

APPROVED
10-2010

Rockville, Maryland
March 22, 2010

The Board of Education of Montgomery County held a business meeting at the Carver Educational Services Center, Rockville, Maryland, on March 22, 2010, at 6:30 p.m.

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

Absent: Mr. Michael Durso

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

RESOLUTION NO. 155-10Re: **RESOLUTION FOR CLOSED SESSION**

On recommendation of the superintendent and on motion of Ms. Brandman 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 a closed session on March 22, 2010, in Room 120 from 5:30 to 6:00 p.m.; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board of Education of Montgomery County consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto, as permitted under Section 10-508(a)(3) of the *State Government Article* and Section 4-107(d) of the *Education Article*; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board of Education of Montgomery County dedicate part of the closed session on March 22, 2010, to acquit its administrative functions, which is a quasi-judicial function outside the purview of the *Open Meetings Act* under Section 10-508(a) of the *State Government Article*; and be it further

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

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. 156-10Re: APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

Resolved, That the Board of Education approve its agenda for March 22, 2010.

RESOLUTION NO. 157-10Re: MONTH OF THE YOUNG CHILD

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

WHEREAS, Children's experiences from birth through the first five years of life, in the home, child care setting, Montgomery County Public Schools, and the community are critical in forming the foundation for their future success as lifelong learners; and

WHEREAS, Research shows that when necessary developmentally appropriate supports and services are provided, all subgroups of young children can achieve at high levels; and

WHEREAS, The Maryland Model for School Readiness data for incoming Montgomery County kindergarten students has shown consistent increases in children's school readiness across all developmental domains, with 73 percent of Montgomery County's children deemed "fully ready" for school in fall 2009; and

WHEREAS, Montgomery County Public Schools kindergarten data show that 91 percent of kindergarten students are able to read simple text and reached or exceeded the Text Level 4 benchmark reading level in 2009; and

WHEREAS, Montgomery County's early childhood stakeholders have convened an Early Care and Education Congress Steering Committee to provide opportunities for collaboration and dissemination of information about issues and services that support young children and their families; and

WHEREAS, Montgomery County recognizes that every county resident has a vested interest in the healthy development and education of all of the county's children; and

WHEREAS, The Montgomery County Board of Education; the Montgomery County

Executive; the Montgomery County Council; the Montgomery County Collaboration Council for Children, Youth, and Families; Montgomery County Public Schools; and early childhood stakeholders will join together on April 14, 2010, at CentroNia Preschool in Takoma Park to proclaim the Month of the Young Child; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board of Education endorses the joint proclamation and supports April 2010 as the Month of the Young Child in Montgomery County Public Schools.

RESOLUTION NO. 158-10Re: ARAB AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

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

WHEREAS, Since the first Arab immigrant came to these shores, men and women of Arab descent have shared with us the rich history and traditions of Arab culture; and

WHEREAS, Arab Americans constitute an ethnicity made up of several waves of immigrants from the Arabic-speaking countries of southwestern Asia and North Africa; and

WHEREAS, Historically, Arab Americans have made contributions to all areas of American life including politics, law, education, medicine, science, business, family life, community services, and the arts; and

WHEREAS, The Arab American population continues to add to the rich cultural mosaic of our community and has an established, thriving presence in Montgomery County; now therefore be it

Resolved, That, on behalf of the superintendent of schools, staff, students, and parents of Montgomery County Public Schools, the members of the Board of Education hereby declare April 2010 to be observed as Arab American Heritage Month.

RESOLUTION NO. 159-10Re: NATIONAL AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

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

WHEREAS, April has been designated National Autism Awareness month by the Autism Society of America; and

WHEREAS, Autism is a neurodevelopmental disability resulting in challenges to cognitive, social, and language development; and

WHEREAS, Autism is a condition that presents lifelong challenges; and

WHEREAS, Autism is a spectrum disorder; each student with an Autism Spectrum Disorder has a complex and individual constellation of strengths and needs; and

WHEREAS, Autism continues to be the fastest growing developmental disability in the world, with an estimated prevalence of 1 in 91 births; and

WHEREAS, The goal of National Autism Awareness Month is to educate and familiarize the public about autism and concerns within the autism community; and

WHEREAS, In recognizing this month, Montgomery County Public Schools is committed to providing educational opportunities that allow our students with autism to learn, succeed, and prepare for adult life; and

WHEREAS, Montgomery County Public Schools is responsible for educating approximately 1,501 students with autism; and

WHEREAS, Montgomery County Public Schools' pursuit of excellence for students with autism contributes to their success as productive members of adult society; and

WHEREAS, Montgomery County Public Schools recognizes that strong and collaborative efforts among families, schools, and community resources are the foundations upon which success for students with autism are built; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Montgomery County Board of Education supports and wishes to applaud the tremendous energy and effort of staff, family, and community members who seek success for our students with Autism Spectrum Disorders.

