

NUMBER: 6-1991
STATUS: APPROVED
PLACE: ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND
DATE: JANUARY 28, 1991
TEXT:

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Rockville, Maryland
January 28, 1991

The Board of Education of Montgomery County met in special session at the Carver Educational Services Center, Rockville, Maryland, on Monday, January 28, 1991, at 7:35 p.m.

ROLL CALL Present: Mr. Blair G. Ewing, President

 in the Chair

 Mrs. Frances Brenneman

 Dr. Alan Cheung

 Mrs. Sharon Difonzo

 Mrs. Carol Fanconi

 Ms. Ana Sol Gutierrez

Absent: Mr. David Chang

 Mrs. Catherine E. Hobbs

Others Present: Dr. Harry Pitt, Superintendent

 Dr. Paul L. Vance, Deputy Superintendent

 Mr. Thomas S. Fess, Parliamentarian

Re: ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr. Ewing announced that there would be a special business meeting of the Board on Tuesday, January 29, 1991, at 7 p.m. He reported that Mr. Chang and Mrs. Hobbs were unable to be present but would read all the testimony submitted.

Re: STATEMENT BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
ON EFFORTS TO ADDRESS THE FINANCIAL
CRISIS THREATENING MONTGOMERY
COUNTY

The following statement was entered into the record:

The members of the Board of Education and superintendent of schools believe the financial crisis in Montgomery County is real and threatens to undermine the fiscal well-being of the Montgomery County Public Schools and the county government at large.

The Board members and the superintendent are prepared to cooperate with the county executive and the County Council in identifying measures to be taken by the school system to reduce expenditures. It should be understood, however, that the revenue shortfall predicted by the county executive of at least \$68 million from the current proposed budget cannot be absorbed without a serious disruption to schools and centrally administered programs and services. (The projected increase of just \$9.3 million over current expenditures will not cover even the increase in enrollment, let alone the impact of just inflation.) This massive loss of revenue, if unresolved by the

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county, means that every program and activity offered by our schools may face a detailed review for an outright reduction.

The Board will ask all the public, the PTA and employee organizations associated with MCPS to join in our efforts to deal responsibly and resourcefully in finding solutions to the variety of problems created by this fiscal crisis.

Efforts are already being taken to reduce costs, control expenditures, and evaluate existing programs for additional savings. The superintendent has already imposed an extensive hiring freeze, overtime controls and cutbacks in the use of substitutes, consultants, part-time staff and out-of-state travel in order to save \$2.2 million this year. All equipment funds, for example, have been frozen.

The Board of Education has authorized additional measures to identify immediate and long-term cost reductions through greater efficiency and cost savings. Furthermore, a review a next year's operating budget will be made by the Board to further identify significant reductions in the budget. Detailed discussions with internal auditors have been initiated to obtain information about potential areas of expenditure controls for this year, as well as next year.

The Board has also authorized a comprehensive analysis of management improvements that may produce greater efficiency and cost reductions, particularly in the areas of transportation, plant operations, procurement and maintenance. The analysis will also review management systems for curriculum and instruction, special education, program evaluation, and staff development.

Furthermore, the Board is to appoint a task force of citizens knowledgeable about the school system and external management innovation to assist the Board in identifying areas where other savings may be made. The Board is seeking recommendations from employee and parent organizations, community and civic groups, and other public representatives on ways in which the school system can create greater efficiency and cost containment.

Re: PUBLIC HEARING ON OPERATING BUDGET
PROPOSALS FOR THE SCHOOL AND FISCAL
YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 1992

The following individuals appeared before the Board of Education:

1. Michael Weiss, Individual
2. Margo Fonoroff, Montgomery County Educational Media Specialists Association
3. Riley Chung, ESOL Advisory Committee
4. Edward Shirley, Secondary School Administrators Association

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5. Susan Stracquatonio, Montgomery County Civic Federation
6. Susan Ceppos, Bridge School PTSA
7. Valeria Ford, Alpha Kappa Alpha
8. Hanley Norment, NAACP
9. Gary Gaines, Individual
10. Karen Karch, Elementary School Administrators Association

The following representatives of the Area 2 clusters appeared before the Board:

1. Churchill Cluster - Mary Twigg, Suzie Braunstein, Joyce Mitchell, and Gloria Rutberg
2. Richard Montgomery Cluster - Kathy Truesdale, Cluster Coordinator
3. Quince Orchard Cluster - Nancy Rea, Co-cluster Coordinator
4. Rockville Cluster - Claude Matsui, Co-cluster Coordinator
5. Wheaton Cluster - John Humphries, Cluster Coordinator; Nan McIntyre, Brookhaven Elementary School; John Taylor, Viers Mill Elementary School; and Jay Wood, Harmony Hills Elementary School
6. Wootton Cluster - Walter Lange, Cluster Coordinator

Re: ADJOURNMENT

The president adjourned the meeting at 10:40 p.m.

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY

HP:mlw