

APPROVED  
3-2013

Rockville, Maryland  
January 17, 2013

The Board of Education of Montgomery County held a hearing at the Carver Educational Services Center, 850 Hungerford Drive, Rockville, Maryland, on January 17, 2013, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

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

Absent: Dr. Joshua Starr

To view specific sections or the entire meeting, please watch at  
<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/boe/meetings/archive/2013/2013-0117.shtm>

**Re: FY 2014 OPERATING BUDGET HEARING**

The following people testified before the Board of Education:

1. Jerry Klobukowski, Commission of Poolesville
2. Ruby Rubens, 177 – II Group
3. Doug Prouty, MCEA, MCAAP, SEIU Local 500
4. Cecilia Otero, ESOL Bilingual Advisory Committee
5. Jeffrey He, MCR
6. Prim Phoolsombat, MCJC
7. Toure Burgess, Commission on Children and Youth
8. Cassidy Kennington
9. Alessandra Onorati
10. Michael Saunders, Gaithersburg B.R.O.T.H.E.R.S.
11. Raheem Lee, Gaithersburg B.R.O.T.H.E.R.S.
12. Thomas Armooh, Gaithersburg B.R.O.T.H.E.R.S.
13. Robert Monsheimer, Montgomery County Taxpayers League
14. Melanie Twomey, Churchill Cluster
15. Donna Lowell, Poolesville Cluster
16. Jennifer Young, Richard Montgomery Cluster
17. Frances Frost, Kennedy Cluster
18. Sumbai Sheldon, Watkins Mill Cluster

19. Shebra Evans, Wheaton Cluster
20. Bethesda-Chevy Chase Cluster
21. Elise Brown Hughes, Whitman Cluster
22. Mary Cassell, Walter Johnson Cluster
23. Christopher Lage, Sligo Creek Elementary School Parent Group
24. Elizabeth Capuzzo-Peixoto
25. Tom Hearn
26. Paula Puglisi, Elementary School Counselors
27. Patty Winters, Substance Abuse Prevention
28. Ella Davani, Curriculum 2.0
29. Nadine Shrager, Curriculum 2.0
30. Donna Evans, Substance Abuse Prevention
31. Sharif Robinson, Student Eligibility
32. Lisa Lowe, Substance Abuse Prevention
33. Marquise Willis
34. Susan Holland, Middle School Magnet Programs
35. Ralph Bunday

The Board of Education asked the following questions:

1. Mrs. O'Neill asked staff to share the testimony of Cassidy Kennington and Alessandra Onorati with Ms. Caplon in order for her to meet with the students or prepare a response. At one point, MCR took a field trip to the central kitchen, and maybe that could be scheduled again.
2. Mr. Barclay asked for clarity on where in the operating budget are the dollars for training teachers for Curriculum 2.0.
3. Mr. Barclay requested information on how the staff development teachers are allocated for middle schools and how they will be used. Is there a plan on how they will be used or will they be reallocated back to the schools?
4. Mr. Barclay noted the Roundtable on Children and Youth, and he was interested in students' relationships with counselors. Is there a way to assess how effective counselors are with students? What is the relationship, such as four years as opposed to a new counselor every year?
5. Dr. Docca asked staff to look into the allocation of registrars at Montgomery Blair High School.
6. Ms. Brandman asked about the expectations or assumptions on whether the system expects any changes in the focus school designations with the FARMS cut off or any changes in the Title I designations. Ms. Brandman asked for what the FARMS rate cut off is for focus schools.
7. Mr. Kauffman asked about the Maryland Meals for Achievement Program. Could the Board receive information on the program, and how decisions are made on which schools are enrolled in the program? Mr. Barclay asked if the Governor's budget had increased the amount for that program.
8. Mr. Barclay asked how large high schools deal with one registrar and the preparation of transcripts.
9. Mr. Barclay asked about the concern for the size of the school and the impact of

Board decisions in terms of the academies. How does the system support small schools addressing the resource issue when there are not enough students for two classes per grade?

10. Mr. Durso noted the registrar situation. Is there a ratio beyond one registrar per high school?
11. Mr. Durso wanted to know when there are 35 students in the IB program. Is there a broader-based formula than force schools to make large/small classes?
12. Mrs. O'Neill asked about secretarial support for the registrar's office.
13. Mrs. O'Neill asked for information on the situation at Walt Whitman High School with the LFI program and what can be done. Ms. Brandman asked if there were similar concerns at other high schools. She noted the staffing change at Burning Tree Elementary School and has there been a similar impact at other elementary learning centers.
14. Mrs. O'Neill noted the testimony of the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Cluster and the issue of COSAs. It is not an operating budget issue, but she suggested that the Policy Committee of the Board have a discussion on the automatic COSAs granted from middle to high school. Could staff provide the number of students who are automatically granted a COSA?
15. Mrs. O'Neill wanted to know what other jurisdictions, including Fairfax, charge for an activity fee. How much would the activity be per student to pay for certified athletic trainers as noted in Dr. Starr's memorandum? It would be useful for the Board to see the recent reductions in athletics over the past couple of years.
16. Mr. Durso asked why MCPS does not use the concussion forms recommended by MSDE.
17. Mr. Durso asked what MCPS has in place or is planning for combating drug abuse.
18. Mr. Kauffman inquired about School Cop software in Ms. Winter's testimony. Could the Board receive information on that software, why it is not used, and what would be involved in using the software?
19. Mrs. Smondrowski asked about implementation of the suggestions in Ms. Shrager's testimony regarding training, quality control, and feedback on Curriculum 2.0.
20. Mr. Barclay asked what can be done to coordinate activities where lunch is not an impediment to the BRAG program. If a student is on the FARMS program, is there a way to ensure a meal? How can this be organized in a way that works for young people?
21. Mr. Barclay was interested in what the system is doing to help coordinate programs (such as BRAG, B.R.O.T.H.E.R.S., tutoring) to make them more strategic and combine resources to help young people.
22. Mr. Barclay was interested in the coordination between Health and Human Services and the school system on the issue of substance abuse. Please make sure the Board is updated on how the system is working with families and other agencies to assure services that are needed.
23. Mr. Barclay asked for the mechanisms for feedback on training for teachers on Curriculum 2.0. Is there enough time and materials to deliver the instruction?

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 p.m.

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PRESIDENT

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SECRETARY

JPS:gr