

APPROVED
29-2011

Rockville, Maryland
November 8, 2011

The Board of Education of Montgomery County held a business meeting at the Carver Educational Services Center, Rockville, Maryland, on November 8, 2011, beginning at 8:32 a.m.

Present: Ms. Shirley Brandman, Vice President
in the Chair
Ms. Laura Berthiaume
Dr. Judy Docca
Mr. Michael Durso
Mr. Philip Kauffman
Mrs. Patricia O'Neill
Mr. Alan Xie
Dr. Joshua Starr, Secretary/Treasurer

Absent: Mr. Christopher Barclay

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

With a quorum present, the Board of Education met in open session at 8:32 a.m.

RESOLUTION NO. 499-11 Re: **RESOLUTION FOR CLOSED SESSION**

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

WHEREAS, The Board of Education of Montgomery County is authorized by the *Education Article* and *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 November 8, 2011, in Room 120 from 8:30 to 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.; and be it further

Resolved, That the superintendent of schools brief the Board on the Sexual Harassment Quarterly Report, which is an administrative function outside the purview of the *Open Meetings Act* and, to the extent any individual employee is discussed, as permitted under Section 10-508(a)(1) of the *State Government Article*; and be it further

Resolved, That the superintendent of schools brief the Board on the Monthly Human Resources and Development Report, with a subsequent vote in open session, which is

an administrative function outside the purview of the *Open Meetings Act* and, to the extent any individual employee is discussed, as permitted under Section 10-508(a)(1) of the *State Government Article*; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board receive legal advice and discuss matters relating to the acquisition of real property for a future school site and matters directly related thereto, as permitted under Sections 10-508(a)(3) and 10-508(a)(7) of the *State Government Article* and Section 4-107(d)(2)(i) of the *Education Article*; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board discuss strategies for presenting to the County Council and the county executive the Fiscal Year 2013 Capital Budget and FY 2013-2018 Capital Improvements Program, which is an administrative function outside the purview of the *Open Meetings Act*; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board receive legal advice and consult with staff and individuals about litigation pending in Montgomery County Circuit Court, as permitted under Section 10-508(a)(7) and Section 10-508(a)(8), respectively, of the *State Government Article*; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board receive a briefing by staff and discuss ongoing collective bargaining negotiations, as permitted under Section 10-508(a)(9) of the *State Government Article*; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board receive legal advice as the Board adjudicates appeals, which is a quasi-judicial function outside the purview of the *Open Meetings Act* and as permitted under Section 10-508(a)(7) of the *State Government Article*; and be it further

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

Re: **OPEN SESSION**

The Board of Education met in closed session from 8:33 to 9:52 a.m. After a break, the Board of Education reconvened in open session at 10:05 a.m.

To view specific sections or the entire meeting, please watch at <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/boe/meetings/archive/2011/2011-1108.shtm>

Re: **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

RESOLUTION NO. 499-11 Re: APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

Resolved, That the Board of Education approve its agenda for November 8, 2011.

RESOLUTION NO. 501-11 Re: IN HONOR OF VETERANS

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, Each Veterans Day, Americans continue to celebrate with ceremonies and speeches remembering and honoring those who fought for peace; and

WHEREAS, In 2001, United States Senate Resolution 143 designated the week of November 11 through November 17 of each year as 'National Veterans Awareness Week'; and

WHEREAS, Tens of millions of Americans have served in the Armed Forces of the United States, and hundreds of thousands of Americans have given their lives while serving in the Armed Forces during the past century; and

WHEREAS, The month of November provides us an opportunity to remember and acknowledge the sacrifices of men and women who served our country in the Armed Forces of the United States and especially our parents, staff, and community members; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board of Education along with students, parents, Montgomery County Public Schools staff, and the entire community salutes the sacrifices of the men and women of the United States Armed Forces.

RESOLUTION NO. 502-11 Re: AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK

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, Public schools are the backbone of our democracy, providing students with the knowledge and skills they need to maintain our nation's values of freedom, civility, and equality; and

WHEREAS, Montgomery County Public Schools has high expectations for every child and is committed to providing a climate of respect that provides students access to opportunities to ensure academic success; and

WHEREAS, All Montgomery County Public Schools' staff members work to serve our students and their families with care and professionalism; and

WHEREAS, Parents are an integral part of the educational process, providing a nurturing home learning environment and serving as their child's first teachers and advocates, and are important partners with the school system; and

WHEREAS, Community involvement in our schools provides vital support and facilitates opportunities for students to participate in community learning and outreach activities; and

WHEREAS, The schools of Montgomery County Public Schools are the foundation of neighborhoods and communities, bringing together students and parents, educators and volunteers, business leaders, and elected officials for a common purpose; and

WHEREAS, Well-educated students who graduate from high school ready for college and the workforce drive innovation that can solve world problems in the fields of government, business, industry, and human relations; and

WHEREAS, In acknowledgement of American Education Week, educators, students, family, and community members take time to celebrate their accomplishments and reaffirm their commitment to ensure a world-class education for all students; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Montgomery County Board of Education and the superintendent of schools hereby declares November 13 through November 19, 2011, to be observed in Montgomery County Public Schools as American Education Week, a time to appreciate the importance of continuing support for our schools.

RESOLUTION NO. 503-11 Re: **SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY AWARENESS WEEK**

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 National Association of School Psychologists has designated November 14-18, 2011, as School Psychology Awareness Week to recognize the important role school psychologists play in children's education and development; and

WHEREAS, The theme for this year's School Psychology Awareness Week, 'Every Link Matters. Make The Connection' emphasizes the importance of positive relationships in helping students confront challenges and major life crises; and

WHEREAS, Research points to the central role of meaningful relationships in a child's life; and

WHEREAS, School psychologists are trained to help students and school personnel focus on developing constructive connections; creating productive learning environments; and fostering healthy interactions within the school, home, and community; and

WHEREAS, School psychologists work with parents and educators to ensure that every child has the mental health and learning supports he or she needs to succeed in school and life; and

WHEREAS, It is appropriate that Montgomery County Public Schools recognizes the vital role that school psychologists play in the social, emotional, and academic development of Montgomery County Public Schools' children; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Montgomery County Board of Education and the superintendent of schools do hereby proclaim November 14-18, 2011, as School Psychology Awareness Week in Montgomery County Public Schools and commend observance to all of our school community.

Re: **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

The following people commented before the Board of Education:

Person	Topic
Mr. Christopher Lloyd	Curriculum 2.0
Ms. Robin Rutchik	Agriculture Education
Mr. Dori Lavy	Agriculture Education
Mr. Bill Stephens	Bethesda-Chevy Chase Middle School #2
Mr. James Pekar	Bethesda-Chevy Chase Middle School #2

Re: **BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS**

Mr. Xie noted that he was host for Dr. Starr's first student town hall meeting; it was an exciting experience to talk with students. Tomorrow, there will be a second town hall. The County Council's youth town hall included youth curfew. Also, students are interested in the operating budget with the maintenance of effort and potential reductions.

Mrs. O'Neill commented on the event to celebrate active and retired military families on November 3 at Richard Montgomery High School. The event brought together school system staff, military service members, government agencies, and community organizations, which offered resources, answered questions and assisted families with

their needs. It was hosted by the Department of Family and Community Partnerships.

Dr. Docca stated that the NAACP Parent Council did a good job putting together their meeting. President of NAACP, Paul Vance, thanked Dr. Docca for working on the scholarships; however, Dr. Docca pointed out that Ms. Brandman worked as co-chair with Dr. Docca for the last three years, including schedules, interviews, selecting readers, and funding. On February 19, Dr. Docca attended a program on Hispanic Heritage at Burnt Mills Elementary School, and the students presented a wonderful program. Gaithersburg Middle School has a guide program to counteract bullying.

Ms. Brandman thanked the community for their participation in the Community Conversations; she appreciated their time and feedback on the operating budget. Ms. Brandman represented the Board at the Montgomery County Early Care and Education Congress at their legislative briefing. She commented on the MCPS students who were named semifinalists in the prestigious Siemens Competition in mathematics, science and technology. A special “congratulations” goes to Student Board Member Alan Xie, who was one of the nine semifinalists.

Dr. Starr commented on the Siemens Competition semifinalists, NAACP Parent Council kickoff, “MCPS on the Move,” student town hall meetings, and Listen and Learn events.

Re: **CURRICULUM 2.0 IMPLEMENTATION
UPDATE**

Staff commented that in an era of narrowing curriculum, Curriculum 2.0 holds the promise of broadening instruction to engage the whole child. Ten subject areas at the elementary level—art, health education, information literacy, mathematics, music, physical education, reading, science, social studies, and writing—have been refocused around the skills students need for a lifetime of learning. Three major features outline the promise of Curriculum 2.0:

New internationally driven standards in mathematics, reading, and writing

Mathematics, reading, and writing are based on new strengthened standards, also called the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). These standards, adopted by Maryland last year, describe the content that students must learn at each grade level and are designed to help U.S. students compete favorably with students around the world.

A renewed focus on teaching the whole child

The curriculum provides more instructional focus on subjects such as the arts, information literacy, physical education, science, and social studies by blending them with mathematics, reading, and writing. Students will receive instruction across all subjects in the early grades.

Integrated thinking, reasoning, and creativity

The curriculum is designed to do an even better job of teaching Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) students the academic, creative, and critical thinking skills that build confidence, generate success, and prepare children for a lifetime of learning.

Implementing a powerful initiative during a time of diminishing resources creates several challenges. The *Transition Team Report* identified alignment of resources, communication, ability to support schools, and professional development as challenges to reaching a consistently high level of implementation. This memorandum updates the status of implementation and plans for expansion, describes staff implementation concerns, outlines steps taken to resolve concerns so far, summarizes parent feedback, and discusses changes in mathematics.

Grade 3 curriculum is in development with the first marking period expected to be available in January 2012. However, there are a number of key next steps that must be completed to ensure support for implementation.

- Continue ongoing collection of feedback from instructional staff and parents.
- Continue to identify major issues through feedback, seek resolutions, and communicate frequently about issues.
- Collect data on MAP-P and MAP-M pilots and analyze results to make a recommendation for benchmark assessments in mathematics.
- Review i3 grant evaluation early feedback regarding implementation to make adjustments based on feedback.
- Design and implement plans to expand staff participation in uploading and reviewing resources and providing feedback options in the IC.
- Continue Core Team Training and Staff Development Teacher, Principal Curriculum Update, and subject area specialist meetings focused on Curriculum 2.0. Use feedback from sessions as a data point to help determine needs for next year.
- Finalize implementation and professional development plans for the 20122013 school year.

Although there are challenges associated with implementing Curriculum 2.0, the breadth and vision of this initiative avoids a piecemeal approach in dealing with state curriculum mandates and budget reductions. The implementation of the CCSS and PARCC assessments without Curriculum 2.0 would further narrow instructional focus to only reading/language arts and mathematics at the elementary level. Instead of sidelining the subjects so many students find engaging, Curriculum 2.0 embraces the strengths of art, music, physical education, information literacy, health education, science, and social studies. In developing thinking and academic success skills across many subject areas, MCPS positions its students to be well prepared for future assessment changes and a lifetime of learning.

