

WHEREAS, They have constantly sought to advance educational opportunities for students; now therefore be it

Resolved, That this Board, on behalf of the superintendent and staff, the students and parents who have benefitted from the dedicated service of Mr. Barse, Mr. Claypoole, Mrs. Wallace, and Mrs. Zappone, and mindful of the high standards they set during their tenure on this body, express its deep gratitude and appreciation for their outstanding leadership and devoted service to the Montgomery County Public Schools; and be it further

Resolved, That this resolution be included in the minutes of this meeting and that a copy be presented to Joseph R. Barse, Richard L. Claypoole, Carol F. Wallace, and Eleanor D. Zappone.

Re: Presentations

Mrs. Peyser presented certificates of appreciation to Mr. Claypoole, Mrs. Wallace, and Mrs. Zappone. The superintendent presented silk roses made by MCPS student Philip Braxton to Mrs. Wallace and Mrs. Zappone.

Re: Presentation of Gavel to Outgoing President

The superintendent presented an engraved gavel to Mrs. Eleanor D. Zappone, outgoing Board president. He read the following into the record:

"This past year with the election and everything else that went on has not been easy for anyone at this table and for many of the rest of you in this room. We had to do some things that many of us would rather not have done. Nonetheless, with the presidential leadership of Mrs. Zappone we have had a year that has achieved its purposes, and she has presided over the meetings of the Board with a calm and respectful dignity. She has maintained a sense of humor in difficult situations and has always demonstrated a sense of fairness to members of the Board, members of the staff, and members of the community. If I could use one phrase to sum up Mrs. Zappone's presidency I would say grace under pressure. And I think grace under pressure typifies what Mrs. Zappone has brought to us this past year. She has been kind to all in handling the business of the Board. She has spent darn-near as many hours as I have in trying to do that. There is no rancor in her make-up and staff members have often commented to me on her dignity, grace, and willingness to hear different points of view. We as Board colleagues, the staff, and I certainly personally as superintendent want to thank Mrs. Zappone very much for her year of leadership, and it is with great pleasure that I present to her on behalf of everyone here this gavel of leadership. Thank you."

Re: Statements by Outgoing Board Members

Mr. Claypoole read the following into the record:

"There are events in our lives which stay with us forever and which are relived again and again each time bringing us fresh joy and pleasure. Usually these events are mere moments but sometimes as with my four and a half months on the Montgomery County Board of Education they are extended periods of great personal satisfaction. In this short but rewarding period of time I have had the rare privilege of serving the citizens and children of Montgomery County.

"It is an honor that I will not soon forget. And just as rewarding as my service has been the opportunity to meet and become friends with many of the fine staff members who make this system work. I deeply appreciate the time and consideration they gave to me in helping me to adjust to a unique and somewhat confusing situation. I can't name everyone, but I must mention a few -- Mary Lou Wood and Mrs. Gallupe, Lois Martin and Dick Fazakerley, Harry Pitt and Bob Shaffner, the supremely patient and knowledgeable Tom Fess, and my friend and tennis adversary Ed Andrews. There are so many more that I would like to mention--so many more who will serve this new Board extremely well.

"As many proud parents are prone to do, I have a tendency to bring my son Christopher into the conversation from time to time. But a recent discussion with Chris serves to make a useful and telling point about the Montgomery County school system. Chris is in the fifth grade now, and I mentioned to him recently that I thought the fifth grade was when school began to get somewhat more difficult. He said that school had always been difficult and the reason I felt that way was because I had moved to Montgomery County when I was in the fifth grade. The more I thought about it the more I agreed with what Chris had said. Montgomery County schools are difficult.

