION OF MCPS-UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIPS**

On recommendation of the superintendent and on motion of Mrs. O'Neill seconded by Mr. Barclay, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present: WHEREAS, Montgomery County Public Schools celebrates its commitment to work with local higher education institutions to bring the best possible professional development opportunities to our staff; and

WHEREAS, Montgomery County Public Schools recognizes and celebrates the 288 graduates of our 2008-2009 higher education partnerships; and

WHEREAS, Montgomery County Public Schools recognizes and celebrates the myriad programs that our higher education partners bring to our support professionals and teachers; and

WHEREAS, These partnerships include programs that allow support professionals to become teachers and earn bachelor's and master's degrees along with certification in special education, elementary education, and library media science; and

WHEREAS, Professional staff can earn master's degrees and certification in special education, human development, administration and supervision, mathematics education, science education, gifted and talented education, instructional technology, library media science, and a doctorate in educational policy and administration; and

WHEREAS, Montgomery County Public Schools recognizes and celebrates the contributions of Bowie State University, Columbia Union College, Hood College, The Johns Hopkins University, McDaniel College, Montgomery College, Towson University, The George Washington University, The University of Maryland at College Park, University of Maryland University College, and University of Maryland Baltimore County to the professional development of our support professionals, teachers, and administrators; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Education is proud that Montgomery County Public Schools continues to partner with its local higher education institutions; now therefore be it

Resolved, That on behalf of the superintendent of schools and all Montgomery County Public Schools staff members, the members of the Board of Education congratulate and recognize our higher education partners and their graduates for their contributions to the school system.

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Re: PUBLIC COMMENTS

The following people testified before the Board of Education:

<u>Person</u>	<u>Topic</u>
1. Aidan Chambers	Styrofoam Products in the Cafeteria
2. Ted Willard	Middle School Reform
3. Rosanne Hurwitz	Walter Johnson Artificial Turf
4. Anne Ambler	Walter Johnson Artificial Turf
5. Kathleen Michels	Walter Johnson Artificial Turf
6. Doug Lechluder	Merits of Natural Turf
7. Peter Murphy	Artificial Turf

Re: DISCUSSION

Ms. Berthiaume had several questions about the installation of artificial turf at Walter Johnson High School:

- a) Is there a hold harmless agreement with the turf vendor?
- b) Who is liable if MCPS is sued?
- c) Is the product guaranteed to be lead free?
- d) Are there other chemicals in the artificial turf?
- e) Will the turf leach chemicals and, if so, will the fields be closed?
- f) Will the fields be monitored?

Mr. Barclay thought it was important to get clear information on the artificial turf. If there are carcinogens, what is the level and exposure that would be harmful? What is the rate of exposure?

Re: BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

Mr. Hwang stated that he was please to be a member of the Board, and he looked forward to working together this coming year.

Mr. Barclay welcomed Mr. Hwang to the Board of Education to represent the views of students and participate in discussions. He commented on the graduation of students from Alternative Programs, and he congratulated the students for passing the HSAs and course requirements. Finally, he participated in the African American Festival of Academic Excellence. He said it was a fantastic opportunity to see the students and families participate in the festival.

Dr. Docca reported that she had attended (1) a meeting with students interested in environmental issues; (2) a performance of the National Philharmonic at Strathmore Hall with middle school students; (3) an opera at Farmland Elementary School; (4) Montgomery College's commencement; (5) the African American Festival of Academic Excellence; and (6) the ACT-SO Awards.

Dr. Weast commented that more than 10,000 high school students and students in alternative programs are graduating and receiving diplomas from MCPS this spring. Thirty-one schools and programs have scheduled graduation ceremonies through June 12. As always, many graduating seniors choose classroom teachers and school administrators as graduation speakers—a testament to their appreciation of the education they have received.

Dr. Weast added that it was his pleasure to attend the African American Festival of Academic Excellence, now in its 20th year, at the University of Maryland. In addition to the Board and many MCPS colleagues, attendees included County Executive Isiah Leggett, County Council Education Chair Valerie Ervin, and Delegate Herman Taylor. That is a real tribute to the students and to the program, he said.

RESOLUTION NO. 250(d)-09 Re: **FILLING OF BOARD VACANCY**

On motion of Ms. Brandman seconded by Mrs. O'Neill, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present:

WHEREAS, A vacancy will soon exist on the Board of Education as a result of Ms. Nancy Navarro's election to the County Council; and

WHEREAS, Section 3-901(f)(5) of the *Education Article* of the *Annotated Code of Maryland* provides that the remaining members of the Board shall select a qualified individual to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the term, now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board invite duly qualified residents of Board of Education District 5 to apply for appointment to the vacancy in writing by 5:00 p.m. on June 12, 2009; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board meet in public session not later than June 26, 2009, to elect a new Board member to complete the term of Ms. Nancy Navarro.