In *Managing Transitions*, William Bridges cautioned that a lofty vision only can be achieved by attending to the myriad of details that comprise the vision. As instructional staff, parents, and students transition to Curriculum 2.0 over the next several years, MCPS leadership is committed to carefully handling the large and small details that make up the greater vision. Ongoing feedback from parents and staff, and resolution of identified issues, will be essential to building the trust and commitment that will deliver the promise of Curriculum 2.0.

Re: **DISCUSSION**

Board members inquired about the implementation of the curriculum by noting the following points:

- Timing and planning for six different reading/math groups.
- Three common themes—more time, professional development, and technology.
- Obligation to communicate with parents on strengths of the curriculum.
- Support for principals to ensure curriculum implementation.
- Safeguards to ensure consistency.
- Plan to address the issue of time for preparation.
- Data to measure success and when the curriculum makes a difference.
- Placement of students without a step back (acceleration).
- Experience with Universal Design for Learning.

Following the staff's presentation on math, Board members noted:

- Assure that students' progress on the continuum without gaps in instruction.
- How will students be identified who can easily do the work and will the criteria be available to parents?
- How will staff know the students are "getting it."
- MCPS is obligated to support teachers with professional development training since universities are not preparing teachers for 21st century teaching.
- Is Pearson working on assessments?
- Will the roll out spread to the upper grades and how soon?
- How does the school system provide resources?

RESOLUTION NO. 504-11

Re: **2012-13 SCHOOL CALENDAR**

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 establishment of school terms by the Board of Education is required by Maryland State law; and

WHEREAS, Montgomery County Public Schools parents, community members, students, and staff should be informed of the Board-adopted school calendar each year

and the subsequent contingency plan identifying days that will be used to make up lost instructional time due to emergency closings; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the proposed calendar and contingency plan for Montgomery County Public Schools for the 2012-2013 school year be adopted.

School Calendar for 2012-2013

2012		
Wednesday, July 4	Holiday	Independence Day
August 20, 21, 22, 23, 24		Professional days for teachers
Monday, August 27		First day of school for students
Monday, September 3	Holiday	Labor Day
Monday, September 17	Rosh Hashana	No school for students and teachers
Wednesday, September 26	Yom Kippur	No school for students and teachers
Friday, September 28	Tentative	Tentative early release for all students— planning/grades/interims
Friday, October 19		MSEA Conference/MCAAP Fall Conference— no school for students and teachers
Monday, November 5		Professional day for teachers (no school for students)— planning/report card preparation and duty day for designated 10-month employees for professional development activities
Tuesday, November 6	Holiday	Presidential Election Day— schools and offices closed
Monday and Tuesday, November 12 and 13		Early release K-8 (parent conferences)
Wednesday, November 21		Early release K-12 prior to Thanksgiving Holiday
Thursday and Friday, November 22 and 23	Holidays	Thanksgiving
Monday and Tuesday, December 24 and 25	Holidays	Christmas
December 26, 27, 28, 31		Winter break— no school for students and teachers
2013		
Tuesday, January 1, 2013	Holiday	New Year's Day
Monday, January 21	Holiday	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Tuesday, January 22		Professional day for teachers (specified 10-month employees work)— no school for students

Monday, February 18	Holiday	Presidents' Day
Friday, March 1	Tentative	Tentative early release for all students— planning/grades
March 25, 26, 27, 28		Spring break—no school for students and teachers
March 29 and April 1	Holidays	Good Friday and Easter Monday
Tuesday, April 2		Professional day for teachers—no school for students
Monday, May 27	Holiday	Memorial Day
Friday, June 14		Last day of school for students
Monday, June 17		Professional day for teachers

Re: LUNCH AND CLOSED SESSION

The Board of Education recessed for lunch and closed session (1:05 to 1:47 p.m.)

After a break, the Board of Education reconvened in open session at 2:04 p.m.

RESOLUTION NO. 505-11 Re: CONTRACTS OF \$25,000 OR MORE

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, Funds have been budgeted for the purchase of equipment, supplies, and contractual services; and

WHEREAS, Funds have been budgeted for the lease/purchase of off-the-lot, new vehicles through Bid No. 0367000079; and

WHEREAS, Funds have been budgeted for the lease/purchase of classroom furniture through Bid No. 4114.4; and

WHEREAS, Funds have been budgeted for the lease/purchase of a trash compactor truck through Bid No. 7143.3; and

WHEREAS, The acquisition of off-the-lot, new vehicles, classroom furniture, and a trash compactor truck through the lease/purchase agreement has been reviewed by legal counsel; now therefore be it

Resolved, That off-the-lot, new vehicles in the amount of \$60,935 be leased/purchased for a five-year term under the Master Lease/Purchase Agreement with Banc of America Public Capital Corporation; and be it further

Resolved, That classroom furniture in the amount of \$908,613 be leased/purchased for a six-year term under the Master Lease/Purchase Agreement with Banc of America Public Capital Corporation; and be it further

Resolved, That a trash compactor truck in the amount of \$124,557 be leased/purchased for a five-year term under the Master Lease/Purchase Agreement with Banc of America Public Capital Corporation; and be it further

Resolved, That the proceeds from the aforementioned financing be used to reimburse Montgomery County Public Schools accounts to the extent that such equipment has been or will be acquired before closing; and be it further

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

Resolved, That having been duly advertised, the following contracts will be awarded to the low bidders meeting specifications as shown below:

036700 Off-the-lot, New Vehicles
0079

Awardee

Lindsay Ford, LLC

\$ 60,935

MBU- Food Services and Food Products
525-11

Awardee

Kellogg Sales Company dba Kellogg's
Food Away From Home

\$ 78,000

4082.6

Science Equipment

Awardees

Benz Microscope Optics Center

\$ 2,097

Carolina Biological Supply Company

2,422

Cynmar Corporation*

3,059

Edvotek, Inc.

7,774

Fisher Science Education

70,690

Frey Scientific/Div. Delta Education

799

Para Scientific Company

10,864

Parco Scientific Company*

267

Pasco Scientific

25,670

Pitsco, Inc.

2,631

RSR Electronics

5,076

Thomas Scientific, Inc.

2,209

VWR Education, LLC

19,465

VWR International	<u>29,565</u>
Total	\$182,588
4083.5	
Chalkboards, Tack Boards, and White Boards—Extension	
<u>Awardee</u>	
Steel Products, Inc.*	\$ 49,531
4112.4	
Batteries—Extension	
<u>Awardee</u>	
Vehicle Maintenance Program, Inc.*	\$ 49,432
4114.4	
Classroom Furniture—Extension	
<u>Awardees</u>	
Douron, Inc.*	\$872,353
Glover Equipment, Inc.	<u>36,260</u>
Total	\$908,613
4178.1	
Dental Plans—Extension	
<u>Awardee</u>	
Aetna Dental, Inc.	\$443,000
4194.2	
FSA/COBRA and Direct Bill	
<u>Awardees</u>	
Benefit Strategies, LLC	\$ 34,000
SHPS Human Resource Solutions, Inc.	<u>180,000</u>
Total	\$214,000
4207.1	
Pharmacy Benefit Management Program—Extension	
<u>Awardee</u>	
CaremarkPCS Health, LLC	\$635,000

4260.1

Social Work Services for Students in Alternative Programs-Extension

Awardee

Family Support Center

\$192,000

4272.1

Visitor Management System-Extension

Awardees (See note)

Schneider Electric Buildings

Critical Systems, Inc.

Total

\$ 68,325

4296.1

Vision Programs-Extension

Awardee

National Vision Administrators, LLC

\$135,000

4308.1

Grant Proposal Writers-Extension

Awardees (See note)

Core Education, LLC*

Vivian Rosskamm

Total

\$ 25,000

4311.1

Maintenance/Support for Access Control Security Systems-Extension

Awardee

Maxxess Systems, Inc.

\$ 38,302

4320.1

Magnet Program Admissions Testing

Awardee

NCS Pearson

\$ 70,000

4321.1

Web-based Safety Training

Awardee

SafeSchools	\$ 56,250
7102.3 Automotive Batteries-Extension	
<u>Awardee</u> Best Battery Company, Inc.	\$150,000
7115.6 Early Childhood Equipment and Supplies	
<u>Awardees</u> AFP Industries, Inc.*	\$ 3,325
Community Products, LLC	68,625
Kaplan Early Learning Company	31,962
Lakeshore Learning Materials	187,053
School Specialty, Inc.	133,257
Wood Etc. Corporation*	<u>14,840</u>
Total	\$439,062
7117.3 Snowplow and Pump Parts-Extension	
<u>Awardee</u> Gaithersburg Equipment Company	\$ 53,567
7118.6 Heavy Equipment, Tractor, and Mower Parts	
<u>Awardee</u> Lawn and Power Equipment	\$ 70,000
7143.3 Trash Compactor Truck	
<u>Awardee</u> Johnson Truck Center	\$124,557
9059.9 Developmental Activities, Supplies, and Equipment-Extension	
<u>Awardees</u> Cannon Sports, Inc.*	\$ 22,521
Flaghouse, Inc.	4,409

	S&S Worldwide	2,028
	School Specialty, Inc.	22,884
	Sport Supply Group, Inc.	44,872
	Sports Stop, Inc.	16,910
	The Prophet Corporation	<u>6,217</u>
	Total	\$119,841
9061.8	Field Hockey Supplies and Equipment— Ex Extension	
	<u>Awardee</u>	
	Longstreth Sporting Goods, LLC*	\$ 31,162
9115.9	Potatoes, Frozen— Ex Extension	
	<u>Awardees</u>	
	Feesers, Inc.	\$ 40,400
	J. R. Simplot Company	<u>385,800</u>
	Total	\$426,200
9125.6	Refrigerators, Freezers, and Milk Coolers	
	<u>Awardees</u>	
	Ashland Equipment, Inc.	\$ 57,340
	Culiquip, LLC*	27,340
	Sam Tell and Sons, Inc.	<u>5,133</u>
	Total	\$ 89,813
9201.3	Diploma and Certificate Covers— Ex Extension	
	<u>Awardee</u>	
	Jostens, Inc.	\$ 39,696
9404.3	Water Treatment Supplies, Equipment, and Chemicals— Ex Extension	
	<u>Awardees</u> (See note)	
	Harrington Industrial Plastics, LLC	
	Superior Water Services, Inc.	
	Tricon Chemical Corporation*	

Total	\$ 75,000
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9706.2 Athletic Field Maintenance at Various Locations—Extension

Awardees (See note)

Abrahams Lawn Service

American Organic Soils

Brickman Group

Capitol City Contractors, LLC

Chesapeake Turf, LLC

Collegiate Landscaping

Community Bridge, Inc.*

Damascus Enterprises, Inc.

Game Day, Inc.*

Greenskeeper Landscaping & Lawn Management, Inc.

Growing Solutions, Inc.

Lapinski S. Landscaping, Inc.

