APPROVED Rockville, Maryland 27-1986 June 3, 1986 The Board of Education of Montgomery County met in special session at the Carver Educational Services Center, Rockville, Maryland, on Tuesday, June 3, 1986, at 9:30 p.m. ROLL CALL Present: Dr. James E. Cronin, President in the Chair Mrs. Sharon DiFonzo Mr. Blair G. Ewing Dr. Jeremiah Floyd Mr. John D. Foubert Mrs. Marilyn J. Praisner Dr. Robert E. Shoenberg Mrs. Mary Margaret Slye

Absent: None

Others Present: Dr. Wilmer S. Cody, Superintendent of Schools Mr. Thomas S. Fess, Parliamentarian Mr. Eric Steinberg, Board Member-elect

Re: WOODWARD HIGH SCHOOL CLOSING RESOLUTION Mrs. DiFonzo moved and Mrs. Praisner seconded the following:

WHEREAS, The Board of Education on December 2, 1985, voted to close Woodward High School in June 1987 and consolidate the attendance area with the Walter Johnson High School attendance area; and

WHEREAS, The decision of December 2, 1985, was appealed to the Maryland State Board of Education; and

WHEREAS, The Maryland State Board of Education on May 28, 1986, issued Interim Opinion No. 86-13 requesting that the Board of Education submit, on or before June 6, a written decision setting forth the rationale for the decision to close Woodward High School in 1987 and addressing the impact of the proposed closing on the factors set forth in COMAR 13.A.02.09.01B; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Education hereby adopts the following written decision to be executed by the Board members and submitted to the Maryland State Board of Education by June 6, 1986:

Regular enrollment at both Woodward High School and Walter Johnson High School is below the Board's minimum enrollment standard of 1,000 students. Enrollment trends at both schools have been declining. The student enrollment projections at both schools show still further decline in future years. The closure of Woodward and the consolidation of its student body with the student body of Walter Johnson High School positively addresses low enrollment by creating a combined student body which meets the Board's desired enrollment standard of 300 to 400 students or more per grade at the high school level. Enrollment trends (1)6 Low enrollment negatively impacts the school system's ability to maintain a viable educational program at reasonable cost and to offer the kind of varied educational programs which as a matter of educational policy is to be available to high school students in this county. In addition, low enrollment decreases the number of sections of courses that can be offered and, therefore, decreases the student's opportunity to have access to these courses. These problems exist at both Woodward and Walter Johnson and will become more serious as enrollment continues to decline. Closing Woodward and sending the students to Walter Johnson will enable the school system to provide expanded educational program opportunities for all students at a reasonable cost. Educational program (4)6

Utilization of the Walter Johnson High School facility is below the Board's desired 70 percent minimum. The capacity of the Walter Johnson facility is significantly greater than that of Woodward. Closure of Woodward with consolidation at Walter Johnson raises utilization of Walter Johnson and provides for consolidation at the facility which is larger and better able to accommodate the combined enrollment, minimizing capital costs. Students from the Woodward and Walter Johnson areas are together at the intermediate school level and then split between Woodward and Walter Johnson. The consolidation and closure of Woodward avoids the relocation of these students to two different schools by providing an articulation pattern that conforms to the Board's preferred pattern. Student relocation (7)ó

Transportation is not a significant factor in the Board's decision because the schools are in close proximity to one another. Both the cost of transportation and the distance traveled will be minimal. Transportation (3)ó

Racial balance also is not a significant factor because neither school exceeds the 20 percent variance level of the Board's Policy on Quality Integrated Education. Racial composition of student body (5)ó

The decision to close Woodward in June of 1987, rather than June of 1988 as recommended by the superintendent, responds directly to the repeated request of the overwhelming number of affected communities to lessen community disruption by beginning the consolidation with the assignment of incoming ninth graders to Walter Johnson in September 1986 and consolidating the two schools in September 1987. Assigning incoming ninth grade students as a group from Tilden Intermediate School to Walter Johnson in September 1986 avoids the disruption of maintaining the present split attendance pattern for the upcoming school year only to have Woodward ninth graders move again a year later when the school closes. While any school closing is a highly charged and emotional experience for all concerned, the impact of our decision is not as dramatic as many other school closings due to the fact that these communities are united now at the intermediate school level. Additionally, our decision provides for the retention and continued use of the Woodward facility for school system purposes which will provide some added stability through continued school system use of Woodward. Impact on community (8)ó

