

arts. She said they had supported driver education, quality teaching, and the need for more health nurses in the schools. They felt there was a need for greater interest in transportation and better communication in this area. They had worked with the Interagency Coordinating Board especially on the problems of insurance for PTAs and better guidelines for PTA use of the schools. They had participated in the selection process for the new superintendent and had participated in the budget. They had established two ad hoc committees on facilities planning and on consolidated schools. Another group was looking at the question of selecting Board members by district.

Mrs. Janice McLean, second vice president, explained that she worked with the three area vice presidents. She noted that MCCPTA was organized the same way MCPS was, and they had found a tremendous amount of work when MCPS went from five areas to three. She said that the area vice presidents had coped with the workload by using the cluster coordinators to assist them. Most recently these people were called on to coordinate the county budget testimony.

Mrs. Cordy Goldstein, Area 1, said that the biggest item for her area was communication and the use of the cluster coordinators. She felt that the Board should understand what a cluster was. They had situations where they did not know which cluster a school should be in. She said that at this point the PTAs in Area 1 were worn out, and she called attention to the continuing process of sharing information to prepare budget testimony. For example, no one knew that Takoma Park Junior High School was going to be open. She also questioned the timing of the facilities alternatives, and she suggested that these be submitted prior to the communities' having to review them to see whether they were feasible. She said that in regard to consolidations, the PTAs and schools were anxious to be sure equity in supplies and equipment was assured. In some cases, the consolidations and the receiving schools crossed area lines. In regard to the vocational/technical center which was in their area they wanted to be sure that all children were fully informed about the program. They also wanted to be sure that information was available on the math, science, and computer magnet at Blair.

Mrs. Goldstein pointed out that her area offered many special services such as ESOL and programs for the handicapped. Therefore, the area office had a lot to deal with, and the PTA wanted to make sure that everything was not spread too thin.

Mrs. Vicki Rafel, Area 2, said that people in her area were concerned with facilities planning and how the process would continue to work. One of the things they had done was to originate meetings with each cluster through the area office. Over the course of eight meetings, several things came up consistently. The first was facilities planning. There was a continuing interest in all-day Kindergarten. People had perceptions about how the transfer policy was being implemented in that some parents were able to "work the system" to their advantage. They felt it was important that the policy be implemented consistently throughout the area. People were concerned about the availability of resources and the quality of academic instruction and staff. She said that in her area Leland,

Kensington Elementary, Kensington Junior, and Larchmont Elementary had been closed. These schools had been turned over to the county, but the community did not know that. She suggested they ask the county to review what it had done with these closed buildings because they were a reminder of a painful epoch in the community's history.

Mrs. Barbara Titland, Area 3, thanked Dr. Lee Etta Powell and the area office for the support the PTA had received. She said they were still concerned about the budget and overcrowding in the upper county area. They could not have all-day Kindergarten because they did not have the space. They would like to have EPI computer programs, but they did not have the room. There was a need for an elementary school in the upper county. She said they were concerned about being neglected because they read about magnet programs downcounty to which they had no access. She noted that the vocational/technical high school would not be for Area 3 students. She thought they should start planning for vocational programs and magnet programs up-county. She invited Board members to visit their area.

Mrs. Carbone suggested that the Board had to keep the matter of equity in mind. Mr. Ewing said that in terms of facilities they seemed to be making some progress. The capital budget looked positive, and the Council's education committee had approved the speed-up in the funding for Woodfield Elementary. They had also started moving on the new elementary school. In regard to vocational/technical programs, the superintendent agreed that there were equity issues. Therefore, they were keeping some programs at the Lincoln Center which would be available to students in the upper county. However, he agreed that there was more work that needed to be done.

Mr. Ewing stated that the Board did need to address program issues in Area 3. Mrs. Praisner reported that the education committee had restored two teachers for the up-county alternative program. Mrs. Zoe Lefkowitz stated that this year they had more involvement of the up-county citizens in the budget process. She hoped that the Board would recognize some individual communities who worked hard. Mr. Ewing remarked that MCCPTA's work had been impressive and all the PTAs were to be congratulated. Mrs. Lefkowitz commented that she would like to see the involvement of the upper county communities continued.

