

APPROVED
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Rockville, Maryland
March 14, 2011

The Board of Education of Montgomery County met in special session at the Carver Educational Services Center, Rockville, Maryland, on March 14, 2011, at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Mr. Christopher Barclay, President
 in the Chair
 Ms. Laura Berthiaume
 Dr. Judy Docca
 Mr. Michael Durso
 Mr. Philip Kauffman
 Mrs. Patricia O'Neill
 Mr. Alan Xie
 Dr. Jerry Weast, Secretary/Treasurer

Absent: Ms. Shirley Brandman

The Board of Education held its annual meeting with the Montgomery County Region of the Maryland Association of Student Councils, the Montgomery County Junior Council/Montgomery County Region, and the representatives of Student Government Associations.

Several topics were brought up by students, and the Board and staff commented, offered suggestions, and asked for follow-up.

Most of the questions centered on the **operating budget** and funding from the County Council. Specifically, the students were interested in fiscal reductions that may affect the classroom and programs. The Board members agreed with the students that the economic picture is not good for the county, and the Board is dedicated to focus on the mission of the system in order to graduate students with a meaningful diploma. Board members agreed that all reductions are painful, and those painful decisions will affect students. Several Board members suggested that the students should contact members of the County Council to voice their concerns.

Students inquired about **renovation and modernization of schools**, and whether or not the schools will remain in the queue with the same timeline. Board members assured the students that they would do everything possible to keep construction on track as well as provide schools in new developments, such as the White Flint sector. However, the school system can only recommend projects that are ultimately funded by the state and county.

There was a question about further **innovation** in teaching. The superintendent and Board agreed that good teaching leads to good learning. However, the funds for staff development and technology will need to be protected for further innovation in the classroom. There is new technology emerging that will allow teachers and students to work

smarter; not harder.

A group of questions centered on the **curriculum** and advanced placement classes. The superintendent stated that the curriculum is more rigorous because it is what the world demands for students to compete in college and work. Furthermore, there is a need to make the high school diploma meaningful without the need for remediation in college.

There was a discussion on **Career and Technology Education** (CTE) as it affects the Thomas Edison High School of Technology and other high schools where CTE is offered. The Board stated that it and the superintendent had a strong commitment to CTE. There will be a modernized school on the Wheaton/Edison site which will lead to increased enrollment for both high schools. Some of the CTE classes require specialized equipment which will be at Edison, and these courses cannot be replicated in other schools.

There was concern about the **Middle School Magnet Consortium** regarding technology, transportation, and budget reductions. The superintendent stated that the total impact of budget reductions will not be known until May. It is important for the County Council to hear from students on reductions and their education. The testimony must relate directly with the student's interests and education. If a student cannot testify, there are always emails and letters to express concern about funding. Students deserve an education reflective of a fully funded budget.

Other topics:

- Outdoor education
- Activity buses
- Student safety and security

Submitted followup questions

- Middle school reform
- Cell phone pilot
- Cafeteria prices
- Bullying prices in the cafeteria
- ESOL policy

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY

JDW:gr