RESOLUTION NO. 160-10Re: NATIONAL STUDENT LEADERSHIP WEEK

On recommendation of the superintendent and on motion of Mr. Hwang seconded by Ms. Brandman, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present:

WHEREAS, The Montgomery County Board of Education has a continuing commitment to support active student participation in school and community activities; and

WHEREAS, The Montgomery County Board of Education and student organizations engage in an open dialogue that is respectful, productive, and useful in matters of common concern; and

WHEREAS, Participation by our youth in civic activities is valued by the Montgomery County Board of Education; and

WHEREAS, In April 2010, student leadership activities include the election of the student member of the Board of Education, a voter registration drive, and National Student Leadership Week; and

WHEREAS, National Student Leadership Week is a time when schools across our nation recognize student leaders for their accomplishments, efforts, and service; with this year's national theme of "Step Up for Safety: Student Leaders Working for Safe Schools and Communities"; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Montgomery County Board of Education hereby joins with the superintendent of schools in recognizing the week of April 18–24, 2010, as National Student Leadership Week in Montgomery County Public Schools; and be it further

Resolved, That the Montgomery County Board of Education commends student leaders for their efforts and achievements on behalf of Montgomery County Public Schools and urges citizens to seek opportunities to recognize student leaders in our schools and support their training and activities as they prepare for their future stations as leaders of our cities, states, and nation.

Re: **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

Re: **BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS**

Mr. Barclay commented on the Public Safety Boards that recognized the fire/rescue and police for their dedicated work in Montgomery County. Last Saturday, there was a groundbreaking for the Paint Branch High School facility, which was a time of excitement for the community. Finally, he attended an event called SMART, which is a program put together by Community Bridges working with young women to do problem solving in schools.

Ms. Brandman noted that the Board is continuing with cluster visits, and she thanked the Whitman and Richard Montgomery clusters. She was pleased with the clusters for hosting and opening the events to community members.

Dr. Docca enjoyed the cluster meetings, and she commented on the Student Leadership Training.

Ms. Berthiaume associated herself with her colleagues' remarks. Also, she reported on her volunteer time with the cafeteria at Rockville High School. She went on to comment on the food served to children in light of the reauthorization of the Child Nutrition Act.

Mr. Kauffman associated himself with his colleagues' remarks. Also, he congratulated Springbrook High School for its state championship in 4A Boys' Basketball and Seneca Valley High School for the Girls 3A Basketball championship.

Mr. Hwang commented on the Maryland legislative session, the two SMOB candidates, voter registration, and the 2010 census.

Dr. Weast congratulated the participants, coaches, and championships teams in this past winter sports season. Among a total of 41 award winners, there were five state or metropolitan champions, eight regional champions, and 28 division champions. Special kudos to our state and metro championship teams:

- Springbrook High School: 4A Boys' Basketball
- Seneca Valley High School: 3A Girls' Basketball
- Damascus High School: 3A Boys' Indoor Track
- Walt Whitman High School: Metro Championship Meet Girls'
- Walt Whitman High School: Metro Championship Meet Combined

In addition, there were three individual state champions in wrestling and 28 individual indoor track champions.

Dr. Weast continue and stated that on an evening when the Board will be discussing the important role of parents in the success of Montgomery County Public Schools, it is especially appropriate to recognize Montgomery County's winner of the Parent Involvement Matters Award. The award, sponsored by the Maryland State Department of Education and Comcast, recognizes a parent or legal guardian from each Maryland jurisdiction for exceptional support of public education. Parents are nominated for demonstrating significant, positive impact in their education communities. Congratulations to Mr. Earle Barnes, a parent at Shady Grove Middle School. Among his many contributions is founding and leading a mentoring group for at-risk male students called Students with Attainable Goals—SWAG for short.

Finally, Dr. Weast reported that the Ninth Annual Young Professionals Conference was held last week at the Universities at Shady Grove. More than 700 high school juniors enrolled in career pathway programs had the opportunity to experience a professional development conference designed especially for them. The program included breakout sessions guided by members of the business community designed to answer student questions about a range of careers. Thanks to the sponsors who joined us to present this great event: the Montgomery County Business Roundtable for Education, Montgomery College, and the Universities at Shady Grove.

RESOLUTION NO. 161-10Re: ITEM OF LEGISLATION

On recommendation of the superintendent and on motion of Dr. Docca seconded by

Mr. Barclay, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present:

Resolved, That the Board of Education opposes **HB0760, Public Schools - Substitute Teachers - Qualifications, Training, and Study**, which would require each county board of education to establish qualifications for substitute teachers employed by a county board; requiring a county board to require each substitute teacher to complete an orientation and training program; requiring county boards to train specified school administrators in specified issues related to substitute teachers.

RESOLUTION NO. 162-10Re: **ITEM OF LEGISLATION**

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

Resolved, That the Board of Education supports **SB0315, Public Ethics Laws - Elected Local Officials and Board of Education Members – Requirements**, which would require local ethics commissions or other appropriate entities to certify to the State Ethics Commission compliance with specified provisions of law relating to elected local officials on or before a specified date each year; requiring conflict of interest and financial disclosure provisions for elected local officials enacted by a county or municipal corporation to be equivalent to or exceed requirements under specified provisions of law.

RESOLUTION NO. 163-10Re: **ITEM OF LEGISLATION**

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 supports **HB1287/SB0536, State Board of Education - Student Member Full Voting Rights Act**, which would allow the student member of the State Board of Education to vote on the dismissal of or other disciplinary actions involving personnel, the State Board's budget, and specified appeals to the State Board.

RESOLUTION NO. 164-10Re: **ITEM OF LEGISLATION**

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

Resolved, That the Board of Education takes no position on **SB0559, Child Protection - Mandatory Reporting of Children Regularly in Contact with Persons Convicted of Child Abuse and Child Sexual Abuse**, which would require specified professionals to notify the local department of social services or the appropriate law enforcement agency if the professionals have reason to believe that a parent, guardian, or caregiver allows a child

to reside or regularly associate with a specified individual; describing the information that is to be included on a specified report; providing for the receipt and investigation of a report that a child is at substantial risk of abuse.

