



"I think that the most enjoyable part of this entire experience so far, which is not nearly over, has not been the actual winning of the campaign, but the support that I received from friends, teachers and almost everybody that I have come in contact with in the course of the campaign. There are a few people I would like to thank personally: one of them is Mike Michaelson, who was very patient and supportive in providing his advice and his services to me during the course of the campaign; my family -- my mother, my father; all the Board members, and, of course, John Foubert, who unfortunately is going to be leaving us. Without him, my victory would not have been possible at all. I would like to thank also my friends, especially Bart, who always is there to lend a helping hand and support, and most everyone else.

"I think the issues that I would like to address the most in the upcoming year are the ones that face the students, their well being directly including: teenage depression, their attitudes, the problems facing teens today, and the things that are occurring not only in our county but outside of our county. I found through many experiences, be they working on a team, working with an individual school, or working with a group of friends, that the key to success is working together. A combined effort, a goal that is common among everybody, is really the key to success. I think if we all establish that and, most of all if the students establish that in their minds and in their efforts, we can succeed in not only in making our county a better place, but hopefully going beyond our county in making the world we live in a better place.

"Thank you very much again for coming, and thank you for your support."

Re: PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATE TO MR.  
JOHN D. FOUBERT

On behalf of the Board of Education and staff of the Montgomery County Public Schools, Dr. Cronin presented Mr. Foubert with a certificate of appreciation for his work on the Board of Education.

Re: REMARKS BY MR. JOHN D. FOUBERT

Mr. Foubert made the following statement:

"To say that this has been an enjoyable year for me would be an understatement. I will always cherish the time that I have spent with the Board members and with the staff. From Day One, I have been overwhelmed with the professional, kind and courteous manner in which I have been treated. This Board has been very receptive to my concerns and made me really feel like an equal. There are many examples of this Board's receptiveness and responsiveness. During the Board's review of their general procedures, I felt a great deal of responsiveness to my suggestion of a different way of recording the student Board member's votes in the minutes, and I believe a more serious way of doing so even though that vote still does not count.

"In its wisdom, the Board responded to the need for peer counseling in Montgomery County Public Schools by passing an amendment to the operating budget which would open the opportunity for peer counseling to all MCPS students; however, Council budget cuts took their toll, and for a while the outlook seemed dim. However, the Board then agreed to include most of the money for peer counseling in a request for a supplemental appropriation, and there is again hope, if not for this year, for the next.

"During my campaign I pledged to fully support any feasible plan to give teachers an increase in pay, and I did support the Board's attempts this year to do so and, although they were costly, an increase was achieved.

"Many people ask me, 'now that your term is over, looking back on the year that you have had, would you do it all over again?' The answer to that question is most definitely 'yes.' However, this has not been a year without its disappointments for the Board and for me personally. We have had tough times with the teachers' union, the Planning Board and the County Council. Those are about the three things that I will not miss. I have also had personal disappointments. It was a disappointment for me to raise the issue of attendance policy at the very start of my term last year and not be given a chance to have it voted upon by this Board during my term of office. I am, however, optimistic that someday whether it be within a few months or a whole lot more than that, a true separation between grades and discipline will exist and a new policy will be drafted.

"One thing that I have become totally convinced of during my year with the Board is that the student member deserves to have and truly needs to have full voting rights. The exemplary record of student Board members speaks for itself. It is now time to give the student Board member a more serious and more direct role in effecting educational policy. Some say that there may be a problem. With eight Board members, you can get a tie. You can also add one more Board member which would make it nine. Others worry that the pressure of having a vote would be too much for the student because of the increased lobbying from the community which would result. This is probably true that there would be more lobbying of the student Board member if he or she did have a vote. However, I feel it is important to note that often during this past year I have felt at a loss because of the limited amount of phone calls I received from the community. Often when there is a problem in the school system or a major issue the Board is discussing, many people call the Board members and quite often do not call me. I believe this hampers my ability to know what problems really are out there, and it is more difficult for me to understand where these people may be coming from and I am not given enough chance to question them. It is true that I do receive lots of calls from students which helps me gain the perspective I feel I need in my role as a student representative, but I don't feel I get all the perspective I need in my role as a student member. Anne Arundel County, Maryland, one of our neighbors, has had a voting student board member for many years. It works well there,

and I believe what I have heard in the past year from the students of this county is that they want the chance to prove it to all of you that it can work here, too.

