



could have a full-day kindergarten program. Dr. Cody asked Ms. Ledesma to provide specific information to him on schools where there was a lack of cooperation with the FLES program.

Ms. Janet Frekko, acting director of Hands-on-Science, reported that this program had grown from 3,000 to 5,000 students. The K-1 and 2-3 programs were the most popular, and this spring they would be offering geology classes. She indicated that they were using a group of retarded citizens to package their kits for the science program. They were concerned because their office was in the Rocking Horse Road building, and they didn't know how long they could stay there. In order to provide the work for the retarded citizens they needed an inexpensive space for their packaging jobs. If possible, they would like to remain at Rocking Horse Road because it was located in the mid-county.

Dr. Cronin asked why the computer courses had been discontinued, and Ms. Frekko explained that a few years ago there was a huge demand, but as more and more schools were able to buy computer equipment they had discontinued the program. Mrs. Struck commented that their goal was to have MCPS take over all of their programs so they could go out of business.

Mrs. Dianne Smith, Area 1 co-vice president, reported that she had written a letter to the Board requesting a meeting, and Dr. Cronin indicated that his response was in the mail to her. Mrs. Smith remarked that the clusters appreciated the Board's responsiveness to their concerns. Their major concern was renovations and remodeling because so many buildings in Area 1 were old. Dr. Cody reported that at the Council Education Committee meeting it was decided to go with the funding level requested by the Board. The only issue unresolved was the gymnasium issue, but even that was not whether to build but rather what size the gym would be. This proposal still had to go to the full Council. Dr. Shoenberg reported that Mr. Fosler had said that MCPS might need to hold off on some renovations until they could afford them. Dr. Cronin pointed out that next year they would have three new Council members and a new county executive to educate about school system needs.

Mr. Bill Omstead, Area 1 co-vice president, reported that in their survey class size was a priority, but parents did not want to go to alternative scheduling to accommodate reduced class size. In addition, parents were concerned about services for the average student. He reported that Area 1 schools were crowded, and the core facilities in older schools were inadequate when relocatable classrooms were put on site.

Mrs. Smith described the frustration of parents who were asked to be involved in determining solutions and felt they were not being listened to. Mrs. Praisner said she would be interested in any specific suggestions MCCPTA could provide.

Ms. Pamela Roddy, Area 2 co-vice president, reported that they had just gone through a traumatic experience with the facilities process.

She felt that it was important that the Board give support to the schools as they consolidated and not withdraw that support when the process was completed. In Area 2 they needed renovations, and they were afraid that if the schools were let go too long they would require major projects. In addition, they were concerned about the exit levels for ESOL students because many of them were being discharged from the program too soon. They wanted additional programs for the gifted and talented, and they shared Area 1's concern about programs for the average student.

Mrs. Ginny Miller, Walter Johnson Cluster coordinator, stated that Walter Johnson High School was concerned about support for the incoming students from Tilden Intermediate, and they hoped they would have adequate teachers and counselors. If there were facilities needs, they hoped that these would be taken care of during the summer. They were also concerned about course offerings and scheduling for their Grade 10-12 population because of the size of their study body. She expressed their pleasure with their new principal.

Mrs. Alice Von Saunder, Richard Montgomery Cluster coordinator, reported that they strongly supported a budget for extra maintenance of schools having heavy use. Dr. Cody reported that an ICB committee had recommended doubling the budget for utilities, but he would be offering strong objection to that because they needed funds for maintenance rather than utilities. Mrs. Praisner hoped that MCCPTA would work to get additional funds from ICB back to the schools.

Mrs. Miller, as a member of the ICB committee, reported that the ICB was getting hung up on paying custodians time and a half and thought that all of those funds went back to the local school. Mrs. Praisner pointed out that Dr. Cody was a voting member of the ICB, the Board president was an ex officio member, and the Board appointed two citizen members. She suggested that a small group could sit down with the ICB and discuss where they were going with the entire program. Mrs. Miller was also concerned about damage to equipment in the schools where there was heavy community use. She had also suggested that all public buildings, not just schools, come under the jurisdiction of the ICB.