RESOLUTION NO. 165-10Re: **ITEM OF LEGISLATION**

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

Resolved, That the Board of Education opposes, **HB1486, Public Schools - Student Attendance - Preventing Chronic Absenteeism**, which would require public schools to maintain a record of the daily attendance of students in kindergarten through 12th grade using a specified identifier, calculate and maintain a record of specified attendance information, and submit a report to the county board of education that includes specified student attendance information at the end of each grading period each year.

RESOLUTION NO. 166-10Re: **ITEM OF LEGISLATION**

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

Resolved, That the Board of Education opposes **HB1430, Student Health and Fitness Act**, which would require that a public school student in kindergarten through Grade 5 be provided a daily program of physical activity totaling at least 150 minutes each week, including at least 90 minutes of physical education; requiring that the program of physical activity for a specified category of students be consistent with a specified plan for the student.

RESOLUTION NO. 167-10Re: **ITEM OF LEGISLATION**

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

Resolved, That the Board of Education opposes **HB1362, Education - Public Schools - Virtual Schools**, which would authorize a county board of education, subject to the approval of the State Department of Education, to establish a virtual school in the state; establishing that a virtual school is a public school subject to applicable laws and

regulations; requiring a virtual school to provide specified materials and access to technology to the parent or guardian of a student enrolled in the virtual school.

RESOLUTION NO. 168-10Re: **ITEM OF LEGISLATION**

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

Resolved, That the Board of Education opposes **HB0789, *Elementary and Secondary Education - Health Curriculum - Diabetes Education***, which would require each county board of education, with the assistance of the county health department, to provide instruction in diabetes education in the health education curriculum that county school boards are to provide in the public schools.

RESOLUTION NO. 169-10Re: **ITEM OF LEGISLATION**

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

Resolved, That the Board of Education opposes **HJ0008, *Secondary Schools - Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation Instruction***, which would urge each county board of education and the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners to make available American Red Cross Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) instruction, the American Heart Association's Heart Saver CPR curriculum, or an equivalent program to high school students in the county or Baltimore City.

RESOLUTION NO. 170-10Re: **ITEM OF LEGISLATION**

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

Resolved, That the Board of Education supports with amendment **SB0966, *Education - High School Diploma by Examination***, which would alter the eligibility requirements to obtain a high school diploma by examination by repealing the 3-month waiting period from the date of withdrawal from the high school; and repealing the authority of the Secretary of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation to waive a specified withdrawal requirement if the Secretary considers the waiver justifiable.

RESOLUTION NO. 171-10Re: **ITEM OF LEGISLATION**

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

Resolved, That the Board of Education supports **HB1376, *Vehicle Laws - Overtaking and Passing School Vehicles - School Bus Monitoring Cameras***, which would authorize a county board of education, in consultation with a local law enforcement agency, to place school bus monitoring cameras on county school buses for the purpose of recording motor vehicles committing violations relating to overtaking and passing school vehicles; requiring a school bus operator to give a recording of the violations to a local law enforcement agency; requiring recordings made by a school bus monitoring camera to include specified images and information about the violations.

RESOLUTION NO. 172-10Re: **VIERS MILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL -
AUTHORIZATION TO PURCHASE LAND**

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

WHEREAS, A classroom addition project is planned for Viers Mill Elementary School, with completion scheduled for August 2013; and

WHEREAS, The access to the site from Dahill Road needs to be improved to provide safe and efficient bus and vehicular circulation; and

WHEREAS, A residential property contiguous to the school parcel located at 4301 Fernhill Road, being Lot 1, Block 8 in Viers Mill Village, must be purchased to improve vehicular circulation; and

WHEREAS, Staff ordered two independent appraisals of the property and negotiated a sales agreement with the owner of the property; and

WHEREAS, The owner of the property has agreed to a sale price of \$250,000; and

WHEREAS, Funds are available within the project budget for the purchase of this property; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the president and secretary of the Board of Education be authorized to execute a Contract of Sale for the purchase of 4301 Fernhill Road, being Lot 1, Block 8 in Viers Mill Village, for the purchase price of \$250,000; and be it further

Resolved, That the superintendent of schools be authorized to make settlement as soon as possible thereafter and that the county executive, the County Council, and the State Interagency Committee for Public School Construction be notified of this action.

RESOLUTION NO. 173-10Re: **RECOMMENDED CATEGORICAL
TRANSFERS FOR THE FY 2010 PROVISION
FOR FUTURE SUPPORTED PROJECTS**

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

WHEREAS, The current FY 2010 Operating Budget adopted by the Board of Education includes \$8,991,083 for the Provision for Future Supported Projects; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Education will receive additional projects that are eligible for funding through the Provision for Future Supported Projects during FY 2010; and

WHEREAS, Actual revenue and expenditure requirements of grant projects require that categorical transfers be made in the Provision for Future Supported Projects; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the superintendent of schools be authorized to effect categorical transfers totaling \$1,325,000 within the FY 2010 Provision for Future Supported Projects, in accordance with the County Council provision for transfers, as follows:

	<u>Category</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
1	Administration		\$ 130,000
2	Mid-level Administration		50,000
3	Instructional Salaries	\$ 700,000	
4	Textbooks and Instructional Supplies	90,000	
5	Other Instructional Costs	450,000	
6	Special Education		525,000
7	Student Personnel Services	35,000	
9	Student Transportation		75,000
10	Operation of Plant and Equipment		2,000
11	Maintenance of Plant		120,000
12	Fixed Charges		350,000
13	Food and Nutrition Services		73,000
14	Community Services	<u>50,000</u>	
	Total	<u>\$ 1,325,000</u>	<u>\$ 1,325,000</u>

and be it further

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

Resolved, That the county executive be requested to recommend approval of this resolution to the County Council.