While the Board has determined that the benefits to the educational program and to the affected communities of an early closure and consolidation outweigh to a large degree the costs involved in an accelerated consolidation, building a permanent addition to house the full consolidated student body at Walter Johnson in 1987-88 is not justified in light of the school system's capital construction needs in other parts of the county and the continued decline in enrollment projected for Woodward and Walter Johnson. We therefore decline to follow the superintendent's recommendation to recover six classrooms within Walter Johnson and construct a ten-classroom addition to Walter Johnson for 1988. We direct instead that action be taken to place ten relocatable classrooms at Walter Johnson in 1988 to accommodate the combined enrollment. Financial considerations (6)6

Operating one consolidated school instead of two underenrolled schools reduces cost primarily by eliminating duplication of certain administrative and other one-of-a-kind positions. While the overall cost of operating the larger Walter Johnson building is higher than the cost of operating Woodward, it is more than offset by lesser capital expenditures required for consolidation at Walter Johnson. Financial considerations (6)ó

Although the larger Walter Johnson facility is better able to provide for the consolidated student body, there appears to be insufficient classroom space at Walter Johnson to accommodate the combined student enrollment at that site for the one year immediately following Woodward's closure. Additional space will be required for the 1987-88 transition year. Use of existing space for this one year by operating the Woodward facility as a second campus offers more students the benefits of a stronger educational program at an earlier date without additional capital construction cost. The distance between the two schools is minimal and use of the second campus will be for a limited time. Condition of school building (2)6

The Board will have an opportunity to review those elements of the consolidation plan which will not yet have been implemented at the next annual review and update of the Master Plan for Educational Facilities. The superintendent has agreed to continue to monitor enrollment and determine the maximum amount of recoverable space within the Walter Johnson facility to determine whether Walter Johnson can accommodate the full consolidated student body at an earlier date using no more than the number of portable classrooms the Board has determined to be reasonable (10). Any additional recommendations will be brought before the Board later this school year or next fall as part of the annual review and updating process.

The Board's judgment is that the advantages of an accelerated closure and consolidation outweigh the disadvantages. More students will benefit from the consolidated program opportunities at an earlier date without major capital expenditures. Disruption to communities is minimized by an expeditious merging of these two high schools. The Board's decision therefore assigns all ninth grade students from the Woodward-Walter Johnson area to Walter Johnson for the 1986-87 school year and closes Woodward in June of 1987. Implementation of the consolidation involves use of Woodward as a second campus for Walter Johnson High School for the 1987-88 year and for location of all students at the Walter Johnson site in 1988. The Board assures that quality education will be maintained for Woodward and Walter Johnson students. The Walter Johnson and Charles W. Woodward high school community have the right to and members of the Woodward community have appealed this decision to the State Board of Education in writing within thirty (30) days of the decision of December 2, 1985.

RESOLUTION NO. 315-86 Re: AN AMENDMENT TO THE PROPOSED RESOLUTION ON WOODWARD HIGH SCHOOL CLOSING

On motion of Dr. Shoenberg seconded by Mrs. DiFonzo, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

RESOLVED, That the proposed resolution on Woodward High School be amended by adding a footnote after "Enrollment trends (1)" stating "*Bracketed material refers to subsections of COMAR 13A.02.09.01B."

RESOLUTION NO. 316-86 Re: AN AMENDMENT TO THE PROPOSED RESOLUTION ON WOODWARD HIGH SCHOOL

On motion of Mrs. DiFonzo seconded by Mr. Foubert, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

RESOLVED, That the proposed resolution on Woodward High School be amended by substituting "most of the" for "the overwhelming number of."

RESOLUTION NO. 317-86 Re: AN AMENDMENT TO THE PROPOSED RESOLUTION ON WOODWARD HIGH SCHOOL

On motion of Dr. Shoenberg seconded by Mrs. Praisner, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

RESOLVED, That the proposed resolution on Woodward High School be amended by deleting "While any school closing is a highly charged and emotional experience for all concerned, the impact of our decision is not as dramatic as many other school closings due to the fact that these communities are united now at the intermediate school level" and substituting "The impact of the decision is minimized by the fact that these communities are united now at the intermediate school level."

