

Office of the Superintendent of Schools
MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Rockville, Maryland 208850

November 11, 1997

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education
From: Paul L. Vance, Superintendent of Schools
Subject: Classical Program Review of Special Education

The following is submitted for your review, and your possible action on November 11, 1997. The Board agenda would need to be amended.

WHEREAS, On October 27, 1997, the Board of Education approved a resolution that the superintendent of schools conduct a classical program review focusing on special education; and

WHEREAS, The classical program review should focus on Montgomery County Public Schools' implementation of local, state, and federal laws, regulations, and policies pertaining to the provision of special education services to students with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, The superintendent of schools has received a comprehensive report from the Superintendent's Budget Review Committee/Special Education Subcommittee regarding the special education legal fees costs in Montgomery County Public Schools; and

WHEREAS, The Special Education Advisory Monitoring Committee will be issuing a report concerning the compliance of Montgomery County Public Schools regarding Reusch v. Fountain (Extended School Year services); and

WHEREAS, The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act was reauthorized in June 1997; and

WHEREAS, The Code of Maryland regulations regarding special education are in the process of being revised in accordance with the recently revised Individuals with Disabilities Education Act; and

WHEREAS, The Maryland State Department of Education will conduct an audit of Montgomery County Public Schools' implementation of state and federal guidelines addressing students with disabilities, and such audit will be conducted in February 1998; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Special Education in conjunction with the Department of Educational Facilities Planning and Capital Programming has developed a service delivery model for special education; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Special Education in conjunction with the Montgomery County Education Association has worked to develop a draft vision for special education; and

WHEREAS, Montgomery County Public Schools, the Maryland Association for Nonpublic Special Education Facilities, and the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services are collaboratively investigating ways of cost effectively providing services to students with special needs; and

WHEREAS, The Office of Instruction and Program Development Special Education Advisory Committee has taken an active role in reviewing programmatic issues in special education; and

WHEREAS, Montgomery County Public Schools has worked to develop comparable cost efficient options to nonpublic special education placements; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board of Education direct the superintendent to prepare program reviews in special education, transportation, and legal services; and be it further

Resolved, That each of these reviews should include analysis of present situations, past trends, and future projections involving the relevant laws; regulations, and policies at the federal, state, and local levels; and characteristics of the programs including services offered, budgeted dollars, personnel involved, and students or other clientele; and be it further

Resolved, That the reviews should address major issues of funding, including how budget estimates are developed, what funding shortfalls exist, what program problems exist, proposed strategies for controlling costs, and recommendations for solving identified issues.

PLV:MHS:mbd