Mrs. Von Saunder stated that Richard Montgomery was pleased with the extra resources in the budget, but they considered these only interim solutions to a long-term problem. They were looking forward to the March 19 forum at their school to discuss these issues.

Ruth Litzenberg, Rockville Cluster coordinator, said that in the facilities recommendations in October there was a statement that their area boundaries would be discussed. It seemed to them that nothing would be done this spring, and their enrollment was down. There was a concern about enrollment at Wood Junior High School. They were also concerned about vocational programs, and they had been told that the 1,200 mid-county students in vocational programs would be bused to a 2+2 program in Germantown, which would have a tremendous impact on their program at Rockville High School.

Dr. Cronin explained that no decisions had been made about vocational education. Dr. Shoenberg commented that no facilities decisions involving Area 2 would be made this spring. The issues they were concerned about would be considered in late spring and addressed in the fall. He, too, explained that the relationship between the mini-centers and the new vocational program had not been decided. They would not be busing all students to Germantown. The program would involve only students who wanted to spend a full half-day in the vocational program. Dr. Cronin added that later this year they would be taking a full look at the upper part of Area 2 and all of Area 3 regarding these concerns.

Mr. Dan Case, Woodward Cluster coordinator, reported that there were concerns in the Woodward community but he thought it best if these concerns came through other channels. Dr. Cronin stated that it was the Board commitment to make the transition as smooth as possible, and he urged the community to come forward if there were major concerns.

Mrs. Miller reported that the Area 2 Task Force would resume meetings after the spring break. They would like to have a meeting with the Board and would be contacting Dr. Cronin.

Mrs. Jean Mallon, Area 3 vice president, remarked that one of their biggest concerns was staffing for the new elementary schools. They were specifically concerned about having only one reading teacher in an elementary school with over 800 students. Dr. Pitt explained that the staff would have to discuss this further because there were philosophical differences about the reading teacher and the reading program and the program was not meant to be a pull-out program. Dr. Cody added that if they had pull-out programs they were going in the face of outstanding evidence that these programs did not work well.

Mrs. Slye stated that the question still remained of having one reading teacher work with such a large staff. Dr. Floyd said that while they might have one reading teacher per high school they should not lose sight of the fact that developmental reading occurred at the elementary level.

In regard to boundary changes, Mr. William Beane, Area 3 vice president, said that the community would like to be involved in these decisions. They were projected to have four elementary schools and two high schools opening in Area 3, and the community wanted to have their input in the selection of principals given real weight. The community would like to come away from the process without feeling that they had participated in something that was predetermined. Mrs. Praisner remarked that the process would be shared with the community and the community would be involved. Dr. Cronin indicated that this topic had been on recent Board agendas. He assured MCCPTA that the principal selection process would be open and direct. Dr. Cody stated that the community would be involved in identifying criteria for the principalship and would be involved in the interview process. Mrs. Mallon reported that most communities felt that their input was lip-service and that decisions such as boundary changes were

preordained. Dr. Cronin commented that this perception was difficult to deal with.

Mr. Ewing stated that over the years he had been unhappy about the limited role the Board played in the selection of principals. They had a new process emerging, and he was better pleased with it because they would have more information and more ability to have a better impact on the outcome. He urged MCCPTA to be insistent in making sure their views were heard. He also pointed out that they were fortunate because they were now opening schools and had more schools than principals. Consequently, he felt that their participation would increase.

Mrs. Slye stated that the Board would welcome suggestions on the facilities process. Mrs. Praisner explained that the new process being considered by the Board would build in more community discussions before recommendations came to the Board. As a former area vice president, she felt it was important for MCCPTA leadership to facilitate communication for the Board. She also pointed out the role of the ombudsman, and she asked MCCPTA's help in communicating that role.

Mrs. Rafel asked if any thought had been given to how much in advance the principals might be named for the new schools. Dr. Cody said they were considering appointing the elementary school principals in the spring and high school principals close to a year in advance. In addition, they were trying to advance the construction completion date of some of the schools.