RESOLUTION NO. 318-86 Re: AN AMENDMENT TO THE PROPOSED RESOLUTION ON WOODWARD HIGH SCHOOL

On motion of Mrs. DiFonzo seconded by Mrs. Praisner, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

RESOLVED, That the proposed resolution on Woodward High School be amended by deleting "full" in the sentence starting "While the Board has determined that the benefits...."

RESOLUTION NO. 319-86 Re: AN AMENDMENT TO THE PROPOSED RESOLUTION ON WOODWARD HIGH SCHOOL

On motion of Dr. Shoenberg seconded by Mrs. Slye, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

RESOLVED, That the proposed resolution on Woodward High School be amended by deleting "While the overall cost of operating the larger Walter Johnson building is higher than the cost of operating Woodward it is more than offset by lesser capital expenditures required for consolidation at Walter Johnson."

RESOLUTION NO. 320-86 Re: AN AMENDMENT TO THE PROPOSED RESOLUTION ON WOODWARD HIGH SCHOOL

On motion of Mrs. DiFonzo seconded by Mrs. Praisner, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

RESOLVED, That the proposed resolution on Woodward High School be amended by deleting "full" in the sentence starting with "The superintendent has agreed to continue...."

RESOLUTION NO. 321-86 Re: AN AMENDMENT TO THE PROPOSED RESOLUTION ON WOODWARD HIGH SCHOOL

On motion of Mrs. DiFonzo seconded by Mrs. Praisner, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

RESOLVED, That the proposed resolution on Woodward High School be amended by adding "appeal" after "have the right to" in the last sentence.

For the record, Dr. Shoenberg stated, "I concur in the result of the Board's decision and its rationale, although I would have preferred the timing of the closure and consolidation to be as recommended by the superintendent."

For the record, Dr. Floyd stated, "Despite my reservations about the wisdom of the Board's decision, I will support the majority decision and work toward a successful closure and consolidation."

For the record, Mr. Foubert stated, "Were I entitled to vote, I would

concur in the result of the Board's decision and rationale, although I would have preferred the timing of the closure and consolidation to be as recommended by the superintendent."

RESOLUTION NO. 322-86 Re: WOODWARD HIGH SCHOOL CLOSING

On motion of Mrs. DiFonzo seconded by Mrs. Praisner, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

WHEREAS, The Board of Education on December 2, 1985, voted to close Woodward High School in June 1987 and consolidate the attendance area with the Walter Johnson High School attendance area; and

WHEREAS, The decision of December 2, 1985, was appealed to the Maryland State Board of Education; and

WHEREAS, The Maryland State Board of Education on May 28, 1986, issued Interim Opinion No. 86-13 requesting that the Board of Education submit, on or before June 6, a written decision setting forth the rationale for the decision to close Woodward High School in 1987 and addressing the impact of the proposed closing on the factors set forth in COMAR 13.A.02.09.01B; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Education hereby adopts the following written decision to be executed by the Board members and submitted to the Maryland State Board of Education by June 6, 1986:

Regular enrollment at both Woodward High School and Walter Johnson High School is below the Board's minimum enrollment standard of 1,000 students. Enrollment trends at both schools have been declining. The student enrollment projections at both schools show still further decline in future years. The closure of Woodward and the consolidation of its student body with the student body of Walter Johnson High School positively addresses low enrollment by creating a combined student body which meets the Board's desired enrollment standard of 300 to 400 students or more per grade at the high school level. Enrollment trends (1)ó*

*Bracketed material refers to subsections of COMAR 13A.02.09.01B.

Low enrollment negatively impacts the school system's ability to maintain a viable educational program at reasonable cost and to offer the kind of varied educational programs which as a matter of educational policy is to be available to high school students in this county. In addition, low enrollment decreases the number of sections of courses that can be offered and, therefore, decreases the student's opportunity to have access to these courses. These problems exist at both Woodward and Walter Johnson and will become more serious as enrollment continues to decline. Closing Woodward and sending the students to Walter Johnson will enable the school system to provide expanded educational program opportunities for all students at a reasonable cost. Educational program (4)ó Utilization of the Walter Johnson High School facility is below the Board's desired 70 percent minimum. The capacity of the Walter Johnson facility is significantly greater than that of Woodward. Closure of Woodward with consolidation at Walter Johnson raises utilization of Walter Johnson and provides for consolidation at the facility which is larger and better able to accommodate the combined enrollment, minimizing capital costs. Students from the Woodward and Walter Johnson areas are together at the intermediate school level and then split between Woodward and Walter Johnson. The consolidation and closure of Woodward avoids the relocation of these students to two different schools by providing an articulation pattern that conforms to the Board's preferred pattern. Student relocation (7)ó