The process of becoming an educated person in our schools is hard work, and I believe it is our task, our inheritance, as citizens and public officials to make sure that our school system maintains its reputation as being a center of demanding, challenging education for all of its students. For only if we demand much, challenge greatly, will our students, our children, achieve all that they are capable of achieving. And I am an optimist, some might say a dreamer, and when the question is asked as to what can be accomplished in the Montgomery County Public Schools, I believe that given the dedication of both the staff and teachers that with guidance, with firm but caring discipline, with support from home, and with an understanding that the differences that exist within our multicultural student population are transcended by a common desire for learning that Montgomery County can and will set the standard by which all public school systems are measured throughout the United States. All it takes is our will and determination and maybe a little more money from the County Council to make this dream become reality. Ladies and gentlemen, I have this will and although I am leaving the Board for now I pledge my continued commitment to education in Montgomery County. I offer my support and assistance to these fine men and women who now join with

Marian, Sue, and Blair to continue the progress made by the outgoing Board in improving education in our county. I am very proud to have had some small part in the many accomplishments of this Board and to have served with such dedicated individuals as Joe Barse, Blair Ewing, Marian Greenblatt, Kurt Hirsch and an outstanding young man Kurt is - we're going to hear a lot from him later on, Sue Peyser, Carol Wallace, and last in the alphabet but first in my book of gracious and considerate human beings, president Eleanor Zappone. I will miss each and everyone of you. Thank you all very much."

Mrs. Wallace read the following into the record:

"At times like this, it is fit and proper to reflect upon the past as long as we place it in perspective. I was sworn in four years ago tonight, deeply feeling the weight of responsibility I had assumed. I believed then as I do now that Thomas Jefferson was correct. 'When a man assumes a public trust, he should consider himself as public property.' It has been a privilege to serve the public of Montgomery County.

"I am proud to say that in four short years the emphasis has changed from administration to the classroom. There is an increased awareness of the importance of the principal in a school. The number of oversized classes has been sharply reduced. We have more teachers and textbooks. Homework is now the rule rather than the exception to the rule. Promotions are now based on competency in the three R's. Final exams are now required. High school students must attend school for a full day unless they are involved in a school-approved work program, and they cannot cut as many classes. Montgomery County will soon have its first vo-tech center. I am particularly proud of our new "in-school suspension" centers, our cued speech program for hearing impaired, and our Phoenix School for students with drug and alcohol abuse problems. The MORE (management operation review and evaluation) studies are beginning to yield positive results in more efficient and economical management procedures. With the loss of 27% of our student population during the past decade, the unpopular but necessary school closures reduced the number of MCPS facilities by a similar 27%. The savings of about 6 million dollars annually resulting from these school closures will partially offset the certain fiscal constraints facing us in the near future. All in all, our school system is in excellent shape; better today than it was four years ago. Superintendent Andrews has helped lead the way. His will be a hard act to follow. My sincerest thanks to the superintendent and the staff who were always helpful and at all times professional. And a big thank you to the Board staff who are very special in every way.

"Now, a few words to the newly sworn in members of the Board. Welcome to the ranks. Your work is just beginning. You were elected as EDPAC candidates. You were sworn in tonight as individuals. The press, however, if it runs true to form, will refer to you as the EDPAC Board; or worse yet, as the Ewing Board.

Yes, you will probably vote on the same side of policy issues 85 or more percent of the time. Only a few of us will notice how you work as individuals to modify resolutions prior to each vote. To each of you I say, vote your conscience, and always remember our children. For each action you take will, in the long run, have an effect on the students who are your most important responsibility.

I wish you well. With that said, I must admit that I fully expect to see most major policies adopted in the past four years severely modified or completely rescinded. I freely admit that some policies do need fine tuning, and I believe that this is what the public really wants, not the extreme swing of the pendulum that many fear.

"Yet, I wouldn't trade the past four years for anything. My family gave up a wife, mother, chef and amateur artist whose knees shook whenever she had to speak in front of a formal group of three or more. They are getting back a wife, mother, chef and amateur knitter, often referred to around here as Madame Defarge, who has addressed hundred and thousands, at home and at national conventions, and whose knees, I must admit, still shake. These four years have been stimulating; from budget analysis to a superintendent's search, from policy formulation to audit committee, from approval of architectural plans to personnel appointments, from speech writing to making quasi-judicial decisions, and, through all of this, meeting people; from Board members to superintendents, from teachers to administrators, from students to parents. Many of those I've been privileged to meet have become close friends. But each of you has influenced me in some permanent way. My thanks to all of you for allowing me these opportunities.