Laytonsville Turf Farm, LLC*

Long Acre Lawn & Landscape, LLC

Scientific Plant Services, Inc.

Tru Green Landcare

Trugreen Limited

Total

\$ 500,000

TOTAL PROCUREMENT CONTRACTS OVER \$25,000

\$5,324,874

*Denotes Minority-, Female-, or Disabled-owned Business

RESOLUTION NO. 506-11

Re: **CONTRACT APPROVAL FOR BID NO.
4193.2, LIFE INSURANCE PLAN—
EXTENSION**

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, Funds have been budgeted for the contractual services of providing life insurance plans; now therefore be it

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

Resolved, That having been duly advertised, the following contracts will be awarded to the low bidders meeting specifications as shown below:

4193.2 Life Insurance Plans—Extension

Awardee
Prudential Financial, Inc.

\$2,900,000

RESOLUTION NO. 507-11 Re: **CONTRACT APPROVAL FOR BID NO.
7055.12, PURCHASE OF SCHOOL BUSES—
EXTENSION**

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, Funds will be budgeted for the lease/purchase of 72-passenger school buses through Bid No. 7055.12; and

WHEREAS, The acquisition of 72-passenger school buses through the lease/purchase agreement has been reviewed by legal counsel; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the purchase of 63 72-passenger school buses in the amount of \$7,351,596 be leased/purchased for a 6-year term under the Master Lease/Purchase Agreement with Banc of America Public Capital Corporation; and be it further

Resolved, That the proceeds from the aforementioned financing be used to reimburse Montgomery County Public Schools accounts to the extent that such equipment has been or will be acquired before closing; and be it further

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

Resolved, That having been duly advertised, the following contracts will be awarded to the low bidders meeting specifications as shown below:

7055.12 Purchase of School Buses—Extension

Awardee
American Truck & Bus, Inc.

\$7,351,596

RESOLUTION NO. 508-11 Re: **CONTRACT APPROVAL FOR BID NO.
7055.13, PURCHASE OF SCHOOL BUSES—
EXTENSION**

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, Fund will be budgeted for the lease/purchase of 48-passenger school buses through Bid No. 7055.13; and

WHEREAS, The acquisition of 48-passenger school buses through the lease/purchase agreement has been reviewed by legal counsel; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the purchase of 26 48-passenger school buses in the amount of \$2,677,034 be leased/purchased for a 6-year term under the Master Lease/Purchase Agreement with Banc of America Public Capital Corporation; and be it further

Resolved, That the proceeds from the aforementioned financing be used to reimburse Montgomery County Public Schools accounts to the extent that such equipment has been or will be acquired before closing; and be it further

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

Resolved, That having been duly advertised, the following contracts will be awarded to the low bidders meeting specifications as shown below:

7055.13 Purchase of School Buses—Extension

Awardee	
American Truck & Bus, Inc.	\$2,677,034

RESOLUTION NO. 509-11 Re: **ARCHITECTURAL APPOINTMENT—
WILLIAM H. FARQUHAR MIDDLE SCHOOL
MODERNIZATION**

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, It is necessary to appoint an architectural firm to provide professional and technical services during the design and construction phases for the William H. Farquhar Middle School modernization project; and

WHEREAS, The preliminary construction cost estimate for this work is approximately \$35,700,000; and

WHEREAS, Funds for architectural planning were programmed as part of the Fiscal Year 2012 Capital Budget; and

WHEREAS, An Architect Selection Committee, in accordance with procedures adopted

by the Board of Education on April 20, 2006, identified Hord Coplan Macht, Inc. as the most qualified firm to provide the necessary professional architectural and engineering services; and

WHEREAS, Staff in the Department of Facilities Management has negotiated a fee for the necessary architectural and engineering services; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Montgomery County Board of Education enters into a contractual agreement with the architectural firm of Hord Coplan Macht, Inc. to provide professional architectural and engineering services for the William H. Farquhar Middle School modernization project for a fee of \$1,700,000.

RESOLUTION NO. 510-11 Re: **PRECONSTRUCTION/CONSTRUCTION
MANAGEMENT SERVICES—
CANDLEWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
MODERNIZATION**

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 Fiscal Year 2011-2016 Capital Improvements Program includes planning funds for the Candlewood Elementary School modernization project; and

WHEREAS, The design phase of this project is commencing, with construction scheduled to begin in July 2013 and be completed by December 2014; and

WHEREAS, Staff in the Department of Facilities Management has recommended that this project be completed using a construction management delivery system due to its complexities and scope of work; and

WHEREAS, A Consultant Selection Committee, utilizing procedures adopted by the Board of Education on April 20, 2006, identified Keller Construction Management, LLC as the most qualified firm to provide the necessary management services; and

WHEREAS, The management services will be implemented in two phases; and

WHEREAS, The initial phase will consist of preconstruction services for cost estimating, value engineering, constructability reviews, and the development of the construction implementation schedule; and

WHEREAS, Staff in the Department of Facilities Management has negotiated a fee for the preconstruction services; and

WHEREAS, The second phase will consist of general construction management

services, and a fee for this phase will be negotiated once the preconstruction services are completed; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Montgomery County Board of Education enters into a contractual agreement with Keller Construction Management, LLC to provide preconstruction services for cost estimating, value engineering, constructability reviews, and the development of the construction implementation schedule for the Candlewood Elementary School modernization project for a fee of \$70,722.

RESOLUTION NO. 511-11 Re: **PRECONSTRUCTION/CONSTRUCTION
MANAGEMENT SERVICES—ROCK CREEK
FOREST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
MODERNIZATION**

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 Fiscal Year 2011-2016 Capital Improvements Program includes planning funds for the Rock Creek Forest Elementary School modernization project; and

WHEREAS, The design phase of this project is commencing, with construction scheduled to begin in July 2013 and be completed by December 2014; and

WHEREAS, Staff in the Department of Facilities Management has recommended that this project be completed using a construction management delivery system due to its complexities and scope of work; and

WHEREAS, A Consultant Selection Committee utilizing procedures adopted by the Board of Education on April 20, 2006, identified Henley Construction Co., Inc. as the most qualified firm to provide the necessary management services; and

WHEREAS, The management services will be implemented in two phases; and

WHEREAS, The initial phase will consist of preconstruction services for cost estimating, value engineering, constructability reviews, and the development of the construction implementation schedule; and

WHEREAS, Staff in the Department of Facilities Management has negotiated a fee for the preconstruction services; and

WHEREAS, The second phase will consist of general construction management services, and a fee for this phase will be negotiated once the preconstruction services are completed; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Montgomery County Board of Education enters into a contractual agreement with Henley Construction Co., Inc. to provide preconstruction services for cost estimating, value engineering, constructability reviews, and the development of the construction implementation schedule for the Rock Creek Forest Elementary School modernization project for a fee of \$75,000.

RESOLUTION NO. 512-11 Re: **UTILIZATION OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2012
PROVISION FOR FUTURE SUPPORTED
PROJECTS**

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 above-noted grants qualify for a transfer of appropriation from the Provision for Future Supported Projects, pursuant to the provisions of County Council Resolution No. 17-150, approved May 26, 2011; and

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

WHEREAS, Sufficient appropriation is available within the Fiscal Year 2012 Provision for Future Supported Projects to permit the above-noted transfers within state categories; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the superintendent of schools be authorized by the Montgomery County Board of Education to receive and expend \$196,413 within the Fiscal Year 2012 Provision for Future Supported Projects, as specified below:

Project	Amount
Infants and Toddlers Individual Family Service Plan Extended Part G-American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009	\$ 134,900
Maryland Model for School Readiness	41,514
Project Lead the Way Biomedical Sciences Program	19,999
Total	\$ 196,413

and be it further

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

RESOLUTION NO. 513-11

Re: **FISCAL YEAR 2012 FIRST QUARTER
CATEGORY AND OBJECT TRANSFERS
REQUEST**

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, Montgomery County Public Schools must report each transfer between state categories to the county executive and the County Council; and

WHEREAS, Categorical and object transfers are required at this time for grant-funded projects; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the superintendent of schools be authorized to effect Fiscal Year 2012 categorical transfers of \$241,499 in the following categories:

21st Century Learning Community Center—~~Ext~~ended Learning Opportunities

	Category	From	To
2	Mid-level Administration	\$ 473	
3	Instructional Salaries	1,576	
4	Textbooks and Instructional Supplies		\$ 2,426
5	Other Instructional Costs		452
9	Student Transportation	665	
12	Fixed Charges	164	
	Total	\$ 2,878	\$ 2,878

Head Start

	Category	From	To
3	Instructional Salaries		\$ 122
4	Textbooks and Instructional Supplies		21,340
5	Other Instructional Costs		250
7	Student Personnel Services	\$ 21,712	
	Total	\$ 21,712	\$ 21,712

Title IID, Maryland Technology Proficiency Partnership

	Category	From	To
3	Instructional Salaries	\$ 12,304	
5	Other Instructional Costs		\$ 12,304
	Total	\$ 12,304	\$ 12,304

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Projects

	Category	From	To
6	Special Education		\$ 8,699
9	Student Transportation	\$ 4,050	
12	Fixed Charges	4,649	
	Total	\$ 8,699	\$ 8,699

IDEA-American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009

	Category	From	To
3	Instructional Salaries	\$ 46,910	
6	Special Education		\$ 177,747
12	Fixed Charges	130,837	
	Total	\$ 177,747	\$ 177,747

Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program-ARRA

	Category	From	To
1	Administration	\$ 3,159	
3	Instructional Salaries		\$ 15,940
5	Other Instructional Costs	15,000	
9	Student Transportation		944
10	Operation of Plant and Equipment		1,275
	Total	\$ 18,159	\$ 18,159

and be it further

Resolved, That the superintendent of schools be authorized to effect Fiscal Year 2012 object transfers of \$622,848 in the following project:

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act-American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009

	Object	From	To
01	Salaries and Wages	\$ 287,027	
02	Contractual Services	111,472	
03	Supplies and Materials		\$622,848
04	Other Expenditures	130,837	
05	Equipment	93,512	
	Total	\$ 622,848	\$ 622,848

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

RESOLUTION NO. 514-11

Re: **FISCAL YEAR 2012 SUPPLEMENTAL
APPROPRIATION REQUEST FOR
TECHNOLOGY MODERNIZATION**

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, In June 2008, the Board of Education approved the purchase of interactive classroom technology systems for approximately two-thirds of all secondary classrooms at a total cost of \$13.3 million, financed over a four-year period (\$3.4 million from fiscal years 2009-2012); and

WHEREAS, Federal Education Rate funds were designated as the source of funding these interactive classroom technology systems; and

WHEREAS, The County Council appropriated Federal Education Rate funds in fiscal years 2010-2012, including \$2,027,000 in Fiscal Year 2012; and

WHEREAS, An additional appropriation of \$1,339,200 is necessary to make the fourth and final payment for the interactive classroom technology systems in secondary schools, and these funds are available from Federal Education Rate funds that will be received in Fiscal Year 2012; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board of Education requests a Fiscal Year 2012 supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$1,339,200 for the final of four payments for secondary school interactive classroom technology systems; and be it further

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

RESOLUTION NO. 515-11

Re: **MONTHLY HUMAN RESOURCES AND
DEVELOPMENT REPORT**

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

WHEREAS, The educators and others who are employed by Montgomery County Public Schools are key partners in the important work and achievements of the school system; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board of Education approves the monthly Human Resources and Development Report with its listings identifying new employees, employee resignations, and other employee status updates; and be it further

Resolved, That this resolution be made a part of the minutes of this meeting.

