Rockville, Maryland February 21, 1989

APPROVED 14-1989

The Board of Education of Montgomery County met in special session at the Carver Educational Services Center, Rockville, Maryland, on Tuesday, February 21, 1989, at 7:20 p.m.

ROLL CALL Present: Dr. James E. Cronin, President

in the Chair

Mrs. Sharon DiFonzo Mr. Blair G. Ewing Mr. Bruce A. Goldensohn Mrs. Catherine E. Hobbs

Mr. Chan Park

Mrs. Marilyn J. Praisner Dr. Robert E. Shoenberg

Absent: None

Others Present: Dr. Harry Pitt, Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Paul L. Vance, Deputy Superintendent

Re: PUBLIC HEARING - FACILITIES

RECOMMENDATIONS

Dr. Cronin explained the rules of the public hearing including the timing system and the provision of copies of testimony to the members of the Board of Education.

Re: MUNICIPALITIES, COUNTYWIDE ORGANIZATIONS
AND CIVIC ASSOCIATIONS

The following individuals appeared before the Board of Education:

- 1. Bill Leader, Layhill View Civic Association
- 2. Signe Wetrogan, Stonegate Citizens Association
- 3. Greg Praske, Strathmore/Bel Pre Citizens Association
- 4. Beverly Johnson, National Council of Negro Women
- 5. Roscoe Nix, Montgomery County Chapter, NAACP
- 6. Larry Rotondo, Longmead Crossing Community Association
- 7. Richard Meyers, Peachwood Civic Association
- 8. Carolyn Lloyd, Layhill Village Civic Association
- 9. Dottie Lohse, Quaint Acres Civic Association
- 10. Dale Helmer, Valleybrook Civic Association
- 11. Joan Wolff, Springbrook Civic Association
- 12. Cliff Sobir, Stratford Woods Home Owners

Re: BOARD/COMMUNITY DIALOGUE

In regard to pairing Strathmore and Bel Pre, Dr. Shoenberg asked how they would handle K-2 safety patrols. Mr. Goldensohn asked if staff had considered walking distances of less than one mile for students in the lower grades. Dr. Shoenberg asked what would happen to primary and intermediate learning disabled classes. He asked if they

would be split with the rest of the population if the pairing of the two schools took place.

Re: CHURCHILL CLUSTER

Suzie Braunstein and Mark Guyer, Center Program, appeared before the Board.

Re: SENECA VALLEY CLUSTER

Janice Lindsay appeared before the Board.

Re: EINSTEIN CLUSTER

Tom Kean, co-coordinator, and Sheldon Fishman, Oakland Terrace, appeared before the Board.

Re: SHERWOOD CLUSTER

Nancy Hall appeared before the Board.

Re: BOARD/COMMUNITY DIALOGUE

Mrs. Praisner asked for a breakdown of the sixth and seventh graders who would be affected by the articulation proposal to move them to Wood or keep them in Farquhar. She asked staff to provide a list of other actions taken by the Board in the past where high school service areas had been changed at the end of junior high school for students currently assigned to a high school feeder pattern.

Re: ROCKVILLE CLUSTER

Judy Merkel appeared before the Board.

Re: KENNEDY CLUSTER

The following individuals appeared before the Board:

- 1. Mary Batcher, co-coordinator
- 2. Ann Graham-Hamlin, Bel Pre
- 3. Kate Griffin, Strathmore
- 4. John Finklea, Georgian Forest

Re: BOARD/COMMUNITY DIALOGUE

Dr. Shoenberg asked if there was any way of making an estimate, recognizing that walking patterns would have to be reviewed in terms of safety, of how many students at Strathmore and Bel Pre would be walkers in any given year under the pairing plan and under the separate K-5 entities. Staff advised that estimates would be based on today's available data.

Regarding the Bel Pre site, Mrs. Praisner asked if its size and configuration would accommodate seven classrooms under the pairing proposal. She asked if they could be placed so that blacktops and play areas could be maintained. She asked about any problems associated with the Bel Pre site and whether the alternative which required 10 classrooms would be feasible. She requested answers to the same questions for Strathmore.

Board members noted that the county executive had said he wanted to retain Argyle for use as a school. There were also community concerns about the disposition of the school. Staff was asked what would happen to Bel Pre and Strathmore vis-a-vis Argyle if Argyle were reopened as a middle school. Dr. Pitt said that MCPS had requested that Argyle be retained as a holding school. The county executive was recommending a September, 1990, reopening of the school, but MCPS did not agree because it was needed as a holding school. The Board asked about the effect on students as far as timing if Argyle were reopened as a functioning school.

Re: SPRINGBROOK CLUSTER

The following individuals appeared before the Board:

- 1. Evelyn Roebuck Broad Acres
- 2. Sue Strachman, Cresthaven
- 3. Micky Cokely, Stonegate
- 4. Al Obayuwana, Stonegate
- 5. Susan McCrone, Stonegate
- 6. Janet Urban, Westover
- 7. Gene Katz, Westover
- 8. Rebecca Weikel, Westover
- 9. Nancy Jacobstein, Jackson Road
- 10. Gloria Martin-Pressman, Cannon Road
- 11. Abby Goldblatt, Cannon Road
- 12. Marie Pepper, White Oak
- 13. Kathy Queen, Co-coordinator

Re: BOARD/COMMUNITY DIALOGUE

Regarding the move of the Doral community from Kennedy back to Springbrook, the Board asked about the effect for all three levels in the Springbrook cluster to having that happen and also the Kennedy cluster.

Mrs. Praisner asked how resources for special programs, i.e., Chapter I at Burnt Mills and Jackson Road, would be impacted, especially as it related to the Jackson Road testimony. Mr. Ewing asked staff to look at page 2 of the Jackson Road testimony and their questions when responding to Mrs. Praisner. Dr. Cronin asked staff to follow up on Board members' concerns about Cannon Road and Stonegate questions raised in their testimony. Mr. Ewing asked staff to provide a response to the Board on the questions raised by Stratford Woods in Section 4 of their testimony.

Dr. Shoenberg asked staff to provide information on the percentage of owner-occupied houses and rental units, single family homes, townhouses, broken down to reflect numbers if schools are paired or maintained as K-5 schools. Staff clarified that they could present information for each of the schools as they are now organized but could not make a break out by grade.

For the record, Dr. Cronin said that at the time the Board took a vote in particular instances, the Argyle/Key situation would come into play so that if in the future it did affect MCPS by County Council decision, the community would have been notified that the possibility did exist. If the Board had to come back to this, it would not appear that the Board was changing its mind, but rather reacting to a situation previously recognized.

For the record, Dr. Cronin expressed thanks on behalf of the Board to all cluster coordinators for their spectacular effects in coordinating testimony from all the schools. Dr. Pitt reiterated his thanks and also thanked staff for all their hard work.

Re: ADJOURNMENT

The president adjourned the meeting at 10:20 p.m.

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY

HP:mlw