"Finally, yes, Virginia, there really is life after the Board. The sun continues to rise every morning and i have the sneaking suspicion it will for some time to come. I've rediscovered painting and am becoming reacquainted with my family. I am helping no. 1 son fill out college applications, no. 2 son get his ROTC uniform in order, and my husband by filling out job applications for myself. After all, even though I was fired, I can't collect unemployment compensation. H. G. Welles summed it up perfectly. 'The past is but the beginning of a beginning, and all that is and has been is but the twilight of the dawn.' Thank you again, one and all, for sharing with me the twilight of the dawn. I am ready now to face the light of day, and I only hope it is sunny."

Mrs. Zappone read the following into the record:

"Four years ago I sat before you - jubilant in victory, apprehensive about the responsibilities to be undertaken and anxious to get enmeshed in the duties of a Board member. The time has alternatively flown and lagged. In some sessions every minute seemed to have an hour's life span. I am sure you can guess which sessions those were. Through it all the Board summoned the courage to do the things that had to be done to bring the school system to a high level of efficiency and thereby generate the funds to

enhance the educational opportunities for all of our school children. I am very proud of our accomplishments in spite of the pain we and you had to endure to make this progress a reality. There is no personal pleasure to be derived from making difficult choices.

"There have been happy occasions and pleasant times to remember as well - graduation ceremonies, receptions for Merit Scholars, seeing our summer language camp becoming a reality, signing multiyear contracts with our employee associations, attending conferences at both state and national levels at which we learned and drew from the experience of others, as well as reaffirming to ourselves that MCPS is a very special institution with very special people.

"A Board term is a time of learning. I doubt if anyone comes to the Board with full knowledge and understanding of all of the facets of the school system. Even now four years later I know the gaps are there, but in a dynamic organization that will always be the case. One never knows it all.

"There are so many people I would like to thank for their patience, cooperation, and goodwill, but if I start naming people we will be here all night. I will miss having the occasion to work with them, but it is now the turn of the new Board members. I wish them well, and I want them to know there is no better team to work with than the MCPS staff. We leave them in good hands and the school system in excellent shape. The only decision they have to make with which I think they will not make our equal is that of their choice of the new superintendent. Nobody can beat the one we chose.

"Thank you all for the opportunity to work for and with you."

Resolution No. 827-82

Re: Amendment to the Agenda for
December 1, 1982

On motion of Dr. Cronin seconded by Mrs. Praisner, the following resolution was adopted with Dr. Cronin, Mr. Ewing, Mrs. Praisner, Mrs. Shannon, and Dr. Shoenberg voting in the affirmative; Mrs. Peyser voting in the negative; Dr. Greenblatt abstaining (Mr. Hirsch abstaining):

Resolved, That the Board of Education amend its agenda for December 1, 1982, to have a presentation by Alpha Phi Alpha to former Board members, Mrs. Elizabeth W. Spencer and Mr. Jonathan Lipson.

For the record, Mrs. Peyser stated:

"I heard about this yesterday. I welcome Dr. Diggs and his interest in the school system but I do not support this motion at this time and would like my reasons to be on the record. It is not customary at this event to have presentations made to people who are not involved in the event, and as I understand from the motion the people to whom Dr. Diggs would like to make presentations are not retiring Board members, they are not incoming Board members,

they are not people involved in this event at all. So I don't think that this is the appropriate time. I think that his gesture is excellent, and I wish that he had made the presentations when Mrs. Spencer was honored at an event similar to this when she retired from the Board and when Mr. Lipson was honored at a reception similar to this five or six months ago when he retired from the Board. These people are not here tonight. They are not members of the Board and, therefore, I do not think that this is appropriate. I do welcome, and I think all members of the Board would welcome anyone to make presentations at regular Board meetings or, as I said, events at which people in question are being honored. Other people did request to make presentations tonight, and after consulting with the incoming Board members it was, in fact, their decision when these requests were received that we not add this item to the meeting.