Transportation is not a significant factor in the Board's decision because the schools are in close proximity to one another. Both the cost of transportation and the distance traveled will be minimal. Transportation (3)ó

Racial balance also is not a significant factor because neither school exceeds the 20 percent variance level of the Board's Policy on Quality Integrated Education. Racial composition of student body (5)ó

The decision to close Woodward in June of 1987, rather than June of 1988 as recommended by the superintendent, responds directly to the repeated request of most of the affected communities to lessen community disruption by beginning the consolidation with the assignment of incoming ninth graders to Walter Johnson in September 1986 and consolidating the two schools in September 1987. Assigning incoming ninth grade students as a group from Tilden Intermediate School to Walter Johnson in September 1986 avoids the disruption of maintaining the present split attendance pattern for the upcoming school year only to have Woodward ninth graders move again a year later when the school closes. The impact of the decision is minimized by the fact that these communities are united now at the intermediate school level. Additionally, our decision provides for the retention and continued use of the Woodward facility for school system purposes which will provide some added stability through continued school system use of Woodward. Impact on community (8)ó

While the Board has determined that the benefits to the educational program and to the affected communities of an early closure and consolidation outweigh to a large degree the costs involved in an accelerated consolidation, building a permanent addition to house the consolidated student body at Walter Johnson in 1987-88 is not justified in light of the school system's capital construction needs in other parts of the county and the continued decline in enrollment projected for Woodward and Walter Johnson. We therefore decline to follow the superintendent's recommendation to recover six classrooms within Walter Johnson and construct a ten-classroom addition to Walter Johnson for 1988. We direct instead that action be taken to place ten relocatable classrooms at Walter Johnson in 1988 to accommodate the combined enrollment. Financial considerations $(6)\delta$

Operating one consolidated school instead of two underenrolled schools reduces cost primarily by eliminating duplication of certain administrative and other one-of-a-kind positions. Financial considerations (6)ó

Although the larger Walter Johnson facility is better able to provide for the consolidated student body, there appears to be insufficient classroom space at Walter Johnson to accommodate the combined student enrollment at that site for the one year immediately following Woodward's closure. Additional space will be required for the 1987-88 transition year. Use of existing space for this one year by operating the Woodward facility as a second campus offers more students the benefits of a stronger educational program at an earlier date without additional capital construction cost. The distance between the two schools is minimal and use of the second campus will be for a limited time. Condition of school building (2)ó

The Board will have an opportunity to review those elements of the consolidation plan which will not yet have been implemented at the next annual review and update of the Master Plan for Educational Facilities. The superintendent has agreed to continue to monitor enrollment and determine the maximum amount of recoverable space within the Walter Johnson facility to determine whether Walter Johnson can accommodate the consolidated student body at an earlier date using no more than the number of portable classrooms the Board has determined to be reasonable (10). Any additional recommendations will be brought before the Board later this school year or next fall as part of the annual review and updating process.

The Board's judgment is that the advantages of an accelerated closure and consolidation outweigh the disadvantages. More students will benefit from the consolidated program opportunities at an earlier date without major capital expenditures. Disruption to communities is minimized by an expeditious merging of these two high schools. The Board's decision therefore assigns all ninth grade students from the Woodward-Walter Johnson area to Walter Johnson for the 1986-87 school year and closes Woodward in June of 1987. Implementation of the consolidation involves use of Woodward as a second campus for Walter Johnson High School for the 1987-88 year and for location of all students at the Walter Johnson site in 1988. The Board assures that quality education will be maintained for Woodward and Walter Johnson students. The Walter Johnson and Charles W. Woodward high school community have the right to appeal and members of the Woodward community have appealed this decision to the State Board of Education in writing within thirty (30) days of the decision of December 2, 1985.

