



Ms. Derby said that their second issue had to do with the upcoming budget because all of them were aware of the mark the county executive had set. In the past their organization had been very vocal and supporting of the Board's budget and wanted to continue that support. She noted that 32 percent of the county's population had children in the public schools, and they wanted to explore ways of reaching this population as well as the population that did not have children in the schools. Mr. Ewing felt that this was an important issue, but he did not know of anyone who had figured out how to do this. He agreed that they should give this serious thought. Mrs. Shannon commented that a couple of people in the community would be interested in forming an ad hoc group to support the school system, and she would share their names with MCAASP.

Ms. Derby indicated that they would be interested in working with such a group and thought that it might be worth looking into a coalition which might involve the business community as well. Mr. Ewing suggested that they look at the report of the Economic Advisory Committee. Mrs. Praisner said they might use the governor's declaration of next year as the year of the public schools. She was trying to put something on paper and asked that MCAASP contact her. Mr. Ewing thought that the Board might want to ask a Board member or two to take the lead and ask groups to furnish names. Dr. Cronin commented that he would like the Board to consider appointing a Board member as liaison to the hate/violence committee. Mr. Ewing indicated that he would be back in touch with MCAASP on the budget issue and would raise the question with MCEA and MCCSSE.

Dr. Cronin remarked that he was interested in their "wish lists" for the school system and in ways the Board could assist them in minimizing the paper flow. Ms. Derby replied that all of them were aware they were a labor intensive organization, and they were always looking for ways to reduce this. She commented that the kinds of paraprofessional help they had in the schools working directly with children was crucial. Mrs. Leslie felt that lead time was critical because they did not have enough time to implement new programs and policies. She said that sometimes they were unrealistic about getting policies in place, and the Board should ask the staff about time requirements. Mrs. Joan Israel commented that sometimes the perceptions of how long something has to take were different at the various levels; therefore, they should ask for advice from those different levels.

In regard to the budget process, Dr. Bruce McKay stated that the superintendent did a good job in establishing the impact of the money requested and the standards pages did a good job in describing that impact. Dr. Cronin asked whether they had sufficient authority in the schools to do what they needed to do in terms of budget. Ms. Derby explained that they had textbooks and supplies accounts and there was some flexibility between them. There were certain area funds which were allocated to the local schools. In her area it was clear to her where the area was spending the funds and that she would have the opportunity to state

her case for a portion of these funds. Dr. Frank Bready said that the secondary principals had developed new staffing standards and presented them to the superintendent who reacted favorably. At the senior high school level there was concern about athletic programs functioning at a deficit. He felt that each school was stretched to the limit to provide these programs.

Dr. Frank Masci felt that the most important place to put money was in teacher salaries. He said that many teachers were forced to take second jobs in order to live in Montgomery County.\*

\*Mrs. Peyser joined the meeting at this point.

Dr. Shoenberg remarked that when they moved into a new school situation they tried to plan out what was going to happen year by year. He wondered whether the environment in which they worked made that kind of goal-setting situation possible. Ms. Derby replied that this was an on-going process in every school. She also indicated that area support was available in terms of long-range planning. She said that one of the great difficulties was that very often a school would be working on the needs of that school and would be stopped in the middle of that process by directions from other sources. Mrs. Israel commented that she was in the fourth year of a five-year plan and had made some changes in the plan as a result of her own decisions and priorities from other sources. She said that people in the county needed to learn to say no, and that included Board members, superintendent, and staff. She felt that the hardest part was for the Board to face pressure groups night after night and stick with what the Board considered important.

Mrs. Shannon said she would like to hear from area, elementary school, and secondary school representatives as to what their top and bottom priorities would be. Mrs. Leslie replied that she would like to have some decisions on where they were going on course matters. She also felt that they needed some release time to bring teachers in for training. Ms. Derby said her wish would be for release time to enable the people responsible for education to get some help in implementing programs. She suggested that they look at four and a half day weeks and noted the success some school systems had had with these programs. She said that also got them to the question of the increasing need for day-care of children.

Mr. Ewing asked Ms. Derby to share any research she had on this subject. Dr. Cronin explained that in the coming years he would like the Board to spend a considerable amount of time on teaching and looking at what they considered to be a quality teacher, principal, and school. Ms. Derby remarked that one thing that made a difference was how comfortable people felt in their environment.

Dr. McKay said that he had read an interesting article by Bruce Joyce on getting to the level where teachers became students of their own craft, and Dr. Cronin asked to receive a copy of the article.

Mr. Ewing commented that as a result of the evening's discussion they would be able to generate some good agendas for future discussions. In regard to the budget and the standards pages, he felt that they moved quickly to the dollar pages and felt that they should focus on the budget in terms of the results they expected. In this regard, the standards pages were useful. MCAASP representatives shared their views on the superintendent selection process with members of the Board. Board members requested that they be provided with any written comments that the organization had prepared.

Re: Adjournment

The president adjourned the meeting at 9:30 p.m.

President

Secretary

EA:mlw