"There are many people to whom I owe a great deal of thanks this evening. To my family and step-family, I thank you for your patience during the past year with me. I know it wasn't easy, and I know I missed a lot of evenings at home, and I thank you for your understanding. To my friends, I thank you for your tremendous and unending support for my political endeavors. Your work on my campaign and emotional support throughout the year has been invaluable to me. To Mike Michaelson, I thank you for your advice, for your warnings, and for your help all over the years. You really are one of a kind. Thank you for all of your hard work. To Tom Fess, David Fischer, and Mary Lou Wood, I thank you for all your assistance, for answering my numerous questions, and for doing the impossible in no time flat and for always being there for me. To Dr. Cody, Dr. Pitt, and the executive staff, it has been a pleasure to know you and work with you this year, and I thank you all for your friendly attitude, for answering my memos, and for being so good to me.

"Last but certainly not least, to the Board members. Each of you are very important people to me. It has been a honor to work with such an intelligent, caring and dynamic group. You have shown the students of this county that you truly care about students' opinions, views and beliefs. It is because of you that I have been able to voice the concerns of the students freely and not defensively and not fear an unreceptive audience. As individuals you have been very special to me as well, whether it be answering my questions at the Board table, sharing a laugh or two, giving me rides when my car frequently broke down, being my blue jean buddy at special executive sessions, sharing an amusing letter or two, having a wonderful dinner together in San Francisco, or having very extensive phone calls together every once in a while. More than anything else I will miss seeing all of you; however, this is not a final farewell, I will be back sometime to say hello again and hope that you can find the time to come see me in Williamsburg. I am privileged to feel that each one of you is my friend.

"Leaving this evening is made somewhat easier for me knowing that someone like Eric Steinberg is here to take my place. Eric, I know that if you put your heart and your mind into it you will do well. I hope that you have as good a time as I did.

"For a very long time I considered running for the Board of Education, and a year and a half ago I firmly made up my mind to do so. Looking back on the wonderful time that I have had, I realize now that that was the best decision I have every made. It is a pleasure for me to say that there has not been a single minute in the last year when I had wished that I didn't run. I think that says a lot about this county, about the people in this room, and about the people sitting at this table. You have made this an incredible experience, an incredible year for me as well. I thank you all very

much."

Re: REMARKS BY BOARD MEMBERS

Dr. Cronin called attention to the presence of two former Board members, David Naimon and Jacquie DUBY. On behalf of the Board, Dr. Cronin thanked Mr. Foubert's parents for the values they had instilled in their son. He wished Mr. Foubert every success. He said that Mr. Foubert had approached service on the Board with maturity, tenacity, great balance, wisdom and humor. He thought the experience on the Board would stand Mr. Foubert good stead in college. He hoped that at some future time they would see Mr. Foubert's name on a ballot somewhere. He welcomed Eric Steinberg to the Board of Education. He said that the Board would be patient and prepared to help Mr. Steinberg.

Dr. Floyd welcomed Mr. Steinberg to the Board. He realized that one of Mr. Foubert's primary objectives was to seek a change in the E2 policy. He thought that Mr. Foubert that learned that forging effective change was no easy matter. This should not be taken as a failure or a lack of success. Ralph Waldo Emerson had said of success that it comprised one's ability to do a number of things. Emerson said to laugh often and much, and surely Mr. Foubert had had his share of that this year. Emerson said that success meant to win the respect of intelligent people, and Mr. Foubert had won their respect. Dr. Floyd said that as Mr. Foubert headed off to William and Mary, he knew that he would be preparing himself for another one of Emerson's admonitions which was to leave the world a bit better. He wished Mr. Foubert good luck.

