

APPROVED
9-1996

Rockville, Maryland
February 6, 1996

The Board of Education of Montgomery County met in special session at the Carver Educational Services Center, Rockville, Maryland, on Tuesday, February 6, 1996, at 7:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL Present: Ms. Ana Sol Gutiérrez, President
in the Chair
Dr. Alan Cheung
Mr. Blair G. Ewing
Mr. Reginald Felton
Mrs. Beatrice B. Gordon
Mrs. Nancy King
Mr. Charles McCullough

Absent: Mr. Stephen Abrams

Others Present: Dr. Paul L. Vance, Superintendent
Mrs. Katheryn W. Gemberling, Deputy
Mr. Larry A. Bowers, Acting Deputy

RESOLUTION NO. 65-1996 Re: BOARD AGENDA - FEBRUARY 6, 1996

On recommendation of the superintendent and on motion of Mr. McCullough seconded by Mr. Felton, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present:

Resolved, That the Board of Education approve the agenda for February 6, 1996.

RESOLUTION NO. 66-1996 Re: ITEM OF LEGISLATION

On motion of Mrs. Gordon and seconded by Mrs. King, the following resolution was adopted with Dr. Cheung, Mr. Ewing, Mr. Felton, Mrs. Gordon, Ms. Gutiérrez, and Mrs. King voting in the affirmative; Mr. McCullough voting in the negative:

Resolved, That the Board of Education support the provision in SB 221/HB 298 - School Order and Discipline - with no restriction on damages recoverable by the school system.

RESOLUTION NO. 67-1996 Re: ITEM OF LEGISLATION

On recommendation of the superintendent and on motion of Dr. Cheung seconded by Mr. McCullough the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present:

Resolved, That the Board of Education supports SB 221/HB 298 - Education - School Order and Discipline in part and if amended as follows:

Require each local board of education to provide a continuum model of prevention and intervention activities and programs that encourage and promote positive behavior and reduce disruption. SUPPORT

Require that LEAs applying for state funding for disruptive youth programs develop a needs assessment for each school and a plan with goals and measurable objectives for the continuum model. SUPPORT IF STATE FUNDING IS AVAILABLE

Permit principals to suspend students for up to ten days, rather than five, without superintendent action. The bill would require suspended students to stay off school premises and prohibit their participation in school sponsored activities. A suspended student could not return to class without a conference with the principal, teachers, and parents. OPPOSE

Require students or their parents to provide restitution for damage to school property or property of another person in school. Alternatively, students may also be assigned to a school work project. SUPPORT

Require the State Board of Education and the Cabinet Council on Criminal and Juvenile Justice to adopt State Discipline Code with minimum standards of conduct and specified consequences for violations. OPPOSE

Require local discipline policies to provide for educational and behavioral interventions, student and parent conferences, and alternative programs, including in-school suspension. SUPPORT

Provide clearer protection from liability for teachers and other school personnel who intervene to prevent violent and disruptive behaviors on school premises or on a school-sponsored trip. AMEND TO EXPAND COVERAGE

Permit specified school staff to search students for an item, the possession of which violates any state law or school board regulation. OPPOSE

RESOLUTION NO. 68-1996 Re: ITEM OF LEGISLATION

On recommendation of the superintendent and on motion of Dr. Cheung seconded by Mrs. King, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present:

Resolved, That the Board of Education supports SB 220/HB 261 - Education - School Performance Recognition Awards if there is additional funding.

RESOLUTION NO. 69-1996 Re: ITEM OF LEGISLATION

On recommendation of the superintendent and on motion of Mrs. King seconded by Mr. McCullough, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present:

Resolved, That the Board of Education opposes HB 52 - Education - Public Schools - Codes of Discipline.

RESOLUTION NO. 70-1996 Re: ITEM OF LEGISLATION

On recommendation of the superintendent and on motion of Mr. Ewing seconded by Mrs. King, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present:

Resolved, That the Board of Education very strongly opposes HB 527 - Education - Public Schools - Task Force on School Choice since the issue is a local decision and how the schools are managed in light of integration.

Re: ANNOUNCEMENT

Ms. Gutiérrez announced the ground rules for amending the superintendent's FY 1997 Operating Budget. Final action will be taken on February 8, 1996, where all tentative amendments will be voted on. The student member's vote does not count on budget issues; however, his vote is recorded and appears in parenthesis. Each amendment must receive a second and four votes.

Mr. McCullough made the following statement for the record:

“There are no great people in this world, only great challenges, which ordinary people rise to meet.

Our great challenge tonight is the K-12 instructional portion of the FY 1997 operating budget. Because this part of the budget has such an obvious and disparate impact on our students, it also has an impact on our future. So tonight we are truly budgeting for the future. The future doctors, lawyers, and board members. But also the future criminals, drug addicts, and thieves. Without the proper investment in our education, we will be budgeting more for the latter and less for the future society we want.