RESOLUTION NO. 516-11 Re: **DEATH OF MS. BARBARA C. WARD,
TEACHER, SPECIAL EDUCATION,
ROCKVILLE HIGH SCHOOL**

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 death on October 8, 2011, of Ms. Barbara C. Ward, special education teacher at Rockville High School, has deeply saddened the staff, students, and members of the Board of Education; and

WHEREAS, During the 20.5 years with Montgomery County Public Schools, Ms. Ward always greeted her students daily and demonstrated a genuine interest in their wellbeing; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Ward represented the school well when dealing with parents and members of the community; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the members of the Board of Education and the superintendent of schools express their sorrow at the death of Ms. Ward and extend deepest sympathy to her family; and be it further

Resolved, That this resolution be made a part of the minutes of this meeting and a copy be forwarded to Ms. Ward's family.

RESOLUTION NO. 517-11 Re: **DEATH OF DONNA DAVIS, SCHOOL
ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY,
TAKOMA PARK MIDDLE SCHOOL**

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 death on October 16, 2011, of Mrs. Donna Davis, school administrative secretary at Takoma Park Middle School, has deeply saddened the staff, students, and members of the Board of Education; and

WHEREAS, During the 11.7 years Mrs. Davis had worked for Montgomery County Public Schools, she demonstrated her professionalism as she managed the office staff with efficiency and patience; and

WHEREAS, She genuinely cared about all the families and parents that would seek out her assistance on a daily basis. She was well respected by the staff, students and

community members; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the members of the Board of Education and the superintendent of schools express their sorrow at the death of Mrs. Davis and extend deepest sympathy to her family; and be it further

Resolved, That this resolution be made a part of the minutes of this meeting and a copy be forwarded to Mrs. Davis' family.

Re: **MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT**

Mr. Larry Bowers, chief operating officer, stated that this financial report reflects the actual financial condition of Montgomery County Public Schools as of September 30, 2011, and projections through June 30, 2012, based on program requirements and estimates made by primary and secondary account managers. At this time, expenses have a projected surplus of \$7,000,000.

Due to Fiscal Year (FY) 2011 comprehensive expenditure restrictions, including a hiring freeze, MCPS achieved a reduction of \$27.0 million of expenditures compared to budget. The FY 2012 Operating Budget included fund balance of \$17.0 million of the total savings as a source of appropriation, leaving fund balance of \$10.0 million available for appropriation in FY 2013. This unappropriated FY 2011 fund balance, together with the FY 2012 projected surplus of \$7.0 million, equals \$17.0 million that is available to fund the FY 2013 Operating Budget.

Re: **LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM**

On behalf of the Strategic Planning Committee, the following document was placed on the table:

Maintenance of Effort

Since 1984, longstanding actions of Maryland's decision makers led to the commonly held perception and belief that Maintenance of Effort (MOE) was the absolute funding floor for local school budgets. In April 2011 this changed when legislators and Attorneys General said the floor has always been the "local share of the foundation amount", an amount 50% less than called for by Maintenance of Effort. This new floor signals the end of adequacy, equity, and excellence in Maryland's public schools.

Maintenance of Effort must be restored to ensure:

- Accountability - make MOE the local funding floor, with a mandated waiver process.
- Flexibility - improve and expand the State Board of Education's waiver process.
- Fairness - apply the penalty for not meeting MOE to the county, not the school system.

Teacher Retirement

In 2006, the teacher pension system underwent major improvements, including retroactive funding, deemed feasible at that time, to improve benefits. Coupled with the pension system's funding methodology and the current economic climate, liability growth has significantly outpaced assets. Recent legislative action now has new employees paying 80% of their benefit costs and all employees paying for most of the improvements in benefits on a "go forward" basis.

Shifting any additional retirement costs to local jurisdictions or boards:

- Unfairly transfers the burden to local jurisdictions for investment shortfalls.
- Is inconsistent with recent legislative action projected to reduce costs and improve solvency.
- Will put an unreasonable strain on local education budgets.

Bridge to Excellence Funding

The *Bridge to Excellence in Public Schools Act of 2002* (BTE), conceived to ensure adequacy and equity in education funding, has led to increased student performance in Maryland. Since 2008, the BTE targeted funding level has been maintained. While the non-mandated Geographic Cost of Education Index (GCEI) has been fully funded for the past two years, the mandated annual inflation factor was eliminated through FY 2012.

To keep pace with rising standards for student performance, state aid must be sustained by:

- Mandating the Geographic Cost of Education Index (GCEI).
- Reinstating the annual inflation factor.
- Maintaining BTE mandated per pupil funding levels and targeted funding programs.

School Construction

State construction funds continue to be inadequate to meet our substantial needs. Rapid enrollment growth, coupled with maintenance needs in older schools, continues to put enormous pressures on school facilities. Without adequate school construction funding, MCPS will be forced into an over-reliance on relocatable classrooms while increasingly aging and less than adequate facilities will become the norm making it hard to meet the educational needs of our students.

To meet rapidly expanding facility needs, the state must:

- Ensure at least \$250 million for school construction and renovation.
- Expand bonding capacity to meet growing school facility needs.
- Distribute school construction funds equal to the percentage share of student enrollment.

FUNDING/ACCOUNTABILITY

Today's investments in the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) are key to a prosperous economy, strong business growth, and students' ability to compete for good jobs in the global, high-tech economy. School systems must be adequately funded to prepare our youth to support our future economic health. We cannot afford any unfunded mandates, significant additional workload burdens, or shifting of costs to our county. Any legislation that shifts or imposes new costs must have a designated and sufficient revenue source.

Pension/Retirement

Maryland's teacher pension system is key to maintaining the state's ability to attract and retain high quality teachers. In 2006, the state made significant improvements to the teacher pension system, including funding, deemed feasible at that time, to retroactively improve benefits. This action, in addition to the "corridor" funding methodology and the current economic climate, has led to liability growth outpacing pension system assets. The net effect is that over the past 10 years the pension fund has dropped from 100% funded to 70% funded.

Currently, local boards already pay \$500 million in employer Social Security, more than \$60 million for employees not in the state pension system, and beginning in FY 2012, a new \$16 million fee to the State Retirement Agency. Recent proposals would have local boards or jurisdictions pay into the pension fund as much as \$500 million. Shifting any additional retirement costs to local jurisdictions or boards is asking them to assume the burden for investment shortfalls resulting from the state's decision to make improvements retroactive to 1998, poor investment performance, and the consequences of the corridor funding methodology. Due to legislative action over the past few years, new employees are now being asked to pay 80% of their benefit costs, and all employees are paying for most of the improvements in benefits on a "go forward" basis. Any shift in pension costs would put an unreasonable strain on local education budgets, likely resulting in position cuts and class-size increases.

The Montgomery County Board of Education supports:

- Maintaining the teacher retirement program as a state-funded categorical program.
- Full state funding of the teacher retirement program.

The Montgomery County Board of Education opposes:

- Any shift in funding responsibility from the state to the counties.
- Any imposition of a cap on the state's share of teacher retirement funding.

Maintenance of Effort

Passage of the *Bridge to Excellence in Public Education Act of 2002 (BTE)* resulted in a dramatic change to education funding in Maryland. The intention of the law is to require both the state and local jurisdictions to provide adequacy and equity in education

funding thereby ensuring excellence in our schools and improved student performance. Even during these challenging fiscal times, the General Assembly has held the line on education funding evidenced by having annually provided \$5.7 billion in education aid since 2008.

Maintenance of Effort (MOE) was conceived as a floor to ensure a basic level of local education funding and requires school systems receive, at a minimum, the same per pupil funding in a subsequent year as was received in a current year. The legislative intent was to ensure that as additional state dollars were targeted to education, to provide enhanced support for some of our neediest students, those state dollars would build upon existing local contributions to education and not take their place. This provision, along with the BTE funding paradigm, provided assurance that the goals of adequacy, equity, and excellence would be met.

However, in April 2011, assumptions about local funding were dramatically altered by amendments to the *Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act* (BRFA). The funding floor was set at the local share of foundation aid (\$2.7 billion) rather than the local MOE amount (\$5.3 billion), creating the potential for drastic reductions in local education aid. While MOE remains a technical “requirement” under law, the recent amendments have called into serious question MOE’s usefulness as currently implemented. Additionally, in May 2011, the Maryland State Board of Education ruled that the MOE law does not require a county government to request a waiver when it cannot meet its funding obligation under MOE. As a result, counties are free to unilaterally set the funding floor—creating financial rebasing without accountability. Subsequent to that ruling, six waiver requests before the State Board of Education were withdrawn.

These actions have opened the door to dramatic reductions in local education funding and chart a dangerous new course for Maryland schools signaling the end of adequacy, equity, and excellence.

The Montgomery County Board of Education supports:

- Requiring accountability by making MOE the local funding floor, with a mandated waiver process.
- Ensuring flexibility by improving and expanding the waiver process, including taking into account the local history of exceeding MOE.
- Realizing fairness by making the penalty for a county not meeting MOE apply to the county, rather than the school system.

Capital Budget/School Construction

State construction funds continue to be inadequate to meet the substantial needs of our burgeoning student enrollment. Enrollment growth, coupled with maintenance needs in older schools, continues to put enormous pressures on school facilities. Limited state funding has forced Montgomery County to forward-fund critical projects that are eligible for state funding but for which no state funds are ever received. Without adequate school construction funding, MCPS will be forced into an over-reliance on relocatable classrooms. Increasingly aging and less than adequate facilities will become the norm

making it hard to meet the educational needs of our students.

The Montgomery County Board of Education supports:

- Adequate state capital funding for FY 2013 to address school facility needs.
- Expanding the state's bonding capacity to meet Maryland's growing school facility needs.
- Establishing distribution of school construction funds equal to the percentage share of student enrollment statewide and take into considerations systems with a rapid rate of enrollment growth.
- Revising current standards for the Interagency Committee square footage allowances for new and modernized schools to eliminate penalty for building additional classrooms intended to reduce class size in support of student achievement.
- Developing a mechanism to ensure locally forward-funded projects remain eligible for state funding, even after the project has been completed.
- Changing the Public School Construction Program to address inequities in funding needs related to the size and location of an LEA.
- Establishing incentives for green and energy efficient school construction.

The Montgomery County Board of Education opposes:

- Any reduction to the state and local cost share formula.
- Any change to the threshold requirements for prevailing wages.