"I am also concerned because I think that if someone, anyone, comes up at this time and makes presentations to people who are not involved in this event it is insulting and embarrassing to the people who are here being honored tonight. I think this is rude. It particularly concerns me after the article in the Journal on Monday praising the new Board members for their sensitivity and compassion. This makes me think that their sensitivity and compassion is selective, and I would hope that this does not set the tone for us for the next four years. I repeat that I welcome Dr. Diggs and any organization's support and interest in our school system, and I hope that he and others who would like to speak and make presentations do that at a more appropriate time."

Re: Presentation by Alpha Phi Alpha

On behalf of Alpha Phi Alpha, Dr. John Diggs congratulated the incoming members of the Board and extended thanks to the outgoing members. He presented certificates of appreciation honoring Mrs. Elizabeth W. Spencer and Mr. Jonathan Lipson, former Board members. Dr. Lewis Spencer received the certificate on behalf of his wife.

Re: Statements by Incoming Board Members

Dr. Cronin read the following statement into the record:

"When I was being sworn in, it is a frightening moment to be standing there realizing that you are becoming responsible for the education for the destiny in the sense of some 90,000 children. Then I sat down and read the scroll. It said that the members of the county repose great trust and confidence in your integrity and wisdom. Then I was truly frightened.

"There are so many people to whom I owe an enormous debt of gratitude for this campaign. My family who put up with so much from me and gave so much of themselves so completely. I thank you. To Bob, Odessa, and Marilyn, the best running mates I think I could have been lucky to have in this campaign. Thank you.

"To my friends and campaign workers, incredible people who put so much trust in me and worked so hard to make the dreams a reality. Now it is my turn to reciprocate. Thank you.

"When we had our election party on that night, I was struck by so many different people who came to celebrate with us. We were all there - parents, students, teachers, handicapped, the elderly; a rainbow of colors, a flood of different peoples. These were truly the best in Montgomery County, and I am glad to serve with you and I will need your help.

"As a historian I have learned at least one lesson from my courses: that the people will prevail. I do believe the people gave us a mandate, but it is far different from the fierce-some rhetorical furor you heard in this campaign. I don't believe the people voted for permissiveness. I don't believe they voted for sweeping change or educational gimmicks. I don't believe they voted for the carelessly applied labels of "liberal" and "conservative." Nor do I think they voted the EDPAC puppets or the Ewing followers. The people voted for a Board committed to excellence in education. They expect from us a collegiality wherein the Board members will work together with each other and with the community. They expect high academic standards, strong curricula, and excellent teaching. They know we have a staff which is highly professional, but they truly expect high standards which accompany the title "professionals." The people voted for Board members who will truly represent all our children and who are dedicated to fair play and open access to equal education. Equal education is not based on skin color or on able-bodied versus handicapped. Nor is it a favor that the majority give to the minority because they scream the loudest. It is a right of every child in every part of our county, and it is our obligation to secure for our children their basic rights.

"Finally I believe the people want to be heard and to know that their Board of Education will listen to them. This is their mandate: Be open with us, be fair with us, and bring us together. I will work toward these goals and ask you to help me in my efforts. Thank you."

Mrs. Praisner read the following into the record:

"Tonight gives me an opportunity to thank the many people who contributed to this election. Listing them individually is practically impossible, but you know who you are. You were there through the 1980 campaign and you were supportive and encouraging in my loss. You were there about a year ago when I made the decision to try again. You were the smiling faces in the audiences at forums, the hosts and hostesses at numerous coffees and fund raisers, the busy hands on election day and the days preceding, "lit-dropping" your precincts and covering the polls. Thank you is so inadequate. You are the best part of campaigning for a candidate. I will always remember your efforts and cherish the

friendships that I know will continue.

"Through everything - all of my many ventures - I have been fortunate to have the support of the people closest to me - the ones who have put up with my anxiety attacks, timed my statements, stuffed the envelopes, answered the telephone, and picked up around the house: my family: my mother Ida, my daughters Karen and Alison, my son Michael, my in-laws and the rest of the Praisner clan and, of course, my husband Don. If saying thank you to friends is inadequate, imagine how hard it is to convey your appreciation to family members, especially when you know that the burden for them continues. I am truly grateful to them, and I love them very much.

