

APPROVED
36-1989

Rockville, Maryland
October 16, 1989

The Board of Education of Montgomery County met in special session at the Carver Educational Services Center, Rockville, Maryland, on Monday, October 16, at 8 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
Mrs. Marilyn J. Praisner
Ms. Alison Serino

Dr. Robert E. Shoenberg

Absent: None

Others Present: Dr. Harry Pitt, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Paul L. Vance, Deputy Superintendent
Mr. Thomas S. Fess, Parliamentarian

Re: GENERAL DISCUSSION OF FACILITIES ISSUES

Dr. Cronin explained that tonight would be a staff presentation of the facilities planning process. Tonight was a worksession; therefore, there would be no votes or motions. Dr. Pitt reported that enrollment growth was slightly down from projections but still continued to rise. This gave them breathing room for a year or two, but they did not expect a major growth slowdown. Changes were taking place at the secondary level as the larger elementary grades were starting to move up to the mid-level.

Ms. Ann Briggs, director of the Department of Educational Facilities Planning and Capital Programming, stated that they were well into the FY 1991 facilities process. They had met with every cluster in May, and in July the superintendent had received their comments and forwarded them to the Board. The superintendent's recommendations on the capital improvement program would be published on November 1, and on November 6, the Board would hold a work session on alternatives. The public hearings would be held on November 16, 20, and 21. The Board would act on November 26.

Mr. Bruce Crispell, demographic planner, presented an overview of growth in the county. Ms. Deanna Newman, facilities data analyst, reviewed facilities needs and enrollment projections in Area 3. Ms. Briggs provided similar information for Areas 1 and 2. Board members requested the following information:

1. Dr. Shoenberg asked whether the growth curve for Montgomery County was ahead of the growth curve nationally. In other words, was MCPS bottoming out sooner? Starting to grow in terms of

numbers of high school students? Is the bottom of the birth rate occurring sooner in Montgomery County than it is elsewhere in the country?

2. Dr. Cronin asked to see kindergarten versus first grade enrollment. This had a relation to all-day kindergarten. If they could demonstrate they were down in enrollments because people were taking their children to private school or some other type of school, this might help when they took their budgets before the County Council.
3. In regard to middle schools, Dr. Shoenberg stated that those decisions were going to have some effect on school construction. They did not want to be caught in a situation where they add something only to find that when they changed grade configuration they had placed the construction in the wrong place. He asked that on November 6 they discuss some indication of what the variables were in each cluster.
4. Mrs. Praisner noted that some communities were concerned about road construction as it related to a specific school opening or to traffic problems. For example, Muncaster Mill Road was one concern. She asked that staff let the Board know the status of the road configurations as they related to the new school and also where they had safety questions related to schools.
5. Dr. Cronin asked if staff would point out situations where there could be difficulties when they moved to new area configuration. For example, special education or two clusters sharing a school.
6. Mrs. Praisner requested a new copy of the Walter Johnson cluster comments. Her copy was incomplete.
7. Mr. Ewing requested projections by school in the Blair cluster. He was concerned about space in this community to either add on to buildings or build new schools.
8. Mrs. Praisner requested information on the impact or effect of the Council's request that projects contain 10 percent alternative bid items. What complications might be associated with that, both in understanding with the community and whether the 10 percent was feasible?
9. Mrs. Praisner asked whether MCPS handicapped accessibility standards were in compliance with the U.S. Department of Education standards.
10. Mr. Goldensohn asked for information on numbers of houses in the pipeline for clusters from Wootton to Quince Orchard to Seneca Valley. He requested growth projections and whether parts of these areas were closed to development.

Re: ADJOURNMENT

The president adjourned the meeting at 10:05 p.m.

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY

HP:mlw