Operating Budget

The *Bridge to Excellence in Public Schools Act of 2002 (BTE)* was broadly conceived to ensure both adequacy and equity in education funding and relies on the Geographic Cost of Education Index (GCEI) and inflation adjustments to meet that mandate. GCEI was funded at 60% in FY 2009 and has been fully funded since FY 2010.

The Montgomery County Board of Education supports:

- Full commitment to the funding incorporated in BTE, including the GCEI and student transportation.
- Mandating GCEI funding.
- Resumption of the annual inflation adjustment.
- Additional funding to support English for Speakers of Other Languages by recognizing the additional resources necessary both to educate Limited English Proficient students and to fulfill mandated monitoring and reporting.
- Maintaining teacher retirement as a state funded categorical program.
- Reimbursement for students placed by state agencies at the Regional Institute for Children and Adolescents (RICA), as well as reimbursement for educational programming.

The Montgomery County Board of Education opposes:

- Any retreat from funding identified in BTE.
- Additional state mandates, unless accompanied by sufficient and ongoing state funding.

Special Education Nonpublic Tuition

The Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) and the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) share the costs for providing services for special education students who are served in nonpublic schools. The program requires local school systems to pay 300% percent of the average per-pupil cost, and since 2010, 30 percent, rather than 20 percent, of any amount in excess; MSDE is required to fund the remaining 70 percent, rather than 80 percent. The Nonpublic Tuition Assistance Program has been beneficial in supporting our obligation to provide appropriate services to students who require intensive special education services.

The Montgomery County Board of Education supports:

- Restoring the 80/20 cost-sharing formula of the Nonpublic Tuition Assistance Program.

The Montgomery County Board of Education opposes:

- Any attempts to increase the local share of tuition for special education students served in nonpublic schools.

Public Funding for Private Schools

Nonpublic schools are neither subject to state accountability measures nor to the same legal requirements as public schools, such as those set out in special education laws and teacher certification regulations. With the increasing unmet needs in public schools, state funds must be targeted to address the needs of public school students in Montgomery County and throughout the state.

The Montgomery County Board of Education supports:

- Strong accountability for all public dollars spent on education.
- The Montgomery County Board of Education opposes:
- Appropriation of public funds for private and parochial schools.
- Direct aid to private and parochial students.
- Tuition tax credits, vouchers, or tax credits as a means of reimbursing parents who choose to send their children to private or parochial schools.
- Continuation or expansion of providing textbooks to private schools.

LOCAL BOARD AUTHORITY

While the Maryland State Board of Education establishes, through regulations, broad statewide policies and mandates, local boards of education are responsible for establishing policies and procedures for the public schools within its jurisdiction. By

retaining decision-making authority at the local level, a board of education can best balance educational practices, available resources, public input, and accountability.

Curriculum

In creating the State Board and local boards of education, the General Assembly has delegated to them the responsibility for content standards and curriculum. The State Board establishes state standards and the local boards adopt and implement locally developed programs with local funding to ensure that these standards are met. Local boards of education can best balance educational practices, available resources, public input, and accountability.

The Montgomery County Board of Education supports:

- Maintaining the authority of local boards of education to determine educational policy, curriculum, and administration.
- Retaining decision-making authority at the local level.

The Montgomery County Board of Education opposes:

- Any efforts by the General Assembly to legislate curriculum, firmly believing that this role belongs to local boards of education in conjunction with the State Board.

Charter Schools

In 2003, the General Assembly enacted legislation that created a charter school program. While the *Maryland Public Charter School Act* establishes an alternative means within a public school system to provide teaching and learning, there remains the need for a strong accountability system to ensure that any public charter school funds are appropriately spent.

The Montgomery County Board of Education supports:

- Reaffirming that the sole authority for establishing public charter schools is vested in local boards of education with an appropriate procedure for appeals of local decisions.

The Montgomery County Board of Education opposes:

- Efforts to expand charter school authority beyond local school boards.
- Efforts to weaken academic or fiscal accountability requirements.
- Any attempt to deprive charter school employees of the rights and responsibilities of other public employees.

STUDENTS

The Montgomery County Board of Education is committed to providing a high-quality, world-class education that ensures success for every student through excellence in teaching and learning. A high-quality education is the fundamental right of every child. The Montgomery County Public Schools is steadfast in ensuring that all students will receive the respect, encouragement, and opportunities they need to build the knowledge, skills, and attitudes to be successful, contributing members of a global

society.

Compulsory Age of Attendance

Currently, Maryland requires children between the ages of 5 and 15 to attend school. Upon turning 16, a student is permitted on his/her own to permanently withdraw from school. While school staff must conduct and document an exit interview with any student who seeks to drop out, parental approval is not required.

The decision to drop out can be life changing. With national, state, and local imperatives to make students college and career ready, we cannot continue to abide inconsistent and counterproductive voluntary withdrawal standards. In our changing economy, workers need at least a high school diploma to compete in the workforce. A 2007 Maryland Task Force to Study Raising the Compulsory Public School Attendance Age to 18 noted that students who drop out of high school face "harsh futures" characterized by lower wages, disproportionate representation in prisons, and shorter overall life spans.

While raising the compulsory age of attendance alone is not a silver bullet, it is critical that our laws and policies limit the ease by which students can drop out of school. Additionally, any real or sustainable impact will take place only if requiring students to stay in school beyond age 16 is accompanied by engaging instruction and personal supports.

The Montgomery County Board of Education supports:

- Raising the compulsory age from 16 to 18.
- Providing adequate supports to address the issues that caused students to leave school.

Early Childhood Education

The Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) believes that investments in early childhood education are both wise and essential to ensuring success for every student. A recently released longitudinal study by the National Institutes of Health concluded that investing in early childhood education can yield impressive economic benefits, including an 18% return on investment. MCPS is a significant partner in Montgomery County's Early Childhood Initiative, which ensures that family-focused programs and services for young children are neighborhood-based, effective, responsive to cultural diversity, make a measurable, positive difference in children's well-being, and help prepare them for success in school.

The Montgomery County Board of Education supports:

- State fiscal support for any expansion of local pre-kindergarten services.
- Statewide initiatives fostering school readiness through the provision of high quality early childhood programs, including child care.
- Efforts that encourage the provision of an array of services by a variety of

agencies.

- Efforts to ensure affordable child care co-payments for parents.
- Efforts that protect the safety, health, and well-being of children in child care.

Nutrition and Health

Thousands of low-income children in Maryland depend on school meals for the nutrition they need to learn and grow. *Maryland Meals for Achievement* provides funding for schools with high concentrations of poverty to provide breakfast to all students, regardless of family income. Most recently, of the 77 eligible schools to apply for the program, only 31 were approved. The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) would only accept applications for the currently enrolled schools and a priority list for those eligible but not in the program. Additionally, the *Summer Food Service Program* ensures that children in lower income areas continue to receive nutritious meals during the summer months when school breakfasts and lunches are not available.

The Montgomery County Board of Education supports:

- Expansion of *Maryland Meals for Achievement* as an entitlement to include all eligible schools that choose to apply.
- Efforts to increase federal funding for the *Summer Food Service Program*

The Montgomery County Board of Education opposes:

- Limiting the number of eligible schools from participation in *Maryland Meals for Achievement*.

Safety and Security

Safety in public schools has become increasingly important as threats to national and community security have taken on new meaning. The prevention of disruption and violence has always been a key component of long-term effective school safety strategies. The pursuit of a safe environment must be tempered by a balanced emphasis on the protection of individual student rights.

The Montgomery County Board of Education supports:

- Innovative initiatives and funding that speak to strategies that ensure a safe and secure learning and working environment for students and staff, including those that address gang prevention and involvement and promote targeted interventions to reduce gang activity.

The Montgomery County Board of Education opposes:

- Statewide approach to discipline that limits a school system's ability to respond to unique and unusual circumstances.

Home Schooling

Maryland law recognizes home instruction as an alternative to public school enrollment and as a means for students to receive regular, thorough instruction. Currently, home school students are expressly authorized to participate in public school standardized testing.

The Montgomery County Board of Education opposes:

- Any requirement that home school students be allowed to participate in public school athletics or other extracurricular activities.

Student Member of Boards of Education

The position of student member of the Board of Education (SMOB) is established by the *Annotated Code of Maryland*, with rights varying from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. Some jurisdictions have SMOBs with extremely limited powers, while in at least one instance the SMOB has the same powers as the adult elected member of the Board.

With the exceptions of boundary changes, capital and operating budgets, collective bargaining, negative personnel matters, and school closings, the Montgomery County SMOB has a vote equal to those of the seven adult Board members. The SMOB has a vote on issues such as administrative appointments and policy, as well as a vote on the appeals that the Board decides in its quasi-judicial role.

The Montgomery County Board of Education supports:

- Local legislation expanding the SMOB's voting rights to be equal to those of adult Board members with the exception that the SMOB shall not vote on negative personnel matters.

Re: DISCUSSION

- Mrs. O'Neill thought the platform should be modeled after the Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE) legislative positions by listing the highest priorities first
- Mrs. O'Neill suggested that the cost of the penalty for not meeting MOE be added, and it should stand alone or be highlighted on the first page.
- Ms. Brandman thought that the MABE "fairness" theme should be included in the MOE statement.
- Mrs. O'Neill pointed out that the MABE paper on MOE highlighted accountability, flexibility, fairness, predictability, and transparency. It was agreed to incorporate those themes in the body of the platform.
- Mrs. O'Neill thought the platform should reflect the MABE order in the highlighted first page.
- Mr. Kauffman noted that "teacher retirement" should be changed to "pension system."
- The Board members agreed that the platform should draw attention to the dramatic reductions in local education funding since the statewide funding drop

could be as much as \$2.6 million.

- Mrs. O'Neill suggested a statement about school construction and the support of a floor at \$250 million statewide.
- Ms. Brandman noted the need for recognition of funding diverse student populations, such as ESOL and special education, as well as reimbursement for students placed at the Regional Institute for Children and Adolescents (RICA).
- Board members agreed to change the heading *Operating Budget* to *State Education Funding*.
- Mrs. O'Neill suggested adding "assessments" to curriculum and enhance that section to be more specific.
- Mr. Xie was pleased that the platform contained full voting rights for the student board member.

RESOLUTION NO. 518-11 Re: **AMENDMENT TO LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM**

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

Resolved, That the Montgomery County Board of Education opposes any attempts at wealth equalization, if costs are shifted to local school systems or counties.

RESOLUTION NO. 519-11 Re: **LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM**

On motion of the Strategic Planning Committee, the following amended Legislative Platform was adopted unanimously by members present:

Maintenance of Effort

Funding for public education in Maryland has been a shared responsibility between state and local governments. Maintenance of Effort (MOE) was established to ensure that as the State dramatically increased its contribution of education aid, local communities would maintain their financial support. As a result of recent legislative changes, MOE is no longer the established local funding floor and counties have the ability to unilaterally "rebase" or drastically lower their public education contributions even as the state is holding the line on education funding. Moreover, school systems, not counties, are penalized if MOE is not met by a local government. **In fact, MCPS faces a loss of \$26million in state aid if the penalty for not meeting MOE is not waived.**

Maintenance of Effort must be restored to ensure:

- Accountability - make MOE the local funding floor, with a mandated waiver process.
- Flexibility - improve and expand the existing waiver process.
- Fairness – make the penalty for a county not meeting MOE apply to the county, rather than the school system.

