

APPROVED
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Rockville, Maryland
March 15, 2011

The Board of Education of Montgomery County held a hearing at the Carver Educational Services Center, Rockville, Maryland, on March 15, 2011, at 7:00 p.m.

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

Absent: Dr. Jerry Weast, Secretary/Treasurer

Re: **FACILITIES HEARING ON WHEATON HIGH
SCHOOL AND THOMAS EDISON HIGH
SCHOOL FOR TECHNOLOGY**

The following people testified before the Board of Education:

1. George Gadbois, Wheaton High School
2. Theresa Defino, Thomas Edison High School of Technology
3. Jahmas Hamilton, Student
4. Harley Langenstein, Student
5. Russie Tran, Student
6. Kenia Lobo, Student
7. Lorenzo Choudhry, Student
8. Taylor Lyles, Student
9. Cynthia Hernandez, Student
10. Karen Leggett, Transition Work Group
11. Darlene Simmons, Principal Of RICA
12. Carlos Hamlin, Principal of Thomas Edison High School of Technology
13. Kevin Lowndes, Principal of Wheaton High School
14. Jesse McGee
15. Julie Gross
16. Stanford Mackey
17. Joan Sabaka, Special Education Advisory Committee
18. Laura Swerdlin
19. Rose Alvarez, Greater Glenmont Citizens Association
20. Stanley Holcomb

21. Grant Shmelzer
22. Susan Squires
23. Susan Wittan
24. Elisia George
25. Marci Ponton
26. Robert Leyshon
27. Roberto Monroy
28. Lorena Vela
29. Paul Ethrdge
30. Tom Jones
31. Camilia Munoz
32. Lisa Gerhardt
33. Candace Kattar, Identity
34. Jorge Duarte
35. Nhung Pham
36. Ivan Lesimez
37. Iris Garcia
38. Simeona Leon
39. Sara Raker
40. Fred Lowenbach
41. Dr. Carolyn Malstrom
42. Mark Drury
43. Renate Wood
44. Madeleine Wojciechowski
45. Ellen Yui

The Board members asked the following questions:

1. Mrs. O'Neill noted that testimony from Mr. Hamlin and Ms. Gross indicated that special needs students represent 42 percent of Edison's enrollment, and the information from staff indicates the same population at 25.9 percent in the most recent year. The footnote states that the 42 percent is higher than what MCPS is reporting because it includes students with 504 plans and ESOL services. She asked for an accurate number broken down by special needs, including 504 plans and ESOL services. How are the needs of ESOL students addressed with a half-day program? Also, the Edison application makes it difficult for students with special needs to do the essay. How does Edison and central office special education do outreach?
2. Ms. Berthiaume asked questions of Mr. Hamlin and Mr. Lowndes about separate buildings and the feasibility study. She asked if those feasibility studies had begun. Mr. Hamlin indicated an affirmative, and Mr. Lowndes indicated there was a meeting to establish a timeline for the study. Mr. Bowers stated that there was a meeting to look at the timeline; not the start of a feasibility study.
3. Mr. Barclay noted Ms. Berthiaume's questions about the possibility of two feasibility studies. If the Board adopted the option for two separate schools, what would be the process for two feasibility studies? What would that mean for the timeline that exists

right now for Wheaton High School? What would be the timeline for the feasibility study for Edison?

4. Ms. Berthiaume commented on what has happened in the last week. It was clear when the alternatives were adopted, that nothing was to happen that presumed an outcome. Clearly, the Board placed on the table an alternative of two buildings. However, the Board has learned that steps have been taken that presume a single feasibility study. She expressed her disappointment, and there is nothing in the process that cannot wait two to three weeks for a school to be completed in 2016.
5. Mr. Durso was concerned that the Roundtable process was less than open and some people thought it was not handled appropriately. He wanted assurances that the feasibility study does not fall into that category.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY

JDW:gr