Mrs. Praisner indicated that it was a perception the Board was spending extra funds on downcounty schools. She wondered how they could work together to assure that people understood there was a benefit countywide for a school system that addressed these issues. Mrs. Titland agreed that the perception was that students downcounty got the advantages. Mrs. Carbone felt it was important for the individual school to identify needs so that the inequities would not remain. Mrs. Titland commented that in her area they had good schools and lots of students; however, they could not point to any school with a terrific magnet program.

Mrs. Goldstein asked whether they had thought about transportation to the various magnets. The superintendent replied that the Blair program would be countywide with transportation provided. The elementary school magnets did not have transportation provided outside of the desegregation clusters. He said that the Board would be taking a look at this, and the staff had just sent out the facilities and racial balance policies for citizen reaction. In regard to vocational/technical education, the original plan had called for three centers. Probably they would end up with one mid-county and one upper-county center.

Mrs. Goldstein asked whether anyone had checked into the possibility of students receiving public transportation tickets. Mr. Ewing thought that this could be discussed with Metro. Dr. Pitt recalled that the county economic conference set up to look at growth in the county had two outcomes: the need for good education and the improvement of the public transportation system in the county.

Mrs. Seda Gelenian, cultural arts, said that MCCPTA had been a front runner in this field for 15 years. They had been the major backers of performances coming into the schools. The individual schools spent from \$50 to \$1000 in cultural arts with about \$80,000 spent countywide. For the past six years they had done an orientation workshop to learn what was available in the Washington area in the arts. About two years ago the Board budgeted \$30,000 for these performances, and an audition process was established. A 12-person committee held three days of auditions in October and January. The performers must have school experience and educational guides for their performances. In June a workshop was conducted to help the performers. Last year 92,000 public school students observed these performances.

Mrs. Janet Carr, health and safety, explained that the primary thrust of her group was to be a resource agent to the local PTAs. For example, the Takoma Park cluster wanted to work together on child safety issues and her group assisted them. The committee wanted to be advocates for school-based health services for children, and they considered health services vital because there were 24,000 students who did not have health aide coverage. These students received coverage from high school nurses who served 1,200 to 2,500 children. She asked the Board to be a vocal advocate for school-based services for the children. She pointed out that less and less parents were available to volunteer in the schools. The second focus of the committee was family life and human development. They had joined with the national PTA and the March of Dimes to work on the adolescent sexuality project. Dr. Pitt stated that his office had been impressed with the cooperation they had received from the county's division of school health; however, these people had a terrible budget situation. Mrs. Carbone indicated that this issue had been raised with the county's education committee. Mrs. Carbone said that her human relations chairman could not be present. Mr. Ewing reported that the Board probably would not meet this year with the Human Relations Commission but had met with the Community Action Board. He wondered whether MCCPTA had ever

interacted with the CAB, and he suggested that perhaps Mrs. Fleischaker would want to be in touch with this group.

Mrs. Janet Bykoski, special needs, said they had sponsored two countywide meetings on children with special needs in cooperation with MCPS staff. Mrs. Diane Brasile had taken the leadership role in in-service training. The committee also had representatives on various MCPS committees and had testified before the Council on the budget. They published a bimonthly newsletter, and on the school level their activities ranged from providing information to parents to meeting with school staffs. She said their main concern was the staff ratio for the Level 3 and Level 4 programs, and she supplied Board members with copies of their recent Council testimony. Mrs. Brasile reported that she had attended a Council meeting where Mrs. Gelman had spoken of the need to visit schools. Mr. Ewing thought it might be well for the Board to urge Council members to visit schools.