RESOLUTION NO. 251-09 Re: **AWARD OF CONTRACTS – RELOCATABLE CLASSROOMS**

On recommendation of the superintendent and on motion of Mrs. O'Neill seconded by Mr. Barclay, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present:#

WHEREAS, The following low bids were received on May 5, 2009, for eleven separate packages of relocatable classroom moves and returns to vendors from the listed contractors:

<u>Contractor</u>	<u>Low Bid</u>
Package 1 Prevostr Construction, Inc.	\$426,449
Package 2 U.S. Modular Group East, Inc.	\$450,890
Package 3 Prevostr Construction, Inc.	\$574,905
Package 4 EMH Environmental, Inc.	\$720,750
Package 5 Mobilease Modular Space, Inc.	\$375,200
Package 6 U.S. Modular Group East, Inc.	\$930,610
Package 7 Mobilease Modular Space, Inc.	\$579,500
Package 8 EMH Environmental, Inc.	\$532,500
Package 9 U.S. Modular Group East, Inc.	\$399,870
Package 10 U.S. Modular Group East, Inc.	\$425,600
Package 11 EMH Environmental, Inc.	\$ 59,500

and

WHEREAS, The low bidders have submitted 16 percent Maryland Department of Transportation-certified Minority Business Enterprise participation; and

WHEREAS, A large percentage of the contract work is self-performed by the low bidders, and there are limited opportunities for subcontracting on this type of project; and

WHEREAS, The contractors have submitted waivers for the balance of the Maryland Department of Transportation-certified Minority Business Enterprise participation; and

WHEREAS, Department of Facilities Management staff has reviewed and certified that the waiver meets the contract requirements and recommends waiving the remaining balance of the Maryland Department of Transportation-certified Minority Business Enterprise participation; and

WHEREAS, The low bidders have completed similar work successfully for Montgomery County Public Schools and/or other jurisdictions; now therefore be it

Resolved, That contracts be awarded to the above-mentioned contractors meeting specifications for the relocatable classroom moves for the amounts listed, in accordance with drawings and specifications prepared by JK Architects + Associates and The K Group.

RESOLUTION NO. 252-09

Re: **AWARD OF CONTRACT - SHERWOOD
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ADDITION
PROJECT**

On recommendation of the superintendent and on motion of Mrs. O'Neill seconded by Mr. Barclay, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present:#

WHEREAS, The following sealed bids were received on May 5, 2009, for the Sherwood Elementary School addition project:

<u>Bidder</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Keller Brothers, Inc.	\$3,605,418
Henley Construction Company, Inc.	\$3,839,900
William F. Klingensmith, Inc.	\$3,885,500
Dustin Construction, Inc.	\$3,982,500
R. J. Crowley, Inc.	\$3,983,000
Tuckman-Barbee Construction Company, Inc.	\$4,006,200
Scheibel Construction	\$4,188,500

and

WHEREAS, The goal for Maryland Department of Transportation-certified Minority Business Enterprise participation established for this project was 18 percent; and

WHEREAS, The low bidder, Keller Brothers, Inc., has submitted 9.4 percent Maryland Department of Transportation-certified Minority Business Enterprise participation, of which 1.1 percent is African American, 6.2 percent is women-owned, and 2.1 percent is other minority-owned; and

WHEREAS, One-half percent non-Maryland Department of Transportation-certified Minority Business Enterprise participation also has been submitted, totaling 9.9 percent Minority Business Enterprise participation; and

WHEREAS, The state minority business requirements for school construction projects stipulate that only Maryland Department of Transportation-certified minority businesses can be used to satisfy the project Minority Business Enterprise goal of 18 percent; and

WHEREAS, Keller Brothers, Inc., has submitted a waiver for the balance of the Maryland Department of Transportation-certified Minority Business Enterprise participation; and

WHEREAS, Department of Facilities Management staff has reviewed and certified that the waiver meets the contract requirements and recommends waiving the remaining balance of the Maryland Department of Transportation-certified Minority Business Enterprise participation; and

WHEREAS, Keller Brothers, Inc., has completed similar work successfully for Montgomery County Public Schools; now therefore be it

Resolved, That a \$3,605,418 contract be awarded to Keller Brothers, Inc., for the Sherwood Elementary School addition project, in accordance with drawings and specifications prepared by JK Architects + Associates.