Mrs. Praisner welcomed Eric Steinberg, who by sitting with the Board as a Board member-elect, had had a little exposure to the schedule. She suggested that he enjoy his summer and his vacation because the fall would be a very busy one and he would see little of his family when meetings started. She said she had enjoyed working with Mr. Foubert and wished him the best of luck at William and Mary. She knew he had received a firm foundation in Montgomery County both in his education and in his service on the Board.

Mrs. DiFonzo commented that Mr. Foubert would have a special place in her memory as the first full-term student Board member that she had served with. In the year he had been on the Board he had gone through a number of disappointments and a number of joys. She recalled when he received a driver's license that would permit him to drive after midnight, and the entire Board rejoiced. She knew that he was planning on going into education. She hoped that if he became a classroom teacher he would remember the year he spent on the management side of the table. She had enjoyed working with Mr. Foubert and had enjoyed their phone conversations and their travel together. She wished him well in the future. She welcomed Mr. Steinberg and urged him to leave plenty of time for reading and to have a sturdy table to hold the paperwork. She was sure he would be an asset to the Board, and she welcomed him to the Board.

Mr. Ewing said that first he would say thanks to the opportunity Mr. Foubert's car gave them to become better acquainted. He commented that in his remarks Mr. Foubert remained impatient and persistent about pursuing some objectives not yet realized. He thought that was a good quality. He recalled that President Truman had criticized the Democratic Party for being slow to change. When reporters asked him about this, he said he wanted to quote his uncle who used to say, 'things have come a pretty pass when a man can't cudgel his own jackass.' He suggested to Mr. Foubert that it was important to keep on pushing to make change. He reported that he had served with every student Board member they had had beginning with David Naimon, who set a very high standard of performance in very troubled times. He thought that Mr. Foubert had lived up to that standard and would do well in the future. He said that he was looking forward to working with Eric Steinberg, and he knew he would do a fine job. He thanked both Mr. Foubert and Mr. Steinberg for being willing to take on this occasionally exhilarating and frequently miserable job.

Dr. Shoenberg stated that the Board had enjoyed having Mr. Foubert with them. He complimented Mr. Foubert for the care he took about things which was reflected in his remarks this evening. The remarks were carefully worded and well thought out which characterized Mr. Foubert's term on the Board. He remarked that Mr. Foubert had seen grown-up folks in a guise he had never seen before. Board members had never been known to restrain themselves because there had been a student member in the room with them. He said this typified the quality of student they had had. These students were bright, articulate and thoughtful. He hoped that Eric would realize it was okay to join the Board members in their habits of letting their hair down. He said that it had been a real pleasure serving with Mr. Foubert, and he considered one of the great accomplishments of his term in office to be getting Mr. Foubert the special driving permit. He envied John's experience in going off to college for the first time. He hoped that Mr. Foubert would bring joy to others in the next four years and in the future.

Mrs. Slye noted that Eric had now had the opportunity to learn one of the most important rules of boardsmanship which was that it could sometimes take them a very long time to deliver a very simple message which was that they had appreciated the opportunity to serve with John and looked forward to serving with Eric. Both of them as representatives of MCPS students continued to amaze and delight the Board with their high level of ability and commitment and their individual qualities. She particularly admired John's sense of focus and clarity and his dedication. She knew that those qualities would continue to serve him well in the future. He had pursued his objectives with great energy and patience and endless flexibility by reminding the Board there was another way to look at issues. She looked forward to Eric's term on the Board.

Dr. Cody expressed his appreciation to Mr. Foubert and best wishes for his active participation and insights into matters before the Board of Education. He said that Mr. Foubert had represented well not only students, but also citizens. He had had the opportunity to

observe when a student Board member shifted from being a student Board member to a Board member who happened to be a student. With John and his predecessors, this happened very fast and very early. John had demonstrated that the active involvement of someone elected by students resulted in better decisions. He welcome Eric to the Board and said he looked forward to working with him. He pledged his assistance and that of the senior staff so that Mr. Steinberg could serve well as a Board member.

Re: ADJOURNMENT

The president adjourned the meeting at 9 p.m.

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President

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Secretary

WSC:mlw