Re: WOODWARD/WALTER JOHNSON AMENDMENT

Mrs. Praisner moved and Mrs. DiFonzo seconded the following:

WHEREAS, The Board of Education on December 2, 1985, voted to close Woodward High School in June 1987 and consolidate the attendance area with the Walter Johnson High School attendance area; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Education on May 15, 1986, amended its decision to provide that all students from the consolidated school be housed at Walter Johnson High School beginning in September 1987 and that the superintendent provide the Board with monthly reports on the consolidation process; and

WHEREAS, The Maryland State Board of Education on May 28, 1986, issued Interim Opinion No. 86-13 requesting that the Board of Education provide a written rationale for the action taken on May 15, 1986; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Education hereby adopts the following written rationale to be executed by the Board members and submitted to the Maryland State Board of Education by June 6, 1986:

The Board has determined that adequate housing can be provided at the Walter Johnson site in September 1987 and that it is in the best interests of the affected students and communities to provide a single campus for the consolidated student body as early as possible.

At the Board's request, the superintendent continued to monitor enrollment and review maximum recoverable classroom space at Walter Johnson to determine whether all students could be housed on a single campus in 1987-88 with the use of no more than ten relocatable classrooms. By memorandum dated April 9, 1986, Area Associate Superintendent Robert J. Shekletski indicated that single campus consolidation was feasible in September 1987. This conclusion was based on several on-site inspections of the Walter Johnson facility by the school principal, area associate superintendent, school business manager, the Transition Advisory Committee Chairman, and the director of the Department of School Facilities. These inspections of the physical plant occurred on February 24, March 10 and March 21 of 1986.

The director of the Department of School Facilities confirmed by memorandum of April 4, 1986, after his inspection of the facility and review of the school's floor plans, that it is feasible to recover seven additional classrooms at Walter Johnson High School without extensive modifications to the physical plant. On April 10, 1986, the Transition Advisory Committee voted to house the consolidated student body at Walter Johnson in September 1987, eliminating the use of Woodward as a second campus for the 1987-88 school year. The Transition Advisory Committee is charged with the responsibility of examining the details of the consolidation and making recommendations to appropriate staff on ways to assure a smooth consolidation of the two student bodies.

Based on last fall's projections, the combined student body in September 1987 is projected to be no more than 1,937 students. At this time, the projection is considered to be high based on actual enrollment experience during this school year.

From 1964 until 1976, when the school underwent a renovation which reduced classroom space, Walter Johnson had a listed capacity of 1,950 students. When Walter Johnson was modernized in 1976, the number of teaching stations was reduced to 70. The core facilities are more than adequate to provide for the number of students who would be attending Walter Johnson in September 1987. For example, the cafeteria space at Walter Johnson is approximately 7,800 square feet. The new Quince Orchard High School, which the school system is in the process of building, is to have a core capacity of 2,000 students and its cafeteria is planned to be 7,500 square feet. The media center at Walter Johnson is in excess of 12,000 square feet whereas the new Quince Orchard High School is planned for approximately 9,000 square feet. Walter Johnson's administrative area is only 300 square feet smaller than that being planned for the 2,000 capacity student body at the new Quince Orchard High School.

The director of the Department of School Facilities has identified specific locations within the Walter Johnson facility where seven additional classrooms can be recovered without extensive modification to the building. This would raise the capacity of Walter Johnson from 1,625 to 1,790. By placing ten relocatable classrooms on-site by September 1987, capacity will be raised to 2,040. The number of relocatable classrooms is not unprecedented in Montgomery County. Currently there are nine relocatable classrooms at Kennedy High School and eight at Springbrook High School to accommodate temporary overutilization.

It is our assessment that the consolidated student body can be adequately housed on one campus at the Walter Johnson site in September 1987 even using the high enrollment figure of 1,937. The resulting utilization rate is no more than 95 percent. The core facilities are adequate to provide for a student population of close to 2,000.

Recovering additional space within the Walter Johnson High School facility and the earlier siting of relocatable classrooms will require additional expenditures. Expenditures are expected to be less than those which would be required to operate the Woodward building as a second campus and provide the necessary number of additional staff which are estimated to be required to operate the second campus at a level which assures maintenance of a quality educational program as this Board directed on December 2, 1985.