Re: **MCPS PARENT ACADEMY AND PARENT
ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Dr. Weast invited the following people to the table: Ms. Aggie Alvez, director, Office of Communications and Family Outreach; Mr. Eric A. Davis, director, Department of Family and Community Partnerships; Ms. Eugenia Dawson, principal, Earle B. Wood Middle School; Ms. Celia Serkin, executive director, Montgomery County Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health; Mrs. Kelly Eiskant, co-chair, Parent Advisory Council; Ms. Elisia George, co-chair, Parent Advisory Council; and Mr. Hugo Escobar, member, Parent Advisory Council.

Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) is committed to promoting meaningful family partnerships as an essential component to students' success. Through the MCPS strategic plan and its parent and community involvement policies, the Board of Education has affirmed its belief that parents who are fully engaged as partners and who can advocate strongly for their child's education play an important role in their child's success in school and in life. More than 30 years of research have shown that family engagement linked to learning leads to improved student achievement. This memorandum provides an update on the Parent Academy and the Parent Advisory Council—two programs coordinated by the Office of Communications and Family Outreach (OCFO) that are integral to the school system's efforts to increase student achievement and remove barriers to parent engagement.

In January 2007, the Middle School Reform Steering Committee recommended the creation of a Parent Academy to empower parents as effective partners in their children's education. Parents at the middle school level, as well as those with children in elementary and high school, said they needed information to help them understand the school system and strategies they could use to support their children's learning. The MCPS Parent Academy, launched by the Office of Communications and Family Outreach in fall 2007, provides parents with this information through a variety of free workshops offered throughout the school year.

Systemwide Parent Academy workshops, open to all MCPS parents, are held in schools and neighborhood locations throughout the county. Child care and foreign language interpretation services are provided at no charge. Parent Academy workshops also are conducted in response to requests by individual schools and community organizations. The yearly cost of \$3,000 to operate the Parent Academy includes stipends for staff who provide child care services and funds for supplies and materials. The workshops are presented by central office and school-based staff as well as by partners from community, government, and business organizations.

To determine topics for systemwide workshops, OCFO staff meets with principals to discuss topics of interest to their school communities and clusters. In addition, workshops are developed that focus on school system programs and initiatives, such as the Seven Keys to College Readiness. Feedback collected at Parent Academy workshops also is used to select topics and refine presentations and materials. Recent workshop topics include Algebra for Parents, Basic Computer Skills, Financing a College Education, the Special Education Process, Helping Middle School Students Become Great Writers, and High School and Middle School Magnet Programs.

Information about the Parent Academy is communicated through a variety of media. The schedule of workshops is available in six languages—in print and on the MCPS website. It also is disseminated through *MCPS QuickNotes*, Twitter, the Montgomery County Council of Parent–Teacher Associations (MCCPTA) listserv, local media, and materials sent to public libraries, recreation centers, and other neighborhood locations. Individual schools communicate with parents about workshops through Connect-ED calls, newsletters, and listservs. Information is shared through person-to-person interactions by parent outreach staff in OCFO and in other MCPS offices. Parents can register for workshops online or by phone, fax, or U.S. mail.

The MCPS Parent Advisory Council (PAC), established in August 2007, works with the Office of Communications and Family Outreach to provide input on ways to improve communication and parent engagement at the district and local school levels. The Council also provides parent advocacy trainings and feedback on school system initiatives and programs. PAC members are active leaders in their respective school communities, formally and informally gathering input and supporting other parents in their advocacy efforts.

The Parent Advisory Council is composed of 30 parents, each of whom serves a two-year term, and is led by two co-chairs. Attachment B provides a list of current PAC members. Information about the PAC, including photos and biographies of the members and meeting notes, can be found on the DFCP website. PAC members are parents who have at least one child in the school system and reflect the diversity of the MCPS community. This diversity includes geographic location of residence, child's grade level, and areas of interest and experience related to MCPS programs and services (for example, special education, gifted and talented, and ESOL).

Re: **DISCUSSION**

On behalf of the Board, Mr. Barclay thanked staff for their presentation. He was interested in the work done in local schools to recruit parents. The PAC answered that during interaction with parents, they give them the resources and knowledge they need to be an advocate for their children. Plus, the web engenders questions which can be researched

and answered. Wherever they meet parents, PAC encourages parents to attend PTA meetings to know about the local school, curriculum, and assessments.

Mr. Hwang asked about organic growth within the Parent Academy and PAC. Staff replied that they will be working on the parent leadership component to bring parents together to advocate for their children and focus on leadership skills. PAC replied that in many cultures, parents are not comfortable in the schools, based on their background. It is the focus of PAC to make these people before parents with the school system in order to help their children. Staff stated that they are striving to make the schools welcoming and develop an element of trust of the school system. The PAC was interested in making meetings available to parents, such as nights or weekends.

