APPROVED 13-1998

Rockville, Maryland March 17, 1998

The Board of Education of Montgomery County met in special session at the Carver Educational Services Center, Rockville, Maryland, on Tuesday, March 17, 1998, at 7:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL Present: Mrs. Nancy J. King, President

in the Chair
Dr. Alan Cheung
Mr. Blair G. Ewing
Mr. Reginald M. Felton
Mrs. Beatrice B. Gordon
Ms. Ana Sol Gutiérrez
Ms. Mona M. Signer

Dr. Paul L. Vance, Secretary/Treasurer

Absent: Ms. Debra Wheat

Re: PUBLIC HEARING ON THE REQUESTED FY 1999

CAPITAL BUDGET AND THE FY 1999 TO FY 2004

**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM** 

The following individuals appeared before the Board of Education:

- 1. Richard Helgeson, Springbrook Cluster
- 2. Ann Regen, Maria Hinestrosa, and Lynn Lowman, Cannon Road Elementary School
- 3. Tim Hauser, Burnt Mills Elementary School
- 4. Marilyn Shoenfeld, Montgomery Blair Cluster
- 5. Wilma Brier and Don Thorne, Eastern Middle School
- 6. Diana Kohn and Marty Monell, Takoma Park Middle School
- 7. Heidi Coleman, East Silver Spring Elementary School
- 8. Ginny Brant, Forest Knolls Elementary School
- 9. Tom Holbrook, Highland View Elementary School
- 10. Chris Simpson and Anthony Ruvolo, Takoma Park Elementary School
- 11. Ann Collins, Oak View/New Hampshire Estates Elementary Schools
- 12. Donna Beausoleil-Brown and Kathy Cotton, Pine Crest/Montgomery Knolls Elementary Schools
- 13. Debra MacCeod, Piney Branch Elementary School
- 14. Judy Costolo, Rolling Terrace Elementary School
- 15. Deborah Stoll, Unification Area
- 16. Doreen Paster, Wayne Avenue Schools
- 17. Takoma Park Mayor Kathy Porter and Council Members: Carol Stewart, Marc Elrich and Reggie Chavez
- 18. Peyton Sturges
- 19. Barbara Stob
- 20. Suzanne Stevenson, Blair Cluster Special Needs Parents Support Group

- 21. Greg Silsbee
- 22. Dayton Eckerson
- 23. Cynthia Sung
- 24. Cynthia Rubenstein
- 25. Deidre Rye
- 26. Sally Taber, South of Sligo Citizens Association
- 27. Julia Gonzales
- 28. Kevin Hanlon
- 29. Melissa Coretz
- 30. Laura Lester, Long Branch/Sligo Citizens Association
- 31. Elizabeth Kelley
- 32. Mark Sletten, Hillwood Manor HOA
- 33. Steve Mencher
- 34. Ruy Teixeira
- 35. Soffie Ceesay
- 36. Marilyn Piety, Sligo Brandview Civic Association
- 37. Derek Winogradoff
- 38. Phil Kaiser
- 39. Barbara Drazin
- 40. Debbie Easterly
- 41. Rita Hagler
- 42. Harvey Meyerson
- 43. Mary Lou Middleton White
- 44. Kim Leichtling
- 45. Julie Reiner
- 46. Amy Wasserstrom
- 47. Susan Gleason
- 48. Iantha Winnick, Indian Springs Citizens Association
- 49. Pete Lafen, Clifton Park Civic Association
- 50. Gail Nelson

## Board members asked the following questions:

- 1. Ms. Signer stated that Mrs. Regen in her testimony raised several points about additional resources for Cannon Road Elementary School. She asked the Superintendent for a response, particularly, with regard to the small class size, the bilingual staffing, full-time reading teacher, full-time counselor, instructional support specialist, and staff training during the transition period. In addition, she had been told that the day care program at Cannon Road Elementary School was unable to expand, and she wanted to know if that is so, and, if so, what accommodations would be made for students who may require day care.
- 2. Ms. Gutiérrez wanted information and plans for addressing the overcrowding that would remain at Burnt Mills Elementary School after this year. What other

possibilities could the Board consider in the following years? Even though the school system was taking this remedial step to reduce the overcrowding, it was clear that everything had not been done at Burnt Mills Elementary School. She wanted an idea of what the Board could consider in the next few years to alleviate that situation.