"Tonight is also an opportunity, before any actions or decisions cloud the process, to speak to the citizens of Montgomery County. Lest anyone believe that the statements of the campaign were mere rhetoric, let me repeat the commitment to continue the efforts to maintain reasonable class sizes, provide adequate textbooks and materials, and insure an orderly and a positive learning environment. But this is just part of the educational process. One need only look at the Board calendar for the first six months to see that the issues we face are many and complex. The next four years we will be called upon to meet the needs of an increasingly diverse student population during an increasingly difficult financial period. It will take considerable time and energy but most of all, your support.

"I would hope that we would also make time to discuss together the direction of education in our County. Is it adequately preparing our children for the world they will lead? Is there sufficient attention to developing their necessary critical thinking skills? Is it not also time to reflect on the relationship of our school system to the quality of life that we expect in our communities and in Montgomery County as a whole? To address these and other issues, however, we first must create an environment of open discussion and cooperation, where there is mutual respect for the decision-making process and for the results. We must develop new and improve old channels of communication. Individual Board members shoulder a major responsibility and I pledge every ounce of my energy to that goal.

"To the staff of the Montgomery County Public Schools, many of whom I have met in 15 years of community activity: I appreciate the hours you give our children, the commitment you display to your task. I look forward to meeting more of you and to open dialogue and positive interaction.

"To the students of our system: you, too, have a role in the decision making process, informally and through the student Board member. I always learn something meeting with you and discussing your concerns.

"Thank you also to the continuing Board members for their gestures

of cooperation and to the retiring Board members for their obvious dedication to the school system. Finally, to my fellow running mates and now colleagues on the Board of Education: I have enjoyed getting to know you better. I have come to respect your abilities, your sensitivities, and most of all your commitment, and I look forward to four exciting and very productive years together working with you and with this fantastic community. Thank you very much."

Mrs. Shannon read the following into the record:

"I cannot begin to thank those of you who are here tonight, my family, my campaign workers, my friends, and all of you voters, for allowing me perhaps one of the most exciting moments of my life. But it is also one of the most serious moments of my life because I realize how awesome the task, how very difficult decisions to be made, and how high expectations of us. It will be a long four years. One wish I have, however, that this will be the last time there will be a focus on the members of the Board of Education. Hopefully you will even forget our names. What we are about is the education of children and the evaluation of our school system. I would like to see emphasized the accomplishments of the system, what needs to be done to improve it, how we are going to go about it, and how best to give the recognition that will be required when those goals are accomplished.

"I made only one campaign promise during the last six months, and that is if you elected Jim Cronin, Marilyn Praisner, Bob Shoenberg and me, the winners would be the children. I would like to make that campaign promise a reality, and I ask for your support. Thank you."

Dr. Shoenberg read the following into the record:

"School Board members not just in Montgomery County but everywhere are as a class the most conflicted people I know. They will tell you to a person what a time-consuming, ulcer-producing, blankety-blank of a job it is. On the other hand, they will spend enormous amounts of time and energy vying for a position that takes them away from all the things they really like to do. This is not a recent discovery of mine. I knew what I was getting into when I started, and there have been no major surprises at least about the nature of the job. As I sat this afternoon trying to figure out why I wanted to buy into this paradox, I thought of a little poem by Jonathan Swift. The poem isn't about schools it is about marriage and it goes like this:

Lesbia forever on me rails
To talk on me she never fails
Yet hang me, but for all her art,
I find I have gained her heart
My proof is this: I plainly see
The case is just the same with me
I curse her every hour sincerely,
Yet, hang me, but I love her dearly

"I appear to have married a job, which, though I will curse it often, I will love dearly. I think I will love it because it offers the possibility of helping to bring people together, a matter of great importance in the community just now. I will love it somewhat selfishly because it offers the opportunity of projecting a little bit of myself into the future. And I will love it most of all because, like marriage, it includes the joy of caring for children and helping them grow.