I know what you are thinking, 'Yeah, yeah, Mr. McCullough, I've heard it all before. The children are the future. It's all the same rhetoric.' No, it is not rhetoric, it is fact. It is just

a fact so apparent, so proven time and time again, and unfortunately so abused by career politicians, that it is oft confused with rhetoric.

So, tonight as we sit down, at length, and budget for our future let us know that all the answers are not with us tonight. Nor will they all be with us any other night. But what is with us are our guiding principles; a vision and four goals that we know will ensure the success for every student. Following this map, and using the compass that is our conscience, we will find the right answers.

Tonight, I urge you to not willingly bow to the notion of one advisory group, or what might look best come March 5 or November 5. Let us instead act in the best interest of all of our students. Students who need to learn how to bring out those skills in them, to survive in the world, job market, and society of tomorrow. If we do not guarantee this, we have not only failed the future, the students, and the electorate, but we have failed ourselves.

The budget is about more than numbers, it is about a quality education, the success of every student and every other well intentioned slogan we have. Tonight, I challenge myself and each of you to do his or her part to make those well phrased goals of, Success for Every Student, closer to realities.

I know what you are thinking now, 'So, Mr. McCullough, why are you appealing to our hearts.' Well, because contrary to popular belief at this time, I know that Board members have hearts. Secondly, during this budget time, it seems as though all of us are a little bereft of reason. But, with all the pressures of this time, who would not be?

With good intentions for the community, parents, and students alike, let us not support any actions tonight that are retrograde to our desire for a quality education. Such plans include but are not limited to those which would unduly tax our parents, whatever the amount, 25 or 50 dollars. Or, those plans that would continue to undermine the use and distribution of technology driven programs, initiatives, and supporting staff.

We should, however, move our system forward by supporting our children in elementary school, increasing the dimensions of Head Start and kindergarten, and the scope of reading programs.

We should support in our middle schools efforts such as limited mid-level sports that will serve to re-enforce the teamwork, school spirit, and ethics aspect of all our middle school philosophy.

In our high schools and schools throughout the county, we must decrease class size, and adequately staff our media and career centers as well as our guidance offices.

Yes, it will be a considerable investment, and in the end the County Council may say no. But, we are not here tonight for the County Council, we are here for the future -- our students. Therefore, we must buy into our educational system without selling ourselves out to the County Council.

In summation Madam President, I know I sound as if I am speaking while atop a high horse, carefully perched on a soap box. But, as one who represents the populous of our county, and more directly those 100,000+ students directly affected by your budgetary adjustments, I have a right and all of us cause to listen.

Please let us not repeat last year's mistake and hastily paste together a budget. Because in the end, it will mean more than just nasty letters from the community. It will mean teachers not adequately being able to teach and students like me not being able to fully learn. And, in this time of social change, not fully educating our students is a budget concern we cannot afford to invest in.

To know that our students are our first priority is not enough. We must take actions to prove it. Tonight, as we amend the budget, we must be committed in action to our vision of a better school system. For vision and no action is a dream. Action without vision is a waste of time. But, with actions that follow our vision, we can made a world of change.

Finally, during this budget time, some of us have suggested that we strive to only keep our educational system at the level it was this year. This idea is wrong and crosswise. Its major failure is that it is rooted in the status quo and will subject our system to only being average. We cannot afford to be average. For when you are average, you are as close to the bottom as you are to the top. Instead, we must strive to improve in some measure our total quality levels. Yes, it will cost. But, quality remains long after the price is forgotten.

There are no great people in this world -- only great challenges -- which ordinary people rise to meet. So, let us rise tonight and let the welfare of our school system, and the students therein, be our supreme guide."

Re: A MOTION BY MR. EWING TO AMEND THE FY
1997 OPERATING BUDGET - ART AND MUSIC
TEACHERS (FAILED)

On motion of Mr. Ewing and seconded by Dr. Cheung to add two art and two music teachers failed with Dr. Cheung. Mr. Ewing, and Ms. Gutiérrez voting in the affirmative; Mr. Felton, Mrs. Gordon, Mrs. King, and (Mr. McCullough) voting in the negative.

Re: A MOTION BY MR. EWING TO AMEND THE FY
1997 OPERATING BUDGET - TITLE I (FAILED)

On motion of Mr. Ewing and seconded by Mr. McCullough to add funds to expand Title I up to five schools now eligible and depending on the extent federal funding is available failed with Dr. Cheung, Mr. Ewing, Ms. Gutiérrez, and (Mr. McCullough) voting in the affirmative; Mr. Felton, Mrs. Gordon, and Mrs. King voting in the negative.