RESOLUTION NO. 253-09 Re: **CONSULTANT APPOINTMENT - DATA WIRING AND CABLE TELEVISION DESIGN**

On recommendation of the superintendent and on motion of Mrs. O'Neill seconded by Mr. Barclay, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present:#

WHEREAS, It is necessary to appoint engineering firms to provide professional design services for data wiring and cable television on various construction projects on an as-needed basis; and

WHEREAS, A Professional Consultant Selection Committee, in accordance with procedures adopted by the Board of Education on April 20, 2006, identified Brinjac Engineering, Inc. and Educational Systems Planning as the most qualified firms to provide the necessary professional engineering design services; and

WHEREAS, Staff will negotiate fees for the necessary engineering design services based on the size and complexity of individual projects; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Montgomery County Board of Education enter into a contractual agreement with the firms of Brinjac Engineering, Inc. and Educational Systems Planning to provide professional engineering design services as requirements arise for a fee not to exceed \$25,000 for an individual project.

RESOLUTION NO. 254-09 Re: **UTILIZATION OF THE FY 2009 PROVISION FOR FUTURE SUPPORTED PROJECTS FUNDS**

On recommendation of the superintendent and on motion of Mrs. O'Neill seconded by Mr. Barclay, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present:#

WHEREAS, The above-noted grant qualifies for a transfer of appropriation from the Provision for Future Supported Projects, pursuant to the provisions of County Council Resolution No. 16-578, approved May 22, 2008; and

WHEREAS, The above-noted project does not require any present or future county funds; and

WHEREAS, Sufficient appropriation is available, within the FY 2009 Provision for Future Supported Projects, to permit the above-noted transfer within state categories; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the superintendent of schools be authorized to receive and expend \$1,071,429 within the FY 2009 Provision for Future Supported Projects, as specified below:

<u>Project</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Quality Teacher Incentive Program	<u>\$ 1,071,429</u>
Total	<u>\$ 1,071,429</u>

and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be sent to the county executive and County Council.

RESOLUTION NO. 255-09 Re: **BOARD OF INVESTMENT TRUSTEES
REAPPOINTMENT**

On recommendation of the superintendent and on motion of Mrs. O'Neill seconded by Mr. Barclay, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present:#

WHEREAS, The Board of Education by Resolution No. 344-95 authorized the establishment of a trust to be used for the purpose of funding the Montgomery County Public Schools Employees' Retirement and Pension System benefits; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Education by Resolution No. 133-07 authorized the establishment of a trust to be used for the purpose of funding the Montgomery County Public Schools Other Post-employment benefits; and

WHEREAS, The trustees are a committee composed of the chief operating officer; the chief financial officer; the director of management, budget and planning; and the

controller; and up to, but no more than, five additional members to be appointed by the Board of Education; and

WHEREAS, The appointed term of Mr. Urban as a Trustee will end June 30, 2009; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Urban has expressed a willingness to serve for an additional three-year term; now therefore be it

Resolved, That Mr. Urban be reappointed as trustee for a term ending June 30, 2012.

RESOLUTION NO. 256-09 Re: **WALTER JOHNSON HIGH SCHOOL
ARTIFICIAL TURF FINANCING**

On recommendation of the superintendent and on motion of Mrs. O'Neill seconded by Mr. Barclay, the following resolution was adopted with Mr. Barclay, Ms. Brandman, Dr. Docca, Mr. Kauffman, and Mrs. O'Neill voting in the affirmative; Ms. Berthiaume voting in the negative:#

WHEREAS, The Board of Education approved an action on March 10, 2009, to request a FY 2009 special appropriation and amend the FY 2009-2014 Capital Improvements Program to accept a contribution from the Bethesda Soccer Club in the amount of \$335,000; and

WHEREAS, Funds in the amount of \$405,981 are available from the contingency funds in the modernization project; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Education has received a lease purchase proposal in the amount of \$459,019 from Municipal Leasing Consultants; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the proposal from Municipal Leasing Consultants be accepted in the amount of \$459,019 for lease-purchase financing for a six-year term to install artificial turf at Walter Johnson High School; and be it further

Resolved, That the proceeds from the financing be used to reimburse Montgomery County Public Schools accounts to the extent that the artificial turf field is acquired before closing; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board of Education president and superintendent of schools be authorized to execute the documents necessary for these transactions.