Ms. Brandman thanked the presenters for their passion and commitment, which resonates with parents. She asked them about recurring issues or themes and the best way to bring that information to the Board. The Board could benefit from learning about the issues that the Parent Academy and PAC are tackling. Staff explained that the information garnered from parents is shared with strategic planning teams and is an ongoing process.

RESOLUTION NO. 173(a)-10 Re: POLICY IED, GRADUATION REQUIREMENT

On motion of Mr. Hwang and seconded by Ms. Brandman, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present:

Resolved, That the Board of Education directs to Policy Committee to consider language in Policy IED to waive a four-year graduation requirement.

**RESOLUTION NO. 174-10Re: TENTATIVE ACTION ON POLICY IED,
FRAMEWORK AND STRUCTURE OF HIGH
SCHOOL EDUCATION**

On motion of the Policy Committee, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present:

WHEREAS, Policy IED, *Framework and Structure of High School Education*, sets forth guidelines to staff and community for the organization of high schools and the delivery of engaging instructional programs that set high expectations for student achievement for all students and prepare all students to complete high school equipped for success in postsecondary education and the world of work by providing an environment supportive of the academic, social, emotional, and physical development of adolescents and young adults; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Education Policy Committee has considered and recommended revisions to update Policy IED, *Framework and Structure of High School Education*; and

WHEREAS, The Montgomery County Board of Education has received the Policy Committee's recommendation; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board of Education take tentative action on Policy IED, *Framework and Structure of High School Education*; and be it further

Resolved, That Policy IED, *Framework and Structure of High School Education*, be sent out for public comment.

Framework and Structure of High School Education

A. PURPOSE

To affirm the Board of Education's (Board) commitment to providing a challenging and comprehensive high school program that meets and exceeds the graduation requirements of the state of Maryland and prepares all students for postsecondary education and the workplace.

To provide guidance to staff members and community for organization of high schools and delivery of instructional programs that set high expectations for academic achievement for all students in an environment supportive of the social, emotional, and physical development of adolescents and young adults.

B. ISSUE

High school preparation is critical to success in college. Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) expects all students to complete high school prepared for success in postsecondary education and the world of work. The high school program ensures success for every student through a rigorous, comprehensive curriculum; relevant opportunities for students to clarify interests, goals, and plans for the future; a qualified and committed staff and leadership; a collaborative and flexible organizational structure; a differentiated instructional program; extracurricular activities; and actively involved parent and community stakeholders.

C. POSITION

1. School Culture

High schools maintain consistently high expectations for all students to acquire and develop lifelong learning skills, explore and envision a successful future, and make connections to post-high school life.

- a) Staff members believe that all students can learn at high levels and expect and encourage students to achieve at their full potential.
- b) The high school community is committed to equity, values diversity, and works actively to remove barriers to achievement so that student success is not predictable by race or ethnicity.
- c) Through instructional practices and extracurricular activities, students learn interpersonal skills necessary for healthy social, emotional, and intellectual growth. The school environment encourages and provides multiple opportunities for every student to be known well by one or more adults in the school.
- d) School leaders promote positive relationships among students, staff, and community members within a safe school environment. School leaders communicate clear behavioral expectations to students and staff.
- e) Staff, families, and community members work together for student achievement.
 - (1) School staff facilitate communication with the community in the languages spoken in the community whenever feasible.
 - (2) School staff work with students and parents to emphasize the importance of regular student attendance as an essential component of a quality learning experience.
 - (3) School leaders recognize and celebrate achievements of students, staff, and the community.
 - (4) Staff, families, and community members provide resources and options for service and work-based learning, mentoring relationships, and career activities.
- f) High school staff members provide the support students and families need to understand post-high school options, preparations required, and assistance available, thereby connecting current studies with future endeavors. Staff members provide ongoing support as follows:
 - (1) Work with each student to plan a course of study and related activities that transitions the student into and through the high school years, and details the courses needed to meet

academic and personal goals. Students shall satisfactorily complete a program of study beyond Grade 8, as described in MCPS Regulation ISB-RA, *High School Graduation Requirements*.

- (2) Encourage students to take rigorous courses that are relevant to their interests and prepare them to achieve their postsecondary goals.

2. CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION, AND ASSESSMENT

The MCPS approach to curriculum, instruction, and assessment ensures a high level of challenge for all high school students and meets the unique needs of young adult learners.

a) Curriculum

- (1) The high school curriculum satisfies the graduation requirements of the Board and the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE). The Board has the authority to specify requirements beyond minimum state requirements when it determines it is in the best interest of all students. MSDE requires 21 credits for graduation, of which 18 must be earned in specified courses. MCPS requires 22 credits, of which 19.5 must be earned in specified courses, including an additional credit in mathematics and an additional half credit in physical education, as further described in MCPS Regulation ISB-RA, *High School Graduation Requirements*.
- (2) High school course curricula encompass state and national standards to establish learning goals. The program of studies prepares students for success in postsecondary education and work by providing a variety of learning experiences to challenge all students. Curriculum will be reviewed in a manner consistent with Board Policy IFA, *Curriculum*, and MCPS Regulation IFA-RA, *Curriculum*.
- (3) Each high school provides a comprehensive program of studies. The Board ensures consistency of course offerings across high schools by approving certain essential courses as Category 1. The Board reviews curriculum for Category 1 courses and ensures adherence to systemwide assessment standards. All comprehensive high schools offer an appropriate

range of Category 1 courses to provide the opportunity for all students to earn MSDE and MCPS required graduation credits within four years.