We received comments on the superintendent's recommendations from a number of communities affected by the closure and consolidation decision made on December 2, 1985. Most of the communities continue to urge the Board to implement its decision as rapidly as possible to avoid lengthy uncertainties and to mend more rapidly division within their communities. The Board attempted to respond to these requests in its original decision to accelerate the recommended closure and consolidation. The split-campus proposal accommodated the wishes of affected communities for expeditious consolidation and more importantly provided increased educational program opportunities for students without excessive capital expenditure. It was the Board's judgment at that time that the housing plan for the 1987-88 school year was a reasonable one. The superintendent's recommendation which we have adopted for a single campus beginning in September 1987 is also a reasonable one which retains the advantages we cited previously. Now, however, we are satisfied, based on the in-depth review of the Walter Johnson facility, that the consolidated student population can be located earlier than originally planned at the Walter Johnson facility at a reasonable cost, with community support.

The Board finds the disadvantages of an extra year of relocatable classrooms to be considerably outweighed by the advantages offered to students and the community of this single housing plan for 1987-88. Uncertainties regarding precise operational details of the two-campus plan are eliminated and the advantages of the combined program retained. Additionally, a single campus simplifies administration.

The Board wants to be assured, however, that the renovation work within the Walter Johnson facility does not disrupt the ongoing educational program and that general improvement of the facility to accommodate the combined student enrollment is timely and adequate. It is for that reason that the Board directs the superintendent to provide it with monthly reports on the consolidation process through June of 1988. The superintendent is to continue to monitor enrollment, advise the Board of new data, and make appropriate recommendations for modification in accordance with the County Board's Long-range Educational Facilities Planning Policy.

RESOLUTION NO. 323-86 Re: AN AMENDMENT TO THE PROPOSED RESOLUTION ON THE WOODWARD/WALTER JOHNSON AMENDMENT

On motion of Mrs. DiFonzo seconded by Mrs. Praisner, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

RESOLVED, That the proposed resolution on the Woodward/Walter Johnson Amendment be amended to substitute "supported housing" for "voted to house" in the third paragraph.

For the record, Dr. Floyd stated, "I will once again join the Board in approving this amendment to the housing plan for the consolidated Woodward-Walter Johnson student body. I do so now, as I did on December 2, 1985, to demonstrate my support for the majority decision of the Board by setting aside my reservations about the wisdom of the original closing decision."

For the record, Dr. Cronin noted that Mr. Foubert had been absent when the original decision was adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. 324-86 Re: WOODWARD/WALTER JOHNSON AMENDMENT

On motion of Mrs. Praisner seconded by Mrs. DiFonzo, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by all voting members (Mr. Foubert abstaining):

WHEREAS, The Board of Education on December 2, 1985, voted to close Woodward High School in June 1987 and consolidate the attendance area with the Walter Johnson High School attendance area; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Education on May 15, 1986, amended its decision to provide that all students from the consolidated school be housed at Walter Johnson High School beginning in September 1987 and that the superintendent provide the Board with monthly reports on the consolidation process; and

WHEREAS, The Maryland State Board of Education on May 28, 1986, issued Interim Opinion No. 86-13 requesting that the Board of Education provide a written rationale for the action taken on May 15, 1986; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Education hereby adopts the following written rationale to be executed by the Board members and submitted to the Maryland State Board of Education by June 6, 1986:

The Board has determined that adequate housing can be provided at the Walter Johnson site in September 1987 and that it is in the best interests of the affected students and communities to provide a single campus for the consolidated student body as early as possible.

At the Board's request, the superintendent continued to monitor enrollment and review maximum recoverable classroom space at Walter Johnson to determine whether all students could be housed on a single campus in 1987-88 with the use of no more than ten relocatable classrooms. By memorandum dated April 9, 1986, Area Associate Superintendent Robert J. Shekletski indicated that single campus consolidation was feasible in September 1987. This conclusion was based on several on-site inspections of the Walter Johnson facility by the school principal, area associate superintendent, school business manager, the Transition Advisory Committee Chairman, and the director of the Department of School Facilities. These inspections of the physical plant occurred on February 24, March 10 and March 21 of 1986.