Mrs. Lois Williams, Spotlight, explained that her organization existed to report the business of MCCPTA but was also the best source of information about the Board of Education and the budget process. They also attempted to focus on the county as a whole and make people feel they were part of a school system. They were attempting to focus on the good things that were happening in the schools. She said that Spotlight took 1/3 of the MCCPTA budget, but MCPS helped by providing office space and use of the pony. They would like to distribute the Spotlight to all teachers, but this would be very costly. Mrs. Praisner commented that this was the first year she had had an opportunity to look at Spotlight from a different angle, and she felt there was no document that was as valuable to parents. She thought that Mrs. Williams and Mrs. Wiecking should be very proud of the newspaper. Mrs. Carbone said they had tried to expand their coverage by placing copies in the public libraries.

In regard to statewide issues, Mrs. Nancy Wiecking said she was concerned because the Board had never discussed the total recommendations of the Commission on Quality Teaching. Two major issues in the report were the reward system and the support for new teachers. She felt that the Board should also look at the Values Education report and, in particular, the section on the role of parents. Mr. Ewing commented that it had been said about the Board that it tried to spend its time on too many issues and also that it neglected issues. The Board had tried to do several things this year including selecting a new superintendent, adopting a budget, dealing with facilities planning and integration, and improving relationships with a whole range of groups. On April 12, they had started to look at program issues. It was his view that the Board would like to spend far more time on a variety of programmatic issues and hoped to be able to do so.

Mrs. Carbone said the counseling and guidance committee would be conducting a spring workshop on May 12 with several different innovative programs. One of the high school programs would deal

with college and career exploration for ESOL students. Other programs would deal with therapy for the family, counseling with the single parent, and different strategies used by elementary school counselors. One of the items looked at by this committee was the availability of the countywide courses of studies. She suggested that copies of the guides could be made available in the public libraries. Another important event was the college fair, which was a pilot program to be held on May 22 and 23 at Montgomery College. There would be 300 college representatives available to talk with parents and students, and the school system had made arrangements to provide transportation. Dr. Pitt commented that they were really excited about the program and the cooperation they had received from the colleges and universities. MCPS would provide transportation, and they were encouraging parents to participate on Sunday. Mrs. Jane Folsom indicated that they were pleased with the elementary school counselors added by the Board this year; however, they were concerned about the deletion of one of the positions in the central office.

Mrs. Lefkowitz explained that this year's budget process worked well because so many people were willing to cooperate. The process started in the fall with budget workshops, and she thanked Mr. Ken Hill and Dr. Ken Muir for their help. She thought that something of this type might be provided for MCPS staff as well. The next event was their survey, which they used to develop priorities. The survey was also used with the County Council. They testified that 76 percent of the people surveyed supported increased taxes. She said that the 50 PTAs surveyed spent an average of \$3,000 a year per school with cultural arts activities using 30 percent of this. However, there were inequities in funding because some PTAs spent as much as \$9,000 a year.

Mrs. Lefkowitz said that format of the Council hearings had changed and MCCPTA had changed its procedures to respond. She objected to the format because it excluded the individual from testifying, but it did enable the MCCPTA testimony to be more organized. She felt that they had a very productive session following the testimony. She also thought that the Council hearing process demonstrated the close working relationship between the PTA and the area office. She commended the area offices for the assignment of staff to each cluster. She hoped that the Board would write letters to the groups who hired buses to come to Council and could not get into the hearings. She thought they needed to have more input into the budget process of MCPS before the superintendent presented his budget to the Board. She said their survey would have been of help to the Board and the staff because of the support for aides in the survey. She also suggested that the Board consider including MCCPTA in worksessions held in different parts of the county. She commented that the most frustrating part of the budget process was the extreme amount of staff time spent educating the same people over and over again about the budget. She suggested that it was time for the school system, the County Council, and the county executive to sit down and discuss alternatives to the budget process.

Mr. Ewing said they were all interested in a good outcome for the budget, and at least the education committee was being positive with respect to instructional programs. He thought that together with MCCPTA they had been able to do as fine a job as had been done with respect to the budget. He saw a substantial increase in effort this year. Mrs. Lefkowitz said they had to continue to capitalize on these efforts.