- (4) The Board approves additional courses as Category 2. Category 2 courses are important for continuing, expanding, and enriching student understanding in a subject area. In addition, a Category 2 course may meet a graduation requirement. These courses will be offered when student interest, staffing, and budget permit.
- (5) All Category 1 and 2 courses are listed and described in the *MCPS High School Course Bulletin*.
- (6) Students may apply credits earned for coursework at institutions other than MCPS when planned and approved in accordance with conditions described in MCPS Regulation ISB-RA, *High School Graduation Requirements*.

b) Instruction

Instructional practices will incorporate a variety of methods, strategies, and resources that encourage students to be active and engaged learners.

- (1) Instructional practices align with relevant Board policies and MCPS regulations such as Board Policy IKA, *Grading and Reporting*; Board Policy IOA, *Gifted and Talented Education*; Board Policy IOD, *Education of English Language Learners*; Board Policy IOB, *Education of Students with Disabilities*; and MCPS Regulation IHB-RA, *School Academic Grouping Practices*.
- (2) High school instruction prepares students to comprehend, gather, evaluate, and synthesize information and collaborate with others to solve problems. Staff members prepare students as follows:
 - (a) Communicate high expectations for student achievement and success.
 - (b) Incorporate a variety of methods, strategies, and resources that evoke critical thinking and encourage

students to be active, engaged, and lifelong learners.

- (c) Use allocated instructional time efficiently and effectively.
- (d) Provide leadership opportunities for students as well as promote student discourse and effective self-expression.
- (e) Help each student meet his or her academic potential by providing differentiated instructional opportunities and resources as appropriate, such as acceleration, enrichment, support, and accommodations.
- (f) Utilize the special skills of all general, alternative, English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), and special education staff members, in both the planning and implementation of instruction.

c) Assessment

Assessment, as set forth in Board Policy IKA, *Grading and Reporting*, is an integral part of the instructional cycle. A comprehensive assessment program, aligned with district, state, and national standards, includes the following:

- (1) Grading criteria that communicate expectations to students and parents in a clear and timely manner.
- (2) Preassessments, formative assessments, and summative assessments, which are used to plan and deliver instruction to meet learning goals, provide meaningful and timely feedback to students on their performance, and offer varied opportunities for students to demonstrate learning.
- (3) Reteaching and reassessment within the instructional cycle to promote effective teaching and learning.
- (4) Ongoing and timely reporting of student achievement to students, parents, teachers, administrators, and the school system.
- (5) Consistency within and among schools.

3. Organizational Structure

MCPS administrators collaborate with school leadership teams, staff, parents, students, and the community regarding the organizational structure of their school and improvement plans, consistent with the priorities of the school system. Schools promote and maintain high achievement by employing a variety of structures for teaching and learning.

- a) High school leaders employ flexible scheduling and maximize their resources to provide active and meaningful learning experiences that foster student achievement, ease student transitions, and facilitate program continuity.
- b) High school leaders develop learning communities within the school that foster student achievement, respond to student interests, and promote positive engagement among students and staff.
- c) Each school is staffed and organized to ensure appropriate educational opportunities for students with a variety of educational needs.
- d) High school leaders provide opportunities for teachers to use time effectively and efficiently to achieve the following:
 - (1) Plan and coordinate instructional delivery and assessment.
 - (2) Monitor individual student progress, meet with students, and communicate with parents.
 - (3) Engage in professional learning communities and other professional development opportunities.
- e) High school staff use instructional time during the student day effectively.
- f) High school staff provides opportunities for enrichment and academic support through before-school and after-school extended learning and extracurricular activities.
- g) High school staff effectively use communication tools to promote professional learning communities and facilitate productive interactions among students, teachers, parents, and other community

stakeholders.

4. Leadership and Planning

MCPS administrators and school leadership teams collaborate with staff, students, parents, and the community to create, guides, manages, and inspires an effective learning community to ensure achievement by all students. Effective school leaders:

- a) Model the standards of the professional growth system for administrators, teachers, and supporting service personnel.
- b) Guide and monitor the implementation of a rigorous instructional program that sets the course to eliminate the achievement gap among students and is designed to prepare them to be college and career ready.
- c) Facilitate continuous improvement and implementation of the Malcolm Baldrige Education Criteria for Performance Excellence.
- d) Collaborate with staff, students, parents, the community, and other stakeholders to develop and articulate a shared vision of the academic and individual needs of students, the direction for the school, and progress toward stated goals.
- e) Develop leadership in the school and empower the staff, students, parents, and the community in the decision-making process.
- f) Manage the organization, operations, and resources for a safe, efficient, and effective learning environment.

5. Parent and Community Engagement and Communication

Consistent with Board Policy ABA, *Community Involvement*, and Board Policy ABC, *Parental Involvement*, school staff, parents, and the community are partners in the social and intellectual development of students. Elements of this partnership include the following:

- a) Communication between families and school staff to provide information and solicit input and feedback regarding an individual student's educational experience, collaboration to support student learning outside of school, as well as opportunities for families to be involved in school and community activities and events.