Mrs. Judy Curran, Area 3 vice president, stated that the special magnet programs in the Blair area were so far away from Area 3 that they were not accessible to Area 3 students. They would like the Board to consider establishing similar programs geographically closer to them. Mr. Beane understood that there was a breakfast meeting with Montgomery College on March 22. They did not feel that a new vocational/technical center was needed, but rather that they could use existing high schools. Dr. Cronin replied that this was still to be discussed by the Board. They would be looking at this issue in the spring and also having discussions with Montgomery College.

Mr. Gary Kelley, Wootton Cluster coordinator, said that the Board's decision to change the boundaries between Lakewood and Fallsmead was working well, and the two schools had arranged visits. They were concerned about the EMR students moving to Wootton, and the school administration was doing everything possible to make sure that transition was effective. They were concerned about boundary changes associated with the new Quince Orchard High School and would like early involvement in the process. He hoped that the community would be provided with a school showing when the community would be involved and when decisions would be made. Dr. Shoenberg replied that they should be involved early in the spring in developing proposals, and if the plan worked well there ought to be plenty of opportunity for involvement.

Mary Pat Wilson, Poolesville Cluster coordinator, reported that they had had a good experience in the selection of their principal last year. They were in a unique situation of low enrollment in two of their three schools which limited their instructional materials allotment. She emphasized that Poolesville Junior-Senior would continue to require the extra five positions the Board had budgeted. She explained that Monocacy was scheduled for renovation, but in the meantime their old equipment was getting worse. Dr. Cronin explained that they would have to wait until next year regarding that renovation and would have to face new Council members and a new county executive.

Mrs. Martha Rosacker, budget chairperson, said they were pleased with the Board's budget and would urge full funding of it at the hearing on March 26. Last week they had met with Mr. Gilchrist and Dr. Rogers and had discussed class size. She reported that there was talk about a cut in administration. They had discussed crossing guards, and Mr. Gilchrist could see no problem in contracting out this service. The discussion also included the use of Ride On buses for student transportation.

Mr. Michael Richman, budget chairperson, asked the Board to share its strategy on the executive's budget denials so that MCCPTA's view could be in agreement. Mrs. Praisner suggested that as the Board's responses were developed that they be shared with MCCPTA. Dr. Cronin reported that the Board's presentation to be County Council would be on March 25 or 26 at 6:45 p.m. Mr. Ewing noted that the executive's denials would be made public on March 21, and he assumed that major denials would be in the areas of class size, transportation, and administration. He said it was important to see the most recent projections of revenue because he had been led to believe that the revenue picture was going to be extremely good.

Mr. Richman suggested that as Gramm-Rudman funds dried up they had to consider what they were going to do about Chapter I and QIE. If they were going to have magnet programs and use them for desegregation, they had to find funds for them.

Mrs. Mary Ann Bowen, facilities chairperson, reported that Mr. Kelley would be working with her committee. She reported that there was a feeling among their executive board and the cluster coordinators that the new facilities process would lend more credibility to decisions. She hoped that on March 24 the Board would take action on that portion of the policy dealing with the process so that the clusters could be informed.

Dr. Ann Rose, legislation chairperson, presented the Board with a list of positions MCCPTA had taken on state legislation. By and large their positions agreed with those of the Board, except that they were more adamant about seat belts on school buses. She praised the efforts of Lois Stoner, the Board's legislative aide, in assisting her in Annapolis. Mrs. Joyce Constantine reported that there was some interest in the Sizer school model, and she would be bringing proposals to the MCCPTA board of directors before the end of

the school year.

Dr. Shoenberg reported that the Board had received several letters about PTA fund raising, particularly about competition among students and the effect on low-income parents. He suggested it might be well for the PTA to rethink its guidelines for fund raising strategies. Mrs. Rafel replied that their April delegate assembly would include an item on that topic. Dr. Shoenberg asked that the letters on fund raising be shared with Mrs. Rafel.

Dr. Cronin suggested that a topic for another discussion was how to involve parents in the academic progress of their children. He thanked Mrs. Rafel for her outstanding leadership in the past year and, in particular, the open communication she had established with the Board of Education.

Re: ADJOURNMENT

The president adjourned the meeting at 10:50 p.m.

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President

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Secretary

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