Pension System

In 2006, Maryland improved its teacher pension benefits in order to be more competitive nationally. Pension benefits were improved retroactively on an assumption of available funding. Subsequent decisions to fund this increase using the “corridor” method, coupled with the current economic downturn, have resulted in pension system liabilities significantly outpacing assets. Recent legislative action already has new employees paying 80% of their benefit costs and all employees paying for most of the improvements in benefits on a “go forward” basis.

Shifting any additional retirement costs from the State to local jurisdictions or boards:

- Unfairly transfers the burden to local jurisdictions for investment shortfalls.
- Is inconsistent with recent legislative action projected to reduce costs and improve solvency.
- Will put an unreasonable strain on local education budgets.

State Education Funding

Maryland’s public schools are ranked Number One in the nation. The *Bridge to Excellence in Public Schools Act of 2002* (BTE) represents the resources invested to support this achievement. Full funding of the BTE, including the Geographic Cost of Education Index (GCEI) and reinstatement of annual inflation factor, is needed to sustain successful programs and services for our students.

To keep pace with rising standards for student performance, state aid must be sustained by:

- Mandating the Geographic Cost of Education Index (GCEI).
- Reinstating the annual inflation factor.
- Maintaining BTE mandated per pupil funding levels and targeted funding programs.

School Construction

State construction funds continue to be inadequate to meet our substantial needs. Rapid enrollment growth, coupled with maintenance needs in older schools, continues to put enormous pressures on school facilities. Without adequate school construction funding, MCPS will be forced into an over-reliance on relocatable classrooms while increasingly aging and less than adequate facilities will become the norm making it hard to meet the educational needs of our students.

To meet rapidly expanding facility needs, the state must:

- Ensure at least \$250 million for school construction and renovation.
- Expand bonding capacity to meet growing school facility needs.
- Distribute school construction funds equal to the percentage share of student enrollment

FUNDING/ACCOUNTABILITY

Today's investments in the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) are key to a prosperous economy, strong business growth, and students' ability to compete for good jobs in the global, high-tech economy. School systems must be adequately funded to prepare our youth to support our future economic health. We cannot afford any unfunded mandates, significant additional workload burdens, or shifting of costs to our county. Any legislation that shifts or imposes new costs must have a designated and sufficient revenue source.

Maintenance of Effort

Passage of the *Bridge to Excellence in Public Education Act of 2002 (BTE)* resulted in a dramatic change to education funding in Maryland. The intention of the law is to require both the state and local jurisdictions to provide adequacy and equity in education funding thereby ensuring excellence in our schools and improved student performance. Even during these challenging fiscal times, the General Assembly has held the line on education funding evidenced by having annually provided \$5.7 billion in education aid since 2008.

Maintenance of Effort (MOE) was conceived as a floor to ensure a basic level of local education funding and requires school systems receive, at a minimum, the same per pupil funding in a subsequent year as was received in a current year. The legislative intent was to ensure that as additional state dollars were targeted to education, to provide enhanced support for some of our neediest students, those state dollars would build upon existing local contributions to education and not take their place. This provision, along with the BTE funding paradigm, provided assurance that the goals of adequacy, equity, and excellence would be met.

However, in April 2011, assumptions about local funding were dramatically altered by amendments to the *Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act (BRFA)*. The funding floor was set at the local share of foundation aid (\$2.7 billion) rather than the local MOE amount (\$5.3 billion), creating the potential for drastic reductions in local education aid. While MOE remains a technical "requirement" under law, the recent amendments have called into serious question MOE's usefulness as currently implemented. Additionally, in May 2011, the Maryland State Board of Education ruled that the MOE law does not require a county government to request a waiver when it cannot meet its funding obligation under MOE. As a result, counties are free to unilaterally set the funding floor—creating financial rebasing without accountability. Subsequent to that ruling, six waiver requests before the State Board of Education were withdrawn.

These actions have opened the door to dramatic reductions in local education funding. Statewide, the drop in local contribution could be as much as \$2.6 billion. In Montgomery County, the local budget contribution since 2009 has fallen by 9.5 percent, with local per pupil expenditure dropping from \$11,249 per pupil to \$9,759, a decrease of \$1500. Collectively, this charts a dangerous new course for Maryland schools signaling the end of adequacy, equity, and excellence.

The Montgomery County Board of Education supports:

- Accountability—by making MOE the local funding floor, with a mandated waiver process.
- Flexibility - by improving and expanding the waiver process, including taking into account the local history of exceeding MOE.
- Fairness - by making the penalty for a county not meeting MOE apply to the county, rather than the school system.
- Predictability – by providing a reasonable expectation for school boards negotiating contracts with employee associations that MOE will be funded, unless a waiver is granted.
- Transparency—by guaranteeing an open process by which counties must, at the very least, explain their reasons for proposing to fund below the minimum MOE amount.

Pension System

Maryland's teacher pension system is key to maintaining the state's ability to attract and retain high quality teachers. In 2006, the state made significant improvements to the teacher pension system, including funding, deemed feasible at that time, to retroactively improve benefits. This action, in addition to the "corridor" funding methodology and the current economic climate, has led to liability growth outpacing pension system assets. The net effect is that over the past 10 years the pension fund has dropped from 100 percent funded to 70 percent funded.

Currently, local boards already pay \$500 million in employer Social Security, more than \$60 million for employees not in the state pension system, and beginning in FY 2012, a new \$16 million fee to the State Retirement Agency. Recent proposals would have local boards or jurisdictions pay into the pension fund as much as \$500 million. Shifting any additional retirement costs to local jurisdictions or boards is asking them to assume the burden for investment shortfalls resulting from the state's decision to make improvements retroactive to 1998, poor investment performance, and the consequences of the corridor funding methodology. Due to legislative action over the past few years, new employees are now being asked to pay 80 percent of their benefit costs, and all employees are paying for most of the improvements in benefits on a "go forward" basis. Any shift in pension costs would put an unreasonable strain on local education budgets, likely resulting in position cuts and class-size increases.

The Montgomery County Board of Education supports:

- Maintaining the teacher retirement program as a state-funded categorical program.
- Full state funding of the teacher retirement program.

The Montgomery County Board of Education opposes:

- Any shift in funding responsibility from the state to the counties.
- Any imposition of a cap on the state's share of teacher retirement funding.

- Any attempts at wealth equalization, if costs are shifted to local school systems or counties.

State Education Funding

The *Bridge to Excellence in Public Schools Act of 2002* (BTE), conceived to ensure adequacy and equity in education funding, has led to increased student performance in Maryland. Since 2008, the BTE targeted funding level has been maintained. While the non-mandated Geographic Cost of Education Index (GCEI) has been fully funded for the past two years, the mandated annual inflation factor was eliminated through FY 2012.

The Montgomery County Board of Education supports:

- Full commitment BTE funding, including the GCEI and student transportation.
- Mandating GCEI funding.
- Resumption of the annual inflation adjustment.
- Maintaining teacher retirement as a state funded categorical program.

The Montgomery County Board of Education opposes:

- Any retreat from funding identified in BTE.
- Additional state mandates, unless accompanied by sufficient and ongoing state funding.

In addition, meeting the needs of our rapidly expanding diverse student population requires recognition of the additional resources needed to meet both educational needs and to fulfill mandated monitoring and reporting requirements.

The Montgomery County Board of Education also supports:

- Additional funding to support English for Speakers of Other Languages
- Reimbursement for students placed by state agencies at the Regional Institute for Children and Adolescents (RICA).

Capital Budget/School Construction

State construction funds continue to be inadequate to meet the substantial needs of our burgeoning student enrollment. Enrollment growth, coupled with maintenance needs in older schools, continues to put enormous pressures on school facilities. Limited state funding has forced Montgomery County to forward-fund critical projects that are eligible for state funding but for which no state funds are ever received.

The state has set the goal of allocating annually \$250 million in school construction funds. MCPS is eligible for \$195 million of those funds. Without adequate school construction funding, MCPS will be forced into an over-reliance on relocatable classrooms. This year there are 484 relocatables in use, with more anticipated next year. Increasingly aging and less than adequate facilities will become the norm making it hard to meet the educational needs of our students.

The Montgomery County Board of Education supports:

- Robust school construction and renovation for FY 2013 to address school facility needs.
- Expanding the state's bonding capacity to meet Maryland's growing school facility needs.
- Establishing distribution of school construction funds equal to the percentage share of student enrollment statewide and take into consideration systems with a rapid rate of enrollment growth.
- Revising current standards for the Interagency Committee square footage allowances for new and modernized schools to eliminate penalty for building additional classrooms intended to reduce class size in support of student achievement.
- Developing a mechanism to ensure locally forward-funded projects remain eligible for state funding, even after the project has been completed.
- Changing the Public School Construction Program to address inequities in funding needs related to the size and location of a Local Education Agency.
- Establishing incentives for green and energy efficient school construction.

The Montgomery County Board of Education opposes:

- Any reduction to the state and local cost share formula.
- Any change to the threshold requirements for prevailing wages.

Special Education Nonpublic Tuition

The Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) and the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) share the costs for providing services for special education students who are served in nonpublic schools. The program requires local school systems to pay 300 percent of the average per-pupil cost, and since 2010, 30 percent, rather than 20 percent, of any amount in excess; MSDE is required to fund the remaining 70 percent, rather than 80 percent. The Nonpublic Tuition Assistance Program has been beneficial in supporting our obligation to provide appropriate services to students who require intensive special education services.

The Montgomery County Board of Education supports:

- Restoring the 80/20 cost-sharing formula of the Nonpublic Tuition Assistance Program.

The Montgomery County Board of Education opposes:

- Any attempts to increase the local share of tuition for special education students served in nonpublic schools.

Public Funding for Private Schools

Nonpublic schools are neither subject to state accountability measures nor to the same legal requirements as public schools, such as those set out in special education laws

and teacher certification regulations. With the increasing unmet needs in public schools, state funds must be targeted to address the needs of public school students in Montgomery County and throughout the state.

The Montgomery County Board of Education supports:

- Strong accountability for all public dollars spent on education.

The Montgomery County Board of Education opposes:

- Appropriation of public funds for private and parochial schools.
- Direct aid to private and parochial students.
- Tuition tax credits, vouchers, or tax credits as a means of reimbursing parents who choose to send their children to private or parochial schools.
- Continuation or expansion of providing textbooks to private schools.

LOCAL BOARD AUTHORITY

The Maryland State Board of Education establishes, through regulations, broad statewide policies and mandates, with local boards of education responsible for establishing policies and procedures for the public schools within their jurisdiction. While the General Assembly has a role in crafting Maryland's Education Article, any unfunded requirements should be discretionary or authorizing, rather than mandatory. By retaining decision-making authority at the local level, a board of education can best balance educational practices, available resources, public input, and accountability.