- b) Parent, student, and community participation in school improvement teams and other advisory groups that set direction for the school, consistent with Board Policy AEB, *Strategic Planning for Continuous Improvement*.
- c) Collaboration with parent/teacher/student organizations, the community, businesses, and institutions of higher learning to bring outside resources to the school, make direct links between learning and careers, and provide authentic opportunities for student engagement.
- d) Parent advocacy and ongoing communication about MCPS policies, regulations, and practices.

6. Human Resources and Professional Development

MCPS recruits, employs, and retains high school staff members who possess the knowledge and skills to foster achievement and meet the needs of all high school students. The MCPS professional growth systems provide regular and systematic opportunities for all administrators, teachers, and supporting services professionals to increase their knowledge, skills, and capacity to continuously improve the teaching and learning process.

- a) Staff members are knowledgeable about the developmental characteristics of adolescents and communicate high expectations for all students.
- b) Staff members are skilled at developing positive relationships with students and parents and engaging them in the learning process.
- c) Staff members demonstrate content expertise and provide effective instruction.
- d) Staff demographics reflect, to the extent possible, the diverse population of MCPS.
- e) Staff selection considers the individual needs of each school.
- f) Staff members participate in the MCPS professional growth systems, which include regular and systematic opportunities for all administrators, teachers, and supporting services professionals to increase their knowledge, skills, and capacity to continuously improve

the teaching and learning process.

D. DESIRED OUTCOMES

1. An educational program that emphasizes academic excellence.
2. A comprehensive program accessible to all students that allows students to meet graduation requirements and to explore interests through elective courses and extracurricular activities.
3. Programs, courses, activities, and learning experiences that prepare students to be successful in postsecondary education and the world of work.
4. Collaboration among students, staff, parents, and families to support and encourage academic achievement and the intellectual, social, emotional, and physical growth of students.
5. A culture that fosters intellectual development and a sense of belonging, and promotes citizenship, responsibility, and mutual respect among students.
6. Graduates equipped to gather and use information and collaborate with others to solve problems and make informed judgments on public and private concerns.

E. REVIEW AND REPORTING

This policy will be reviewed in accordance with the Board of Education policy review process.

RESOLUTION NO. 175-10Re: **CLOSED SESSIONS RESOLUTION**

On recommendation of the superintendent and on motion of Mr. Barclay seconded by Ms. Brandman, 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 Thursday, April 15, 2010, in Room 120 of the Carver Educational Services Center to meet from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 to 2:00 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 while the Board reviews and adjudicates appeals in its quasi-judicial capacity;

and to discuss matters of an executive function outside the purview of the Open Meetings Act (Section 10-508(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. 176-10Re: **REPORT OF CLOSED SESSIONS**

On recommendation of the superintendent and on motion of Mr. Barclay seconded by Ms. Brandman, the following report was adopted unanimously by members present:

On March 9, 2010, by unanimous vote of members present, the Board of Education voted to conduct closed sessions 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 closed sessions on March 9, 2010, from 9:10 to 10:10 a.m. and 1:10 to 2:10 p.m. in Room 120 of the Carver Educational Services Center, Rockville, Maryland, and

1. Unanimously approved the Decisions and Orders in Appeals 2009-31 (with amendments), 2009-39, and 2009-40 in its quasi-judicial capacity outside the purview of the *Open Meetings Act* (Section 10-508(a) of the *State Government Article*).
2. Discussed the Human Resources Monthly Report with a subsequent vote in open session, as permitted under Section 10-508(a)(1) of the *State Government Article*.
3. Received legal advice to review appeals and received legal advice, more specifically a legal briefing, on Policy CNA, *Informational Material and Announcements*, and related matters, as permitted under Section 10-508(a)(9) of the *State Government Article* and Section 4-107(d)(2)(ii) of the *Education Article*.
4. Discussed matters of an administrative function (strategies regarding obtaining full funding given the county executive's proposed operating budget and the maintenance of effort waiver) which is outside the purview of the *Open Meetings Act* (Section 10-508(a) of the *State Government Article*).

In attendance at the closed sessions were Aggie Alvez, Christopher Barclay, Laura Berthiaume, Larry Bowers, Shirley Brandman, Judy Bresler, Patrick Clancy, Mike Durso, Judy Docca, Brian Edwards, Tim Hwang, Roland Ikheloa, Phil Kauffman, Suzann King, Frieda Lacey, Patricia O'Neill, Glenda Rose, Laura Steinberg, Frank Stetson, Dana Tofig, and Jerry Weast.

RESOLUTION NO. 177-10Re: **MINUTES**

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

Resolved, That the Board of Education approve the minutes for January 12, January 27, January 28, and March 3, 2010.

Re: **NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business.

Re: **DISCUSSION OF THE MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT WAIVER RESOLUTION**

Dr. Weast introduced the resolution, pointing out that the financial situation in the county did not allow it to meet the Maintenance of Effort (MOE) in the county executive's budget. Simply put, MOE are the funds for the proposed budget are based on the amount funded in the current year on a per pupil basis. The proposal would result in \$1,000 less per student. Therefore, it is necessary to request a waiver of MOE jointly with county executive and county. At this point, he read the resolution.

Mr. Barclay commented that these are extremely difficult times, and it is important for the Board to state categorically that reducing the budget by \$137.7 million from the school system's budget is the limit to the extreme. It is important to make this statement, and the three points in the resolution are important to be understood. He wanted people to know why he supports the budget and will fight vigorously to ensure that the reductions are not greater than \$137.7 million.