Re: A MOTION BY MR. EWING TO AMEND THE FY
1997 OPERATING BUDGET - TITLE I (FAILED)

On motion of Mr. Ewing and seconded by Mr. McCullough to add \$200,000 to expand Title I up to five schools now eligible and depending on the extent federal funding is available failed with Dr. Cheung, Mr. Ewing, Ms. Gutiérrez, and (Mr. McCullough) voting in the affirmative; Mr. Felton, Mrs. Gordon, and Mrs. King voting in the negative.

Re: A MOTION BY MR. EWING TO AMEND THE FY
1997 OPERATING BUDGET - PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT

On motion of Mr. Ewing and seconded by Ms. Gutiérrez to add \$200,000 for professional development and training for teachers with half that amount for tuition assistance using current criteria for awarding funds and the other half for training needs to implement Board programs and priorities was put on the table.

Re: A MOTION BY MR. EWING TO POSTPONE
THE VOTE ON THE MOTION TO AMEND THE
FY 1997 OPERATING BUDGET -
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (FAILED)

On motion of Mr. Ewing and seconded by Mr. McCullough to postpone the vote to add \$200,000 for professional development and training for teachers with half that amount for tuition assistance using current criteria for awarding funds and the other half for training needs to implement Board programs and priorities failed with Dr. Cheung, Mr. Ewing, Ms. Gutiérrez, and (Mr. McCullough) voting in the affirmative; Mr. Felton, Mrs. Gordon, and Mrs. King voting in the negative.

Re: A MOTION BY MR. EWING TO AMEND THE FY
1997 OPERATING BUDGET - PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT(FAILED)

On motion of Mr. Ewing and seconded by Ms. Gutiérrez to add \$200,000 for professional development and training for teachers with half that amount for tuition assistance using current criteria for awarding funds and the other half for training needs to implement Board programs and priorities failed with Dr. Cheung, Mr. Ewing, Ms. Gutiérrez, and (Mr. McCullough) voting in the affirmative; Mr. Felton, Mrs. Gordon, and Mrs. King voting in the negative.

Re: A MOTION BY MR. EWING TO AMEND THE FY
1997 OPERATING BUDGET - SPECIAL
EDUCATION (FAILED)

On motion of Mr. Ewing and seconded by Dr. Cheung to add four speech pathologists failed with Dr. Cheung, Mr. Ewing, Ms. Gutiérrez, and (Mr. McCullough) voting in the affirmative; Mr. Felton, Mrs. Gordon, and Mrs. King voting in the negative.

Re: A MOTION BY MR. EWING TO AMEND THE FY
1997 OPERATING BUDGET - SPECIAL
EDUCATION (FAILED)

On motion of Mr. Ewing and seconded by Dr. Cheung to add two speech pathologists failed with Dr. Cheung, Mr. Ewing, Ms. Gutiérrez, and (Mr. McCullough) voting in the affirmative; Mr. Felton, Mrs. Gordon, and Mrs. King voting in the negative.

Re: A MOTION BY MR. EWING TO AMEND THE FY
1997 OPERATING BUDGET - SPECIAL
EDUCATION (FAILED)

On motion of Mr. Ewing and seconded by Dr. Cheung to add one orientation and mobility specialist failed with Dr. Cheung, Mr. Ewing, and Ms. Gutiérrez voting in the affirmative; Mr. Felton, Mrs. Gordon, Mrs. King, and (Mr. McCullough) voting in the negative.

Re: A MOTION BY MR. EWING TO AMEND THE FY
1997 OPERATING BUDGET - SPECIAL
EDUCATION (FAILED)

On motion of Mr. Ewing and seconded by Dr. Cheung to add one teacher for auditory and \$20,000 for interpreters for the deaf and hard of hearing failed with Mr. Ewing and

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Ms. Gutiérrez voting in the affirmative; Dr. Cheung, Mr. Felton, Mrs. Gordon, Mrs. King, and (Mr. McCullough) voting in the negative.

Re: A MOTION BY MR. EWING TO AMEND THE FY
1997 OPERATING BUDGET - SPECIAL
EDUCATION (FAILED)

On motion of Mr. Ewing and seconded by Dr. Cheung to add \$15,000 for part-time interpreters for the deaf and hard of hearing failed with Dr. Cheung, Mr. Ewing, Ms. Gutiérrez, and (Mr. McCullough) voting in the affirmative; Mr. Felton, Mrs. Gordon, and Mrs. King voting in the negative.

RESOLUTION NO.76 -1996 Re: ADJOURNMENT

On recommendation of the superintendent and on motion of Mrs. King and seconded by Mr. McCullough, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present:

Resolved, That the Board of Education adjourn its meeting at 11:35 p.m.

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY

PLV:gr