"And so as I enter into this ambiguous relationship let me say publicly to some of you what I have tried, probably inadequately, to say privately. To those of you who worked so long and so hard in my campaign to win the lady: thank you, - I think. For those of you who have given mightily of yourselves, and who are now leaving the Board: felicitations on your deliverance from aggravation. And to Sue and Halley and Dana, who have lived so supportively and patiently through these last ten months: auf wiedersehen, I will see you in four years. But Sue, save September 18. I don't think there's a meeting scheduled that night. Thank you very much."

Re: Statements by Continuing Members

Mr. Ewing read the following into the record:

"My comments are very brief. I want to wish my departing colleagues well. Their departure reminds me of an event in my childhood involving my Great Aunt Maude. My Great Aunt Maude had been married for forty-eight years and her husband died, and I, as a child, not being tactful then, said to her shortly after his death, 'Aunt Maude, did you love your husband?' And she said, 'Oh honey, I don't know about that but it was never boring.' And that has been true of the last four years. So I do wish them well. With respect to my colleagues, newly elected, I look forward with great enthusiasm to working with them, and need say no more. You've heard from them already and you can tell we're going to have a great school board. Let me just say that I can give them a piece of advice from Mark Twain. Mark Twain said, 'Always do right. It will please some people and astonish the rest.'"

Dr. Greenblatt read the following into the record:

"This is a very emotional evening, and I think there are a lot of happy people in the audience and a lot of happy people on the stage and we are looking forward to very successful and very happy future years as we work together. But before we look at the future I would like to spend a few minutes to say thank you to those who have served with me on the Board over these past four years, and it is hard to believe that it is four years. I'd like to say thank you to Joe Barse, who has always been a source of inner strength, who is a constant person, who is someone you can always depend on, someone who in 1976 had come to me and said why don't I run for the Board that he was going to be doing that and it never occurred to me at that point. I think of Carol Wallace and thank her for her

long years of service, and knowing that whether we agreed or disagreed or how we worked or what we did we could always laugh together because there was always the bright side and always the tomorrow and always the sunshine. And I think of Eleanor Zappone, who in 1978, I went to her house after she had just come back from a Spanish class - she was taking Spanish at the time, and said the public schools need you, run, you must be a public servant and help Montgomery County. And when she agreed to do that I'm not sure she knew what she was getting into at that point. Public service is something that's very difficult to explain. You sacrifice your entire family, your life, for the public. These people have given hours and hours of volunteer time. They have had to make very difficult decisions, and they made decisions for the good of the school system and regardless of what was going to be the personal consequences for them, they made those decisions. Rich Claypoole who came on these last five months has been a wonderful Board member, and I truly hope that this isn't going to be the last day he is going to be on the Board of Education. I think that there should be a great future that he can continue to contribute to the children of Montgomery County. This is a day of transition, and four years ago there was a day of transition. And I think we should just take a few minutes to think of that. What was the situation in 1978 when these people came on the Board? We had a situation with our employee union such that we had two potential lawsuits. One in regard to the superintendent's contract and the second one with regard to the H.R. 18 Black Studies Course. Both were in process. We had a situation in the school system where test scores were declining, where drugs were prevalent in our schools, class cutting was accepted. We had no vocational-technical center for our non-college bound students to prepare them for the world of work. We had lax standards with regard to excellence. We had a textbook shortage. We had abandoned final exams. We had overly large classes. We had a bloated bureaucracy. And we had a great number of underutilized schools, but this was a board of problem solvers. They were courageous. They were not afraid to take action despite all the slings and arrows of the media and those who watched to see them trip and stumble. They were a board that solved the problems. And each of problems they faced they were prepared to take action. They set priorities. They made tough decisions to close schools which saved millions of dollars so that we could now have the seven-period day and an increase in numbers of teachers in our schools. They were able to make the tough decisions in contrast to what we could say was happening over in Prince George's County where they had to fire 500 teachers last June. We were able to maintain our staff and reduce class sizes. I want to say thank you. I think that Montgomery County - the children of Montgomery County have benefited from the four years that you have served and certainly the children in the future will because there are many important changes that have occurred. Montgomery County is a great place to live, and most of us think of it because of its good school system and because of the schools that our children go to and that's why people move here. We have very high standards. We have an excellent school system, and we must bring all people up to

those standards and those are the challenges that we are going to have to face in the next decade - reduced monies and maintaining high standards so that our schools will always be the light across the nation. To the new Board members we have a great challenge in the next two years. There are seven oars in that rowboat that we are going to be in day in and day out and day in and day out, and I'd like to help pull one of those oars and hope that we can all do it together. Thank you."