Mr. Kauffman stated that he supported the resolution as well. The Board knew that this day would come when the MOE budget requested was made to the county. The fiscal situation was one in which there would ultimately be reductions. He thought the Board made it clear to the community that it would have to agree to a waiver request to Maryland State Board of Education (MSBOE). He thought it is the right thing to do. Mr. Kauffman appreciated the county executive's difficult balancing of reductions to the Montgomery County Government and the revenue enhancements proposed. The Board should be supportive of him and the amount that is being recommended for the school system, even though there is pain in this recommendation. Last year, the school system learned a lot about MOE; it is an interesting law and not relevant during prosperous times. However, when times are bleak, there is a need for exceptions to the law. The Board is not in the same position as last year. When the waiver was denied last year, the school system did not have a plan. Hopefully, we have learned from that experience. Now the school system will hope for the best, but this time it will plan for what might happen. The Board cannot be put in same situation with a penalty or fine. The Board needs to make it clear to the county executive and County Council that

the Board cannot tolerate the situation where it faces another fine or seek legislative relief.

Ms. Brandman echoed the comments of her colleagues. It is critical to explain that this is not a decision the Board comes to quickly or lightly. Last year was the first time anyone had ever requested a waiver of MOE. Under current law, the county would have to make an application to MSBOE by March 31 and the school systems position needs to be on record by April 10. Moving forward is because the deadline is upon the county and school system. It is a testimony to the fact that these are truly devastating fiscal times. In a county that clearly values education, the crisis is of a magnitude that warrants trying to find a solution that will avoid making the problem worse by triggering a penalty. She supported the application in recognition that there are few options. As the Board has spoken with elected officials, there has been recognition that a perverse aspect of this law is that the penalty comes back to the school system's budget since the county is the funding body.

Ms. Berthiaume associated her remarks with her colleagues. She thanked the county executive for his recommended operating budget in a very difficult time. She said he has shown true leadership in a tough time since his priorities are straight. It is not an easy reduction for the school system, but there also is pain on the other side of the budget as well. When it comes to education, children do not get a second chance. She echoed Mr. Kauffman's remarks about needing a plan and encouraging Board officers to listen, collaborate, and express the Board's views in the event that the MSBOE denies the waiver request.

Mrs. O'Neill stated that she appreciated the comments of the Board. Last year, many believed it was a one-time waiver request. It is apparent to her that this request for FY2011 is number two, and there maybe more problems looming in FY 2012. The school system cannot take any more reductions and a penalty would be devastating. The school system cannot rely on legislature again for relief of a penalty. Also looming on the horizon for FY 2012 could be local funding of teacher pensions. That will create a very difficult storm for the school system when county resources are diminishing and enrollment is rising. The Board will advocate for funding at County Council, and she looked forward to her colleagues joining her when she testified in April. All Board members need to advocate for holding the line—not one penny more taken from the school system since the children need to be educated now.

RESOLUTION NO. 178-10Re: MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT WAIVER

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

WHEREAS, Montgomery County intends to request a waiver totaling \$138,848,943 of the Maintenance of Effort requirement of a local contribution of \$1,553,934,287 (\$11,249 per student), pursuant to Section 5-202 (d) (7) of the Annotated Code of Maryland, Education

Article, because the county's fiscal condition prevents it from funding the Maintenance of Effort requirement without seriously impairing other county services; and

WHEREAS, Pursuant to Maryland State Board of Education procedures, the Montgomery County Board of Education must state its position on the county's waiver request no later than April 10, 2010; and

WHEREAS, Montgomery County Public Schools staff has received information about the county's fiscal condition and has worked closely with county staff to review economic and revenue data; and

WHEREAS, The county executive's Recommended FY 2011 Operating Budget requires the Board of Education to make \$137.7 million in nonrecommended reductions in its FY 2011 Operating Budget Request; and

WHEREAS, No further reductions can be made without seriously endangering the quality of education for Montgomery County Public Schools students; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board of Education supports the Montgomery County request for a waiver of the Maintenance of Effort requirements for FY 2011, if the following conditions are agreed to by the county executive and the County Council and are included in the action of the Maryland State Board of Education:

1. The operating budget amount of \$1,940,540,941 in tax-supported resources (excluding grants and enterprise funds) recommended by the county executive on March 15, 2010, is fully funded by the County Council. This amount necessitates \$137.7 million in nonrecommended reductions in the Board of Education's Operating Budget Request.
2. The FY 2011 appropriation does not include any transfers of functions or expenditures from the County Government budget to the Board of Education budget unless the amount of the transfer is added to the amount recommended by the county executive.
3. The Maintenance of Effort requirement for FY 2012 will be based on the FY 2010 level of \$11,249 per student, unless subsequent action of the General Assembly changes the amount of the FY 2012 requirement by law; and be it further

Resolved, That the president of the Board of Education be authorized to submit this resolution to the Maryland State Board of Education and to represent the Board of Education at a public hearing on the county's waiver request; and be it further

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

Council.

RESOLUTION NO. 179-10 Re: **ADJOURNMENT**

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 adjourn its meeting of March 22, 2010, at 9:10 p.m.

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY

JDW:gr

RESOLUTION	BARCLAY	BERTHIAUME	BRANDMAN	DOCCA	DURSO	HWANG	KAUFFMAN	O'NEILL
Tentative Adoption of Policy IED	A	A	A	A	O	A	A	A
Maintenance of Effort Waiver	A	A	A	A	O	A	A	A

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

MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
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