- 3. Mr. Felton pointed out the statement that Cannon Road Elementary School would become a Title I school with the movement of the students from the White Oak Garden Apartments. He asked what that meant in terms of additional resources and to what extent had the school system provided additional resources beyond the Title I requirements to Cannon Road Elementary School.
- 4. Mr. Ewing asked the Superintendent a series of questions:
  - a. Mr. Ewing asked the Superintendent to provide the Board with a response to the Blair Cluster coordinator's proposal in their testimony in terms of its impact on school enrollment, its cost of the recommendations that deal with program minus the capital addition to Eastern Middle School, and the cost of an addition to Eastern Middle School of 8, 10, and 12 rooms.
  - b. With respect to the testimony of Oak View/New Hampshire Estates elementary schools, what was the cost of the recommendation they made with respect to programmatic improvements at Oak View Elementary School.
  - c. Several elementary schools testified to the fact that if the Board delayed the opening of the Blair elementary and middle schools for a year, the funding in the operating budget for 6<sup>th</sup> graders at the middle school would not be spent at the middle school and could be used to provide and improve the education of 6<sup>th</sup> graders at the elementary schools. What was the staff response to that proposal, and what resources would need to be reassigned?
  - d. There was a suggestion in the testimony about Rolling Terrace Elementary School that there would be a moratorium on transfers in the year of the boundary change. He hoped that, in fact, was not something that was being planned. However, if it was true, he wanted to know so that the Board could have the opportunity to make a change.
- 5. Ms. Signer noted that a number of speakers raised the issue of a preferred choice enrollment for the Blair Cluster middle schools and signature programs at each school. She asked the Superintendent how he would integrate the signature programs with the magnets that currently exist at Takoma Park and Eastern middle schools. Secondly, four rooms at Eastern Middle School are used for the SED program. Recently, there had been some discussion about moving the SED program to the Einstein Cluster and moving the program for the mentally retarded students back to the Blair Cluster. She wanted to know where else in the Blair Cluster the school system might locate those middle school SED students. Third, the testimony from Eastern Middle School raised several issues on the last page

of their testimony, and she wanted to know the cost and feasibility of those issues. Fourth, Forest Knolls Elementary School in their testimony made several requests, and she wanted to know the costs and feasibility of those requests. Fifth, one of the speakers raised the issue of allowing Zone 33 to have open enrollment at East Silver Spring Elementary School and stated that most of those students would be walkers. She wanted to know if that is so and the feasibility of an open enrollment. Sixth, Mr. Ewing had requested the cost of the improvements in the testimony about New Hampshire Estates/Oak View elementary schools, and she wanted to know how those requests dovetail with the actions already taken by the Superintendent and his staff.

- 6. Mr. Felton wanted to know what impact that would have to simply continue with the option for unpairing of those two schools within a year. In other words, the school system would assume that the decision on boundaries would remain, but that the Board would have an option for another year to provide Oak View and New Hampshire Estates elementary schools an opportunity to comment on what unpairing would mean even with the same boundaries.
- 7. Ms. Gutiérrez asked for clarification on the list of programmatic improvements at Oak View Elementary School. She wanted the answer disaggregated so that there were several lines estimating each item rather than one total figure.
- 8. Mr. Ewing stated that the Board heard from several people to delay the Board's decision beyond March 23. If the Board decided to delay its decision and delay the opening of the Blair elementary and middle schools, what would the be the impact under those circumstances?

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 p.m.

PRESIDENT
SECRETARY

PLV:gr