Curriculum and Assessments

In creating the State Board and local boards of education, the General Assembly has delegated to them the responsibility for development of content standards, curriculum, and assessments. The State Board establishes standards and the local boards adopt and implement locally developed programs with local funding to ensure that these standards are met and prepared to meet graduation requirements. The State and local boards of education can best balance educational practices and available resources to ensure that all students, schools, and school systems are held accountable for their work.

The Montgomery County Board of Education supports:

- Maintaining the authority of local boards of education to determine educational policy, curriculum, and administration.
- Retaining decision-making authority at the local level.

The Montgomery County Board of Education opposes:

- Any efforts by the General Assembly to legislate curriculum or assessments, firmly believing that this role belongs to local boards of education in conjunction with the State Board.

Charter Schools

In 2003, the General Assembly enacted legislation that created a charter school program. While the *Maryland Public Charter School Act* establishes an alternative means within a public school system to provide teaching and learning, there remains the need for a strong accountability system to ensure that any public charter school funds are appropriately spent.

The Montgomery County Board of Education supports:

- Reaffirming that the sole authority for establishing public charter schools is vested in local boards of education with an appropriate procedure for appeals of local decisions.

The Montgomery County Board of Education opposes:

- Efforts to expand charter school authority beyond local school boards.
- Efforts to weaken academic or fiscal accountability requirements.
- Any attempt to deprive charter school employees of the rights and responsibilities of other public employees.

STUDENTS

The Montgomery County Board of Education is committed to providing a high-quality, world-class education that ensures success for every student through excellence in teaching and learning. A high-quality education is the fundamental right of every child. The Montgomery County Public Schools is steadfast in ensuring that all students will receive the respect, encouragement, and opportunities they need to build the knowledge, skills, and attitudes to be successful, contributing members of a global society.

Compulsory Age of Attendance

Currently, Maryland requires children between the ages of 5 and 15 to attend school. Upon turning 16, a student is permitted on his/her own to permanently withdraw from school. While school staff must conduct and document an exit interview with any student who seeks to drop out, parental approval is not required.

The decision to drop out can be life changing. With national, state, and local imperatives to make students college and career ready, we cannot continue to abide inconsistent and counterproductive voluntary withdrawal standards. In our changing economy, workers need at least a high school diploma to compete in the workforce. A 2007 Maryland Task Force to Study Raising the Compulsory Public School Attendance Age to 18 noted that students who drop out of high school face “harsh futures” characterized by lower wages, disproportionate representation in prisons, and shorter overall life spans.

While raising the compulsory age of attendance alone is not a silver bullet, it is critical that our laws and policies limit the ease by which students can drop out of school.

Additionally, any real or sustainable impact will take place only if requiring students to stay in school beyond age 16 is accompanied by engaging instruction and personal supports.

The Montgomery County Board of Education supports:

- Raising the compulsory age from 16 to 18.
- Providing adequate supports to address the issues that caused students to leave school.

Early Childhood Education

The Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) believes that investments in early childhood education are both wise and essential to ensuring success for every student. A recently released longitudinal study by the National Institutes of Health concluded that investing in early childhood education can yield impressive economic benefits, including an 18 percent return on investment. MCPS is a significant partner in Montgomery County's Early Childhood Initiative, which ensures that family-focused programs and services for young children are neighborhood-based, effective, responsive to cultural diversity, make a measurable, positive difference in children's well-being, and help prepare them for success in school.

The Montgomery County Board of Education supports:

- State fiscal support for any expansion of local pre-kindergarten services.
- Statewide initiatives fostering school readiness through the provision of high quality early childhood programs, including child care.
- Efforts that encourage the provision of an array of services by a variety of agencies.
- Efforts to ensure affordable child care co-payments for parents.
- Efforts that protect the safety, health, and well-being of children in child care.

Nutrition and Health

Thousands of low-income children in Maryland depend on school meals for the nutrition they need to learn and grow. *Maryland Meals for Achievement* provides funding for schools with high concentrations of poverty to provide breakfast to all students, regardless of family income. Most recently, of the 77 eligible schools to apply for the program, only 31 were approved. The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) would only accept applications for the currently enrolled schools and a priority list for those eligible but not in the program. Additionally, the *Summer Food Service Program* ensures that children in lower income areas continue to receive nutritious meals during the summer months when school breakfasts and lunches are not available.

The Montgomery County Board of Education supports:

- Expansion of *Maryland Meals for Achievement* as an entitlement to include all eligible schools that choose to apply.

- Efforts to increase federal funding for the *Summer Food Service Program*

The Montgomery County Board of Education opposes:

- Limiting the number of eligible schools from participation in *Maryland Meals for Achievement*.

Safety and Security

Safety in public schools has become increasingly important as threats to national and community security have taken on new meaning. The prevention of disruption and violence has always been a key component of long-term effective school safety strategies. The pursuit of a safe environment must be tempered by a balanced emphasis on the protection of individual student rights.

The Montgomery County Board of Education supports:

- Innovative initiatives and funding that speak to strategies that ensure a safe and secure learning and working environment for students and staff, including those that address gang prevention and involvement and promote targeted interventions to reduce gang activity.

The Montgomery County Board of Education opposes:

- Statewide approach to discipline that limits a school system's ability to respond to unique and unusual circumstances.

Home Schooling

Maryland law recognizes home instruction as an alternative to public school enrollment and as a means for students to receive regular, thorough instruction. Currently, home school students are expressly authorized to participate in public school standardized testing.

The Montgomery County Board of Education opposes:

- Any requirement that home school students be allowed to participate in public school athletics or other extracurricular activities.

Student Member of Boards of Education

The position of student member of the Board of Education (SMOB) is established by the *Annotated Code of Maryland*, with rights varying from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. Some jurisdictions have SMOBs with extremely limited powers, while in at least one instance the SMOB has the same powers as the adult elected member of the Board.

With the exceptions of boundary changes, capital and operating budgets, collective bargaining, negative personnel matters, and school closings, the Montgomery County SMOB has a vote equal to those of the seven adult Board members. The SMOB has a vote on issues such as administrative appointments and policy, as well as a vote on the appeals that the Board decides in its quasi-judicial role.

The Montgomery County Board of Education supports:

- Local legislation expanding the SMOB's voting rights to be equal to those of adult Board members with the exception that the SMOB shall not vote on negative personnel matters.

RESOLUTION NO. 520-11

Re: **APPROVAL OF PILOT COURSES**

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, On February 13, 2001, the Montgomery County Board of Education adopted Policy IFA, *Curriculum*, governing all curriculum development and implementation; and

WHEREAS, Montgomery County Public Schools established procedures under Regulation IFA-RA, *Curriculum*, to allow school staff to develop and pilot noncore curriculum courses through the Office of Curriculum and Instructional Programs; and

WHEREAS, Montgomery County Public Schools established procedures under Regulation IFA-RA, *Curriculum*, to allow externally developed curriculum and instructional programs to be used in place of Montgomery County Public Schools curriculum after review and approval, using the process for noncore curriculum development; and

WHEREAS, The proposed courses have met all of the requirements established in the procedures; and

WHEREAS, These proposed courses support and extend high school signature, academy, career and technology, and elective programs; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Montgomery County Board of Education and the superintendent of schools approve the following courses as pilot courses, active courses, or restricted courses in accordance with the procedures established in Regulation IFA-RA, *Curriculum*.

PROPOSED ELECTIVE HIGH SCHOOL PILOT COURSES

The following courses are proposed for pilot development and will return for Board approval, if successful.

Arabic 4

Proposed by: Walt Whitman High School

Number of credits and course duration: 1.0 credit (2 semesters)

Grade level: 9-12

Instructional level: Advanced

Prerequisite: Arabic 3

Purpose/Rationale: This course is designed for students who wish to expand their knowledge of the Arabic language beyond Arabic Level 3. It will enable students to take a longer course sequence of the language in order to attain a higher level of proficiency. This course will better prepare students who wish to continue their study of Arabic in college.

Course description: In this course, students will use the Arabic language to communicate orally and in writing in a culturally appropriate manner about a range of topics related to the Arabic-speaking world. These topics include storytelling and poetry, cultural and ethnic diversity, drama and film, and current scientific and societal issues. Students will read and hear authentic materials. Vocabulary and grammatical structures will be taught within the context of the topics studied. This course is aligned with the National Standards for Foreign Language Learning and the Maryland State Curriculum for World Languages.

Entomology

Proposed by: Montgomery Blair High School

Number of credits and course duration: 0.5 credit (1 semester)

Grade level: 11-12

Instructional level: Advanced

Prerequisite: Advanced Science 4: Biology or Honors Biology

Purpose/Rationale: Currently, the magnet program has no electives in zoology. Additionally, there are few courses that deal with whole organisms, their biology, life cycle, and impact on human life and the environment. This single semester elective will provide a more diverse selection of biology electives. Key to the course will be collaboration projects between the Entomology course and other electives offered at Montgomery Blair High School. Entomology and Advanced Placement Chemistry students will work together to monitor the health of various streams by analyzing the invertebrate population within the stream as well as the stream's chemistry. Entomology and Forensics will conduct a joint field study on forensic entomology.

Course description: Students will delve into the world of insects to gain understanding and appreciation for the ancient animals and insects. Students will discover how important insects are to the ecosystem and their impact, both beneficial and harmful, on humans. Students will study a variety of topics including arthropod relatives, general insect formation, classification and the impact of insects on agriculture, animal health, human health, ecology, products, and forensics. Students will identify and analyze the roles of insects in ecosystems. Students will investigate the reasons for insect success

and the impact of insects on the production of food and other products. Students will evaluate methods for the management of insect populations for benefit of humans.

Logic Math

Proposed by: Montgomery Blair High School

Number of credits and course duration: 0.5 credit (1 semester)

Grade level: 11-12

Instructional level: Advanced

Prerequisite: Magnet Analysis 1B or AP BC Calculus B

Purpose/Rationale: This course is designed for Grade 11 and 12 students with a strong background in mathematics. Using principles of logic, systems with proof rules will be studied. These systems will be analyzed to see how intuitive, effective, and coherent they are in formalizing deduction. Students will analyze a variety of logical systems and examine their meta-logical properties.

Course description: This class will be about logic, the relationship between logic and mathematics, the advantages of formalization, and the limitations of what can be formalized. Students will study a variety of topics including syntax for propositional logic, natural deduction proof systems for propositional logic, historical perspectives, syntax for predicate logic, Peano Arithmetic, and Godel's Incompleteness Theorem.

Organic Chemistry

Proposed by: Montgomery Blair High School

Number of credits and course duration: 0.5 credit (1 semester)

Grade level: 11-12

Instructional level: Advanced

Prerequisite: Advanced Science 2: Chemistry and Advanced Science 4: Biology or Honors Chemistry and Honors Biology

Purpose/Rationale: The goal of this course is to help prepare students for challenging science courses in college. Students will be introduced to organic chemical content and have the opportunity to apply concepts learned in chemistry and biology. This elective will serve as an additional elective for students interested in pursuing a career in chemistry, biology, environmental science, botany, and possible medical fields.