Mrs. Praisner thought that when they surveyed next year they had to try to assess the impact of a budget on an individual school. This information would be very helpful to the Board. Mrs. Carbone thought that the budget process established a new kind of dialogue with the Council. Dr. Pitt remarked that MCCPTA's testimony before the Council was extremely effective. Mrs. Carbone reported that she was inviting the Council to their next delegate assembly.

Mrs. Vi Rutledge recalled that several years ago when the local PTAs were running the FLES and group piano programs they looked for ways to organize their efforts. A nonprofit corporation, Educational Programs, Inc., was established to carry out all of the educational enrichment activities. The programs had grown, but group piano had not become part of this organization. Mrs. Sonya Ledesma explained that the goal of FLES was to provide elementary school children with the best alternative to an in-school foreign language program. About 2,000 students were now enrolled in this program, and a uniform curriculum was offered so that students could transfer to other schools. The classes were taught in the language, utilized visual aides, had report cards, were supervised, and were covered by insurance. Included in the goals for the program was a better understanding of the culture of the people speaking the language. She said that they were delighted this year because MCPS had given them the opportunity for FLES children to enrollment in the summer language camps.

Mrs. Ledesma explained that their other program was creative enrichment which was a supplement to half-day Kindergarten. This program had been taken over from the Recreation Department and was in seven schools.

Mrs. Phyllis Katz said their other program was hands-on science and computer classes. In the computer area they had small classes and scheduled two to three students to a computer. At present they were in four schools. There were no plans to extend the program to the upper county because of lack of space. The philosophy behind the computer classes was to teach the use of the computer as a tool. The hands-on science classes were limited to 9 or 10 children. They had started with two pilots and were running 73 classes this spring. She urged that they consider establishing an elementary science center in Montgomery County. She offered her cooperation to work this out with business and industry. Mrs. Carbone thought that while the hands-on science program was successful they would like to see more science programs in the schools themselves. Mrs. Katz noted that most elementary school teachers were female and had a

minimal science background. Science was taught less than they would like.

Mrs. Jill Lackey, public relations, stated that they were concerned about large numbers of cars passing stopped school buses. They had approached GEICO about a brochure which was underway. The thrust of the campaign was to get to drivers who were not paying attention to children. Mrs. Carbone explained that they realized that MCPS did not have a good transportation record, and that the Transportation Department was working to correct this. Mrs. Praisner remarked that they knew they had had a number of accidents, but she wondered whether they were implying there was a driver problem. Mrs. Lackey replied that there was no information that broke down accidents caused by the driver or the bus. This was to make other drivers aware that children are on the road. They wanted to get the police to work with them on this problem. Mrs. Carbone noted that at the beginning of the school year some of the bus stops had been moved out of developments. Parents were supposed to be responsible for children at these stops, and she thought they needed better communication going into the homes.

Mrs. Peyser inquired about phoning in the license numbers of people passing school buses. The superintendent reported that they had asked the police to address the problem of bus drivers speeding. He was not aware of a problem with people passing stopped buses. Mrs. Carbone said they had thought about having a delegate assembly on this topic next fall.

Mrs. Carbone offered the help of her organization in acquainting Dr. Cody with the local school community. She restated their need for closer cooperation with the school system and local government. She urged them to take another look at the policy on the use of closed schools.

Mrs. Wiecking noted that the Board had dropped the recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Commission from its list of items to be scheduled. In addition at Tuesday's Board/Press/Visitor conference many individual speakers spoke on the same issue. Mrs. Carbone thanked the superintendent for his cooperation with MCCPTA over the years. She said that he was not only a superintendent but a friend, and they wished him well in his new career.

Mrs. Praisner commented that the annual meeting with MCCPTA was a good idea, but she thought they needed more meetings with the group. She suggested that they work on ways to modify their process of communication. Mrs. Nancy Dacek thanked Mrs. Carbone for the work she had done for MCCPTA and asked the Board for suggestions they might have for cooperation next year. On behalf of the Board, Mr. Ewing thanked Mrs. Carbone for an outstanding job as president of MCCPTA.

Re: Adjournment

The president adjourned the meeting at 10:15 p.m.

President

Secretary

EA:mlw