Resolved, That the Board of Education authorize the superintendent of schools to enter into a contract for the installation of artificial turf at Walter Johnson High School for a cost not to exceed \$1.2 million.

RESOLUTION NO. 257-09 Re: HUMAN RESOURCES APPOINTMENT

On recommendation of the superintendent and on motion of Mrs. O'Neill seconded by Mr. Barclay, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present:

Resolved, That the following personnel appointment be approved effective July 1, 2009:

<u>Appointment</u>	<u>Current Position</u>	<u>As</u>
Robert Dodd	Principal, Strathmore ES	Principal, Argyle MS

RESOLUTION NO. 258-09 Re: HUMAN RESOURCES APPOINTMENT

On recommendation of the superintendent and on motion of Mrs. O'Neill seconded by Mr. Barclay, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present:

Resolved, That the following personnel appointment be approved effective July 1, 2009:

<u>Appointment</u>	<u>Current Position</u>	<u>As</u>
Holly Steel	Principal Intern, Sherwood ES	Principal, Clearspring ES

RESOLUTION NO. 259-09 Re: HUMAN RESOURCES APPOINTMENT

On recommendation of the superintendent and on motion of Mrs. O'Neill seconded by Mr. Barclay, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present:

Resolved, That the following personnel appointment be approved effective July 1, 2009:

<u>Appointment</u>	<u>Current Position</u>	<u>As</u>
Michelle Mach	Instructional Specialist, Longview School	Coordinator, Longview School

RESOLUTION NO. 260-09 Re: HUMAN RESOURCES APPOINTMENT

On recommendation of the superintendent and on motion of Mrs. O'Neill seconded by Mr. Kauffman, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present:

Resolved, That the following personnel appointment be approved effective May 27, 2009:

<u>Appointment</u>	<u>Current Position</u>	<u>As</u>
Matt Johnson	Acting Magnet Coordinator,	Magnet Coordinator,

Eastern MS

Eastern MS

RESOLUTION NO. 261-09

Re: **HUMAN RESOURCES APPOINTMENT**

On recommendation of the superintendent and on motion of Mrs. O'Neill seconded by Mr. Barclay, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present:

Resolved, That the following personnel appointment be approved effective July 1, 2009:

<u>Appointment</u>	<u>Current Position</u>	<u>As</u>
Renee Foose	Director, Office of School Performance	Director, Department of Testing, Research, and Evaluation

RESOLUTION NO. 262-09

Re: **HUMAN RESOURCES APPOINTMENT**

On recommendation of the superintendent and on motion of Mrs. O'Neill seconded by Mr. Barclay, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present:

Resolved, That the following personnel appointment be approved effective May 27, 2009:

<u>Appointment</u>	<u>Current Position</u>	<u>As</u>
Sonja Bloetner	Acting Supervisor, Pre-K-12 ESOL Instruction	Supervisor, Pre-K-12 ESOL Instruction

RESOLUTION NO. 263-09

Re: **HUMAN RESOURCES APPOINTMENT**

On recommendation of the superintendent and on motion of Mrs. O'Neill seconded by Mr. Barclay, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present:

Resolved, That the following personnel appointment be approved effective July 1, 2009:

<u>Appointment</u>	<u>Current Position</u>	<u>As</u>
Teri Musy	Instructional Specialist, Metro Park Field Office	Coordinator, Student Services Appeals Unit

RESOLUTION NO. 264-09

Re: **HUMAN RESOURCES APPOINTMENT**

On recommendation of the superintendent and on motion of Mrs. O'Neill seconded by Mr. Barclay, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present:

Resolved, That the following personnel appointment be approved effective July 1, 2009:

<u>Appointment</u>	<u>Current Position</u>	<u>As</u>
Yolanda Speights	Supervisor, PPW	Coordinator, Student Services Appeals Unit

Re: **GOAL 1: SUCCESS FOR EVERY STUDENT
- UPDATE ON MIDDLE SCHOOL REFORM**

Dr. Weast invited the following people to the table: Mr. Erick J. Lang, associate superintendent, Office of Curriculum and Instructional Programs; Mrs. Linda E. Ferrell, director, Middle School Instruction and Achievement; Ms. Jeannie Dawson, principal, Earle B. Wood Middle School; Ms. Dana E. Davison, assistant principal, Shady Grove Middle School; Miss Denise M. DeFiore, instructional specialist, Staff Development Teacher Project; and Mr. George Mayo, teacher, Silver Spring International Middle School.

