NUMBER:	7–1991
STATUS:	APPROVED
PLACE:	ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND
DATE:	JANUARY 29, 1991
TEXT:	

APPROVED 7-1991

Rockville, Maryland January 29, 1991

The Board of Education of Montgomery County met in special session at the Carver Educational Services Center, Rockville, Maryland, on Monday, January 28, 1991, at 7:10 p.m.

ROLL CALL	CALL	Present:	Mr. Blair G. Ewing, President in the Chair
			Mrs. Frances Brenneman
			Mr. David Chang
			Dr. Alan Cheung
			Mrs. Sharon DiFonzo
			Mrs. Carol Fanconi
			Ms. Ana Sol Gutierrez
			Mrs. Catherine E. Hobbs

Absent: None

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

RESOLUTION NO. 59-91 Re: EMPLOYMENT OF MINORITY EDUCATION CONSULTANT

On recommendation of the superintendent and on motion of Mrs. Hobbs seconded by Mrs. DiFonzo, the following resolution was adopted with Mr. Chang, Dr. Cheung, Mrs. DiFonzo, Mr. Ewing, Mrs. Fanconi, Ms. Gutierrez, and Mrs. Hobbs voting in the affirmative; Mrs. Brenneman abstaining:

WHEREAS, The Board of Education contracted for and received "A Study of Minority Student Achievement," in November, 1990; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Education will be conducting a public forum, four meetings, and a public hearing on the recommendations in that report as well as other recommendations submitted to the Board on minority student education; and

WHEREAS, The presence of Dr. Edmund W. Gordon, author of that study, would assist the Board in reviewing those recommendations; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Education authorize the superintendent of schools to employ Dr. Edmund W. Gordon as a consultant to attend a public forum, four meetings, and a public hearing as well as to accomplish other analyses as required by the Board of Education.

Mrs. Brenneman made the following statement for the record:

"I abstained on this vote rather than going totally against it because I don't want to send the wrong signal to the community

that I do not think that we should in any way not implement this report. I think that we have, as I have said during public discussions in the past, experts in the community and we could move forth with Dr. Gordon's recommendations using the advice of these experts. I think that my understanding was that Dr. Gordon would be willing just to answer a few questions. I don't know that we need to have him come back at the expense. I abstained, but I am in favor of moving forward with the report."

RESOLUTION NO. 60-91 Re: HB 55 - COMPULSORY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE - MINIMUM AGE LIMITS AND SB 210 - EDUCATION - MANDATORY KINDERGARTEN - MINIMUM AGE

On recommendation of the superintendent and on motion of Mrs. DiFonzo seconded by Mrs. Fanconi, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

RESOLVED, That the Board of Education support HB 55 - Compulsory School Attendance - Minimum Age Limits and SB 210 - Education -Mandatory Kindergarten - Minimum Age; and be it further

RESOLVED, That, in indicating its support, the Board of Education urge the Legislature to provide financial support to implement the bills and suggest that the bills include some positive encouragements be provided for people who did not send their children to kindergarten rather than the emphasis on punitive measures.

> Re: A MOTION BY MRS. DiFONZO TO SUPPORT SB 92 - EDUCATION - ADMISSION OF STUDENTS - FREE TUITION (WITH AMENDMENTS)

Mrs. DiFonzo moved and Mr. Chang seconded that the Board of Education support, with amendments, SB 92 - Education - Admission of Students - Free Tuition.

RESOLUTION NO. 61-91 Re: A SUBSTITUTE MOTION BY MS. GUTIERREZ TO SUPPORT SB 92 -EDUCATION - ADMISSION OF STUDENTS -FREE TUITION

On motion of Ms. Gutierrez seconded by Mrs. Fanconi, the following resolution was adopted with Mrs. Brenneman, Mr. Chang, Dr. Cheung, Mr. Ewing, Mrs. Fanconi, Ms. Gutierrez, and Mrs. Hobbs voting in the affirmative; Mrs. DiFonzo voting in the negative:

RESOLVED, That the Board of Education support SB 92 - Education - Admission of Students - Free Tuition.

RESOLUTION NO. 62-91 Re: SB 170 - OPEN MEETINGS LAW

January 29, 1991

On motion of Mrs. Brenneman seconded by Ms. Gutierrez, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

RESOLVED, That the Board of Education support SB 170 - Open Meetings Law.

RESOLUTION NO. 63-91 Re: HB 15 - DRUG FREE ZONES - CHILD CARE CENTERS - COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTERS - PARKS - SCHOOL BUS STOPS

On recommendation of the superintendent and on motion of Mrs. DiFonzo seconded by Mr. Chang, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

RESOLVED, That the Board of Education oppose HB 15 - Drug Free Zones - Child Care Centers - Community Recreation Centers - Parks - School Bus Stops because of the impracticality of the school bus stop provisions.