The director of the Department of School Facilities confirmed by memorandum of April 4, 1986, after his inspection of the facility

and review of the school's floor plans, that it is feasible to recover seven additional classrooms at Walter Johnson High School without extensive modifications to the physical plant. On April 10, 1986, the Transition Advisory Committee supported housing the consolidated student body at Walter Johnson in September 1987, eliminating the use of Woodward as a second campus for the 1987-88 school year. The Transition Advisory Committee is charged with the responsibility of examining the details of the consolidation and making recommendations to appropriate staff on ways to assure a smooth consolidation of the two student bodies.

Based on last fall's projections, the combined student body in September 1987 is projected to be no more than 1,937 students. At this time, the projection is considered to be high based on actual enrollment experience during this school year.

From 1964 until 1976, when the school underwent a renovation which reduced classroom space, Walter Johnson had a listed capacity of 1,950 students. When Walter Johnson was modernized in 1976, the number of teaching stations was reduced to 70. The core facilities are more than adequate to provide for the number of students who would be attending Walter Johnson in September 1987. For example, the cafeteria space at Walter Johnson is approximately 7,800 square feet. The new Quince Orchard High School, which the school system is in the process of building, is to have a core capacity of 2,000 students and its cafeteria is planned to be 7,500 square feet. The media center at Walter Johnson is in excess of 12,000 square feet whereas the new Quince Orchard High School is planned for approximately 9,000 square feet. Walter Johnson's administrative area is only 300 square feet smaller than that being planned for the 2,000 capacity student body at the new Quince Orchard High School.

The director of the Department of School Facilities has identified specific locations within the Walter Johnson facility where seven additional classrooms can be recovered without extensive modification to the building. This would raise the capacity of Walter Johnson from 1,625 to 1,790. By placing ten relocatable classrooms on-site by September 1987, capacity will be raised to 2,040. The number of relocatable classrooms is not unprecedented in Montgomery County. Currently there are nine relocatable classrooms at Kennedy High School and eight at Springbrook High School to accommodate temporary overutilization.

It is our assessment that the consolidated student body can be adequately housed on one campus at the Walter Johnson site in September 1987 even using the high enrollment figure of 1,937. The resulting utilization rate is no more than 95 percent. The core facilities are adequate to provide for a student population of close to 2,000.

Recovering additional space within the Walter Johnson High School facility and the earlier siting of relocatable classrooms will require additional expenditures. Expenditures are expected to be

less than those which would be required to operate the Woodward building as a second campus and provide the necessary number of additional staff which are estimated to be required to operate the second campus at a level which assures maintenance of a quality educational program as this Board directed on December 2, 1985.

We received comments on the superintendent's recommendations from a number of communities affected by the closure and consolidation decision made on December 2, 1985. Most of the communities continue to urge the Board to implement its decision as rapidly as possible to avoid lengthy uncertainties and to mend more rapidly division within their communities. The Board attempted to respond to these requests in its original decision to accelerate the recommended closure and consolidation. The split-campus proposal accommodated the wishes of affected communities for expeditious consolidation and more importantly provided increased educational program opportunities for students without excessive capital expenditure. It was the Board's judgment at that time that the housing plan for the 1987-88 school year was a reasonable one. The superintendent's recommendation which we have adopted for a single campus beginning in September 1987 is also a reasonable one which retains the advantages we cited previously. Now, however, we are satisfied, based on the in-depth review of the Walter Johnson facility, that the consolidated student population can be located earlier than originally planned at the Walter Johnson facility at a reasonable cost, with community support.

The Board finds the disadvantages of an extra year of relocatable classrooms to be considerably outweighed by the advantages offered to students and the community of this single housing plan for 1987-88. Uncertainties regarding precise operational details of the two-campus plan are eliminated and the advantages of the combined program retained. Additionally, a single campus simplifies administration.

The Board wants to be assured, however, that the renovation work within the Walter Johnson facility does not disrupt the ongoing educational program and that general improvement of the facility to accommodate the combined student enrollment is timely and adequate. It is for that reason that the Board directs the superintendent to provide it with monthly reports on the consolidation process through June of 1988. The superintendent is to continue to monitor enrollment, advise the Board of new data, and make appropriate recommendations for modification in accordance with the County Board's Long-range Educational Facilities Planning Policy.

Re: ADJOURNMENT

The president adjourned the meeting at 9:45 p.m.

President

Secretary

WSC:mlw