The Middle School Reform initiative is a part of *Our Call to Action: Pursuit of Excellence*, the overall strategic plan to improve academic performance and eliminate the achievement gap in Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS). The Middle School Reform Plan is designed to prepare middle school students to meet the academic standards required for high school and college success. This update highlights three themes: (1) engaging and rigorous instruction, (2) effective instructional leadership, and (3) professional development.

Middle School Reform is a multiyear initiative that provides resources to all 38 middle schools. The allocation of specific resources is granted based on participation in Phase I and Phase II of the plan's implementation as outlined in Attachment A. Phase I began in Fiscal Year (FY) 2008 with five Phase I middle schools: Benjamin Banneker, Roberto W. Clemente, Montgomery Village, Sligo, and Earle B. Wood. In FY 2009, the following 10 additional schools were identified to participate in Phase II: Eastern, Gaithersburg, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Col. E. Brooke Lee, Newport Mill, Shady Grove, Silver Spring International, Tilden, Julius West, and White Oak middle schools.

The *Middle School Reform Report* (Weast 2007) is a comprehensive plan that is based on national research, the extensive work of more than 200 stakeholders, and the revision of Board Policy IEB, *Middle School Education*. The goals and recommended actions of the Middle School Reform Report were presented to and approved by the Board of Education in FY 2007.

The original implementation of Middle School Reform was a three-year, \$10 million reform effort for all 38 middle schools. Staff members identified existing resources to be realigned to support the funding of the plan. The additional resources needed to fund Phase I and Phase II of the reform totaled approximately \$2.5 million and \$2.9 million,

respectively. The projection for the remaining schools, based on FY 2010 costs, would be approximately \$8.0 million. Despite budgetary constraints, MCPS is committed to moving forward with the initiative. However, the implementation plan has been extended with future phases of Middle School Reform, contingent on the MCPS budget.

The Middle School Reform program outcomes are expected to be improved student achievement, increased enrollment in and successful completion of advanced courses, reduced suspensions and ineligibility, and the elimination of the achievement gap.

The Middle School Reform initiative is an important component in the school system's work to prepare every child to succeed in college. The plan is beginning to effect change in the beliefs, attitudes, and practices of staff members and students are being exposed to challenging and engaging coursework. We will continue to refine and improve implementation of the initiative across all middle schools to ensure that all students gain the knowledge and skills they will need to meet the high academic standards of high school and beyond.

Re: **DISCUSSION**

Mr. Barclay noted that schools analyze the data and determine next steps. What are the criteria for making those determinations? Staff replied that the staff development teachers are trained and the criteria for success are designed up front throughout the school system.

Ms. Brandman wanted to know about enduring understandings of the adolescent learner, especially that academic feedback is more strongly and consistently related to achievement than any other teaching behavior. Staff explained that this statement was based on research that is used in studying skillful teaching. Feedback to students is crucial in learning and achievement.

Mr. Barclay asked if there was an element to help students receive or ask for feedback. Staff explained that the training for teachers deals with the effective components of feedback to students, and this year there will be an expansion of those techniques, such as tone and word choices. Dr. Docca agreed that teacher feedback to students is essential to being a skillful teacher.

Mr. Kauffman asked what professional development is provided to teachers in middle school when high school courses are moved to the middle school. Staff replied that every time a course is developed, the teachers receive direct professional development with the elective and core courses.

Ms. Berthiaume asked staff to provide information about the specific content units taught in 8th grade algebra.

Ms. Brandman asked what the system has learned with the successful instruction. Staff replied that data are used to provoke conversations to provide better instruction for all students. Planning time together allows for these conversations in content areas.

Due to budget constraints, Mr. Barclay asked how the decrease in literacy coaches and math content specialists will be addressed. Staff worked with principals to shift positions based on the instructional needs of the students in their schools.

Mr. Barclay asked what staff does to keep the student achieving when there are weaknesses in a student's education. Staff members assess students continually to determine what students should know and what they already know to develop instructional goals for all students.

Mrs. O'Neill was concerned about the implementation of middle school reform for the remaining middle schools. Staff stated that the phased-in approach was to evaluate the implementation and impact of the reform. There is a need to evaluate the rationale for the added positions and professional development. Before systemwide rollout, there is a need to assess the value and effect on teaching and learning.

