

**Montgomery County Board of Education
Audit Committee Minutes**

July 27, 2006

A meeting of the Montgomery County Board of Education Audit Committee was held at the Carver Educational Services Center in Room 120 on Thursday, July 27, 2006. In attendance were:

Board Mr. Steve Abrams, Chair
Members: Dr. Charles Haughey, Member
 Mr. Gabe Romero, Member
 Ms. Sharon Cox
 Ms. Nancy Navarro

Guests: Mr. Tom Heseltine, Clifton Gunderson LLP

Staff: Dr. Jerry D. Weast, Superintendent
 Mr. Larry A. Bowers, Chief Operating Officer
 Mr. Robert Doody, Controller
 Ms. Sue DeGraba, Chief Financial officer
 Mr. Roger Pisha, Supervisor, Internal Audit Unit
 Mr. Philip McGaughey, Director, Division of Procurement
 Mr. Roland Ikheloa, Ombudsman/Staff Assistant

The meeting was called to order at 5:10 p.m. by Mr. Abrams.

State’s Attorney General on the Inspector General’s Audit Report

In May, Dr. Haughey, on behalf of the Montgomery County Board of Education, asked the Maryland Attorney General (AG) for an opinion on whether the Montgomery County Inspector General (IG) has “general audit authority” over the Montgomery County Board of Education. The audit committee members, along with MCPS staff, met to discuss the AG’s opinion. The opinion of the AG is that the county can authorize the IG to audit the Board of Education’s financial transactions and accounts, but may not require the Board to submit to a performance audit without the Board’s assent.

The external auditor Clifton Gunderson LLP was asked to review the Audit Report issued by the IG concerning the Seven Locks Elementary Schools project to determine whether the report is in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards. The result of this review was submitted to the Audit Committee members at the table. The Audit Committee reviewed and discussed Clifton Gunderson’s opinion as well as the AG’s opinion at length.

MCPS staff was asked to bring recommendations to the Audit Committee with regard to setting up a process for audit proposals by an outside agency. The committee was concerned about external audits being performed without the knowledge of the Board.

The meeting adjourned at 6:08 pm.

Recorder: Becky Gibson