Course description: This course introduces the chemistry of organic compounds including saturated and unsaturated hydrocarbons and major functional groups as well as nomenclature, stereochemistry, and spectroscopic data. The focus will be understanding how reactions occur using mechanisms and applying this knowledge to problem solve how complex organic molecules are synthesized. Students will investigate and describe how a reaction occurs and problem solve how to utilize multiple reactions to theoretically synthesize more complex compounds. In this course, molecular models will reinforce concepts and labs will apply this information to the real

world. Students will study a variety of topics including bonding, molecular shapes, hybridization, polarity, alkanes and cycloalkanes, acids and bases, and reaction intermediates.

World Military History

Proposed by: Watkins Mill High School

Number of credits and course duration: 0.5 credit (1 semester)

Grade level: 11-12

Instructional level: On level

Prerequisite: None

Purpose/Rationale: This course provides students an opportunity to delve deeply into a historical topic that spans culture and time, the history and nature of warfare, and its impacts on society. Although wars are often addressed in other history courses, World Military History will provide a more in-depth and analytic approach to studying war's impact on society. Students will consider lessons of the past as they examine current conflicts and their influence in the world today and how they may shape the future. Students also will learn about military and civilian career opportunities.

Course description: World Military History is a study of the cultures, technologies, and strategies of warfare from early civilizations to today. Students will learn how warrior classes reflected the culture around them, impacting those cultures in both positive and negative ways. Students will learn how innovations in warfare were often adapted by civilians and put to new uses. Students will analyze how various military principles, theories, and strategies have been applied in conflicts and evaluate their effectiveness. Students also will explore career opportunities in defense, homeland security, intelligence, and related areas. The course culminates with a focus on contemporary challenges, allowing students to apply what they have learned to current military conflicts and concerns.

RECOMMENDED COURSES FOR APPROVAL IN HIGH SCHOOLS

The following courses successfully completed the pilot process after earlier Board of Education approval to pilot and are proposed for final approval.

Courses Available at All High Schools

Advanced Design Applications A/B (Course Codes 2808/2809)

Advanced Technological Applications A/B (Course Codes 2810/2811)

Designing Technology Solutions A/B (Course Codes 2812/2813)

Digital Photography (Course Codes 6343/6444)

Courses Offered Only at Authorized High Schools with Specialized Programs

Biomedical Innovation A/B (Course Codes 3885/3886) ~~Wheaton High School~~

Contemporary Issues in Justice, Law, and Society A/B (Course Codes 5144/5145) ~~—~~
Montgomery Blair, Northwood, Seneca Valley, and Springbrook high schools
Electronic Audio Field Production A/B (Course Codes 5171/5172) ~~—~~ James Hubert Blake,
Gaithersburg, John F. Kennedy, Col. Zadok Magruder, Northwood, Paint Branch,
Rockville, Seneca Valley, and Sherwood high schools

Foundations of Arts, Humanities, Media, and Communication A/B (Course Codes 5195/5196) ~~—~~ James Hubert Blake, Quince Orchard, and Sherwood high schools

Foundation of Design A/B (Course Codes 2814/2815) ~~—~~ Thomas Edison High School of Technology

IB Arabic 3 A/B (Course Codes 1797/1798) ~~—~~ Bethesda-Chevy Chase, Albert Einstein, John F. Kennedy, Richard Montgomery, Rockville, Seneca Valley, Springbrook, and Watkins Mill high schools

IB Arabic 4 A/B (Course Codes 1799/1800) ~~—~~ Bethesda-Chevy Chase, Albert Einstein, John F. Kennedy, Richard Montgomery, Rockville, Seneca Valley, Springbrook, and Watkins Mill high schools

IB Business and Management A/B (Course Codes 4139/4140) ~~—~~ Albert Einstein, Bethesda-Chevy Chase, John F. Kennedy, Richard Montgomery, Rockville, Seneca Valley, Springbrook, and Watkins Mill high schools

IB Italian 5 A/B (Course Codes 1788/1789) ~~—~~ Albert Einstein, Bethesda-Chevy Chase, John F. Kennedy, Richard Montgomery, Rockville, Seneca Valley, Springbrook, and Watkins Mill high schools

IB Italian 6 A/B (Course Codes 1790/1791) ~~—~~ Albert Einstein, Bethesda-Chevy Chase, John F. Kennedy, Richard Montgomery, Rockville, Seneca Valley, Springbrook, and Watkins Mill high schools

IB Italian 7 A/B (Course Codes 1563/1564) ~~—~~ Albert Einstein, Bethesda-Chevy Chase, John F. Kennedy, Richard Montgomery, Rockville, Seneca Valley, Springbrook, and Watkins Mill high schools

IB Math Standard Level A/B (Course Codes 3454/3455) ~~—~~ Albert Einstein, Bethesda-Chevy Chase, John F. Kennedy, Richard Montgomery, Rockville, Seneca Valley, Springbrook, and Watkins Mill high schools

IB Philosophy A/B (Course Codes 2237/2238)~~Albert Einstein, Bethesda-Chevy Chase, John F. Kennedy, Richard Montgomery, Rockville, Seneca Valley, Springbrook, and Watkins Mill high schools~~

IB Social Anthropology A/B (Course Codes 2242/2243)~~Albert Einstein, Bethesda-Chevy Chase, John F. Kennedy, Richard Montgomery, Rockville, Seneca Valley, Springbrook, and Watkins Mill high schools~~

Media Management and Operations A/B (Course Codes 5177/5178) (piloted as Television Station Management/Operations A/B)~~James Hubert Blake, Gaithersburg, John F. Kennedy, Col. Zadok Magruder, Northwood, Richard Montgomery, Paint Branch, Rockville, Seneca Valley, and Sherwood high schools~~

Radio Station Management Operations A/B (Course Codes 5166/5167)~~James Hubert Blake, Gaithersburg, John F. Kennedy, Col. Zadok Magruder, Northwood, Paint Branch, Rockville, Seneca Valley, and Sherwood high schools~~

Teaching as a Profession A/B (Course Codes 4878/4879)~~Paint Branch, Sherwood, Springbrook, and Watkins Mill high schools~~

Re: **TRANSITION REPORT**

Dr. Starr report that since June 2011, the team reviewed system data, documents, and plans; conducted focus groups with a variety of stakeholders; and interviewed numerous community and elected leaders. As the team prepared its recommendations, both near-term and long-term, five broad themes emerged:

- Differentiation within and among schools, classrooms, and students
- Communications and relationships with stakeholders
- Implementation of vision, mission, and policies in practice
- Design and delivery of professional development initiatives
- Issues of race and equity

RESOLUTION NO. 521-11

Re: **CLOSED SESSION RESOLUTION**

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 Board of Education of Montgomery County is authorized by the *Education Article* and *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 Tuesday, December 6, 2011, 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.; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board of Education anticipates that the closed session will include a discussion of personnel matters, as permitted under Section 10-508(a)(1) of the *State Government Article* and Section 4-107(d) of the *Education Article*; the review and adjudication of appeals in its quasi-judicial capacity; consultation with counsel to obtain legal advice on those appeals, as permitted under Section 10-508(a)(7) of the *State Government Article*; a discussion of matters constituting an administrative function outside the purview of the *Open Meetings Act* (Section 10-502(b) of the *State Government Article*); and the Board will publish a more detailed Resolution for Closed Session when particular topics for discussion are identified; and be it further

Resolved, That this meeting shall continue in closed sessions until the completion of business.

RESOLUTION NO. 522-11 Re: **REPORT OF CLOSED SESSION**

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: On October 11, 2011, the Board of Education voted unanimously by members present to conduct closed sessions as permitted under the *Education Article* Section 4-107(d) and *State Government Article* Section 10-508(a), *et seq.*, of the *Annotated Code of Maryland*.

The Montgomery County Board of Education met in closed sessions on October 11, 2011, from 9:07 to 9:37 a.m. and 1:21 to 2:05 p.m. in Room 120 of the Carver Educational Services Center, Rockville, Maryland, and:

1. Received legal advice on appeals and adjudicated the following appeals involving a student transfer and early admission to kindergarten: T-2011-34 and 2011-41, as permitted under Section 10-508(a)(7) of the *State Government Article* and in its quasi-judicial capacity outside the purview of the *Open Meetings Act*, with a subsequent vote in open session.
2. Received a briefing by the superintendent on the Monthly Human Resources and Development Report, which is an administrative function outside the purview of the *Open Meetings Act*, and with respect to appointments, as permitted under Section 10-508(a)(1) of the *State Government Article*, with a subsequent vote in open session.
3. Received a briefing by the superintendent on the Equal Employment Opportunity Report, which is an administrative function outside the purview of the *Open Meetings Act*.
4. Received an update by staff and discussed ongoing collective bargaining negotiations, as permitted under Section 10-508(a)(9) of the *State Government*

Article.

In attendance at the 9:07 a.m. closed session were Chris Barclay, Laura Berthiaume, Shirley Brandman, Judy Docca, Phil Kauffman, Patricia O'Neill, Ikhide Roland Ikheloa, Suzann King, Glenda Rose, Laura Steinberg, and Patrick Clancy. At 9:22 a.m., Mr. Clancy left the meeting and the following staff joined the meeting: Larry Bowers, Brian Edwards, Frieda Lacey, Joshua Starr, and Dana Tofig. At 1:21 p.m., Alan Xie and Stan Damas joined the Board and staff in closed session.

RESOLUTION NO. 523-11 Re: **APPEALS**

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 Board of Education has met in closed session and deliberated on appeals brought before its members acting in its quasi-judicial capacity under Section 10-508(a) of the *State Government Article* of the *Annotated Code of Maryland*; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board of Education hereby decides the following appeals reflective of the Board members' votes in closed session, the dispositions of which will be recorded in the minutes of today's meeting:

<u>Appeal Number</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Disposition</u>
T-2011-53	Student Transfer	Dismissed
T-2011-54	Student Transfer	Affirmed
2011-42	Early Entrance to Kindergarten	Affirmed

RESOLUTION NO. 524-11 Re: **MINUTES**

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 Board of Education approve the minutes for its meetings of September 15, September 22, September 26, September 27, and October 11, 2011.

Re: **BOARD COMMITTEE UPDATES**

There were no committee reports.

Re: **NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business items introduced.

Re: **ITEMS OF INFORMATION**

The following items were available:

Legal Fees Report

Construction Progress Report

Minority-, Female-, or Disabled-owned Business Procurement Report for the First Quarter of Fiscal Year 2012

Improvements Less Than \$50,000 Funded Under Policy CNE, *Facility Improvements That Are Not Funded with Montgomery County Revenues*

RESOLUTION NO. 525-11

Re: **ADJOURNMENT**

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

Resolved, That the Board of Education adjourn its meeting of November 8, 2011, at 4:13 p.m.

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY

JPS:gr

Resolution	Barclay	Berthiaume	Brandman	Docca	Durso	Kauffman	O'Neill	Xie
School Calendar	O	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Legislative Platform	O	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Pilot Courses	O	A	A	A	A	A	A	A

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