RESOLUTION NO. 265-09 Re: **CLOSED SESSION RESOLUTION**

On recommendation of the superintendent and on motion of Mrs. O'Neill seconded by Ms. Berthiaume, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present:

WHEREAS, The Board of Education of Montgomery County is authorized by the *State Government Article* of the *Annotated Code of Maryland* to conduct certain meetings or portions of its meetings in closed sessions; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board of Education of Montgomery County conduct closed sessions on Tuesday, June 9, 2009, in Room 120 of the Carver Educational Services Center to meet from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. and 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. to discuss personnel matters, as permitted under Section 10-508(a)(1) of the *State Government Article*; consult with counsel to obtain legal advice, as permitted by Section 10-508(a)(7) of the *State Government Article*; review and adjudicate appeals in its quasi-judicial capacity; and discuss matters of an administrative function outside the purview of the Open Meetings Act (Section 10-503(a) of the *State Government Article*); and be it further

Resolved, That such meetings shall continue in closed session until the completion of business.

RESOLUTION NO. 266-09 Re: **REPORT OF CLOSED SESSION**

On recommendation of the superintendent and on motion of Mrs. O'Neill seconded by Ms. Berthiaume, the following report was adopted unanimously by members present:

On May 12, 2009, by unanimous vote of members present, the Board of Education voted to conduct a closed session as permitted under the *State Government Article* Section 10-501, *et seq.*, of the *Annotated Code of Maryland*.

The Montgomery County Board of Education met in a closed session on May 12, 2009, from 9:00 to 9:55 a.m. and 12:45 to 1:35 p.m. in Room 120 of the Carver Educational Services Center, Rockville, Maryland, and

1. Reviewed and considered a Decision and Order in Appeal 2008-46 in its quasi-judicial capacity outside the purview of the Open Meetings Act (Section 10-503(a) of the *State Government Article*).
2. Reviewed and considered the following appeals with a subsequent vote in open session in its quasi-judicial capacity outside the purview of the Open Meetings Act (Section 10-503(a) of the *State Government Article*): 2009-6 and 2009-7.
3. Discussed the Human Resources Monthly Report and Appointments with a subsequent vote in open session, as permitted under Section 10-508(a)(1) of the *State Government Article*.
4. Discussed matters of an administrative function (strategy for obtaining full funding of the capital budget) which were outside the purview of the Open Meetings Act (Section 10-503(a) of the *State Government Article*).

In attendance at the closed sessions were Aggie Alvez, Christopher Barclay, Steve Bedford, Laura Berthiaume, Shirley Brandman, Larry Bowers, Patrick Clancy, Judy Docca, Brian Edwards, Ursula Hermann, Roland Ikheloa, Phil Kauffman, LaVerne Kimball, Suzann King, Kristen Koger, Frieda Lacey, Joe Lavorgna, Jody Leleck, Susan Marks, Heath Morrison, Patricia O'Neill, Glenda Rose, Stacy Scott, Steve Simon, Laura Steinberg, Frank Stetson, Jerry Weast, and Carey Wright.

On May 18, 2009, by unanimous vote, the Board of Education voted to conduct a closed session as permitted under the *State Government Article* Section 10-501, *et seq.*, of the *Annotated Code of Maryland*.

The Montgomery County Board of Education met in a closed session on May 18, 2009, from 6:40 to 7:15 p.m. in the Choral Room, Rockville High School, Rockville, Maryland, and

1. Discussed matters of an administrative function (strategy for funding the operating and capital budget) outside the purview of the Open Meetings Act (Section 10-503(a) of the *State Government Article*).

In attendance at the closed sessions were Christopher Barclay, Larry Bowers, Shirley Brandman, Judy Docca, Brian Edwards, Roland Ikheloa, Phil Kauffman, Frieda Lacey, Joe Lavorgna, Quratul-Ann Malik, Nancy Navarro, Patricia O’Neill, Glenda Rose, Laura Steinberg, Steve Simon, and Jerry Weast.

Re: **NEW BUSINESS**

There were no new business items.

RESOLUTION NO. 267-09

Re: **ADJOURNMENT**

On recommendation of the superintendent and on motion of Mrs. O’Neill seconded by Mr. Barclay, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present:

Resolved, That the Board of Education adjourn its meeting of May 26, 2009, at 9:02 p.m.

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY

JDW:gr

Resolution	Barclay	Berthiaume	Brandman	Kauffman	Docca	Malik	Navarro	O’Neill
Artificial Turf at Walter Johnson HS	A	N	A	A	A	AB	AB	A

A = affirmative; N = negative; O = absent; AB = abstain

MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION SUMMARY SHEET

May 26, 2009

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