> Re: STATEMENT BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION ON EFFORTS TO ADDRESS THE FINANCIAL CRISIS THREATENING MONTGOMERY COUNTY

The following statement was entered into the record:

The members of the Board of Education and superintendent of schools believe the financial crisis in Montgomery County is real and threatens to undermine the fiscal well-being of the Montgomery County Public Schools and the county government at large.

The Board members and the superintendent are prepared to cooperate with the county executive and the County Council in identifying measures to be taken by the school system to reduce expenditures. It should be understood, however, that the revenue shortfall predicted by the county executive of at least \$68 million from the current proposed budget cannot be absorbed without a serious disruption to schools and centrally administered programs and services. (The projected increase of just \$9.3 million over current expenditures will not cover even the increase in enrollment, let alone the impact of just inflation.) This massive loss of revenue, if unresolved by the county, means that every program and activity offered by our schools may face a detailed review for an outright reduction.

The Board will ask all the public, the PTA and employee organizations associated with MCPS to join in our efforts to deal responsibly and resourcefully in finding solutions to the variety of problems created by this fiscal crisis.

Efforts are already being taken to reduce costs, control

expenditures, and evaluate existing programs for additional savings. The superintendent has already imposed an extensive hiring freeze, overtime controls and cutbacks in the use of substitutes, consultants, part-time staff and out-of-state travel in order to save \$2.2 million this year. All equipment funds, for example, have been frozen.

The Board of Education has authorized additional measures to identify immediate and long-term cost reductions through greater efficiency and cost savings. Furthermore, a review a next year's operating budget will be made by the Board to further identify significant reductions in the budget. Detailed discussions with internal auditors have been initiated to obtain information about potential areas of expenditure controls for this year, as well as next year.

The Board has also authorized a comprehensive analysis of management improvements that may produce greater efficiency and cost reductions, particularly in the areas of transportation, plant operations, procurement and maintenance. The analysis will also review management systems for curriculum and instruction, special education, program evaluation, and staff development.

Furthermore, the Board is to appoint a task force of citizens knowledgeable about the school system and external management innovation to assist the Board in identifying areas where other savings may be made. The Board is seeking recommendations from employee and parent organizations, community and civic groups, and other public representatives on ways in which the school system can create greater efficiency and cost containment.

> Re: PUBLIC HEARING ON OPERATING BUDGET PROPOSALS FOR THE SCHOOL AND FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 1992

The following individuals appeared before the Board of Education:

- 1. Blair Hayes, Individual
- 2. Ellen Jackowski, MCR, and Noah Cantor, MCJC
- 3. Michael Richman, CCAPS
- 4. Nancy Ostrove and Barbara McKenzie, Counseling and Guidance Committee
- 5. Carla Satinsky, Learning Disabilities Association
- 6. Marilyn Matthews, Montgomery County Math Teachers
- 7. Owen D. Nichols, African-American Festival of Academic Excellence
- 8. Luba Dowhaluk, Montgomery County School Psychologists Association
- 9. Holly Joseph, League of Women Voters
- 10. Diane Jones, Association for African-American Achievement
- 11. Karen Craney, Montgomery County Pupil Personnel Workers

Association

12. Gerry May, Math Resource Teachers

The following representatives of the Area 1 clusters and MCCPTA appeared before the Board:

- 1. Bethesda-Chevy Chase Cluster Linna Barnes and Mary Lou McGee, Co-cluster Coordinators
- Montgomery Blair Cluster Barbara Henry and Sandy Nakamura, Co-cluster Coordinators
- 3. Einstein Cluster Margaret Ascienzo, Cluster Coordinator; Margaret Hammar, Einstein HS; Barbara Faigin, Sligo MS; Carolina Bahr, Highland ES; and Maryann Guevara, Rock View ES
- 4. Walter Johnson Cluster Carole Gelfeld, Cluster Coordinator
- 5. Walt Whitman Cluster Linda Lang, Cluster Coordinator, and Carol Jarvis, Pyle MS
- 6. Jean Mallon, President, MCCPTA

## Re: BUDGET WORKSESSIONS

Mr. Ewing announced that the first budget worksession would take place on Thursday, January 31, at 7:30 p.m. The meeting would start with a summary by Dr. Pitt of his recommendations and changes. Additional budget meetings had been scheduled for February 4, 6 and 7, with the Board taking a tentative final action on February 12. Instruction would be the last section of the budget considered during the worksessions and action sessions.

## Re: ADJOURNMENT

The president adjourned the meeting at 11:15 p.m.

PRESIDENT

-----

SECRETARY

HP:mlw