Mr. Hirsch read the following into the record:

"I have really enjoyed my past five months of service on the Board, and one of the biggest reasons for this has been my work with all the Board members departing and returning. I have especially enjoyed serving with Eleanor Zappone and Carol Wallace. Their kindness, warmth, and independence struck me as I began my term, and I gained even greater respect for each of them as the months progressed. Good luck to both of them and to Mr. Claypoole and Mr. Barse in all of their future pursuits. I am very much looking forward to the coming months and my work with the new Board members. We have many difficult tasks ahead of us, and I look forward to working with my fine colleagues in making our school system the best possible one to serve our students. Thank you."

Mrs. Peyser read the following into the record:

"First, my congratulations to the new members of the Board. To my colleagues who are retiring, my thanks to you and my appreciation. Your time, effort, and good work are responsible for many concrete improvements in our schools. Our students are working hard and learning more than they were prior to your tenure on the Board. When you campaigned for this office you made promises, and while in office you delivered on your promises. This is in the finest tradition of American politics. I'd like to echo the words of praise from an editorial in last Friday's Journal, and I quote, 'Thanks to Barse, Wallace, Zappone, and their colleagues the county's schools now have ceilings on class size, higher per pupil allocations for textbooks, mandatory final exams, and tough rules governing unexcused absences.' I can personally attest to the significance of these accomplishments since I was teaching in one of our high schools when this Board took these actions. I saw the most dramatic improvements that I had seen since I began teaching here in 1963. Class sizes were manageable for the first time. I had enough textbooks to send them home with individual students so they could do homework, and far fewer students were cutting classes. But this doesn't mean that everything is perfect. As in every striving for excellence, the job is never done. And even though the philosophy of the Board has shifted, my commitment, determination, and dedication have not changed. I will continue to espouse my philosophy and work for my priorities which as always focus on the classroom - smaller classes in the elementary grades and in the academic subjects at the secondary level so that all of our students - the handicapped, gifted, and average - can receive the attention they deserve, and in order for our students to get

the most out of their education, discipline must improve. In a recent survey 80 percent of our teachers responded that disruptive student behavior is a problem in their classrooms. With better discipline and smaller classes our teachers will be able to give more attention to teaching every student, and everyone will benefit from an environment more conducive to learning. I look forward to working with the new Board members toward achieving these and other important goals. I think we are all bringing to our work on the Board a commitment to the children in our schools. I've gotten to know the four new Board members much better as we have worked together in meetings already. Of course, we will have our philosophical differences, but I am certain that the differences that arise will be ones of approach not of personalities and that we can forge a harmonious working relationship as we continue to work to provide the finest education possible for our children."

Resolution No. 828-82 Re: Executive Session - December 8,
1982

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

WHEREAS, The Board of Education of Montgomery County is authorized by Article 76A, Section 11(a) of the Annotated Code of Maryland to conduct certain of its meetings in executive closed session; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board of Education of Montgomery County hereby conduct its meeting in executive closed session beginning on December 8, 1982, at 8 p.m. to discuss, consider, deliberate, and/or otherwise decide the employment, assignment, appointment, promotion, demotion, compensation, discipline, removal, or resignation of employees, appointees, or officials over whom it has jurisdiction, or any other personnel matter affecting one or more particular individuals as permitted under Article 76A, Section 11(A) and that such meeting shall continue in executive closed session until the completion of business.

Re: Announcement

The superintendent announced that the law required that the Board and County agree on the submission of a capital budget. Therefore, it would be necessary to have a brief business meeting at 7:45 p.m. on December 6, 1982.

Resolution No. 829-82 Re: Adjournment

On motion of Dr. Cronin seconded by Mr. Ewing, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

Resolved, That the Board of Education adjourn its meeting at 8:50 p.m.

Vice President

Secretary

EA:mlw