

APPROVED
13-1997

Rockville, Maryland
February 24, 1997

The Board of Education of Montgomery County met in regular session at the Carver Educational Services Center, Rockville, Maryland, on Monday, February 24, 1997, at 8:10 p.m.

ROLL CALL Present: Mr. Reginald M. Felton, President
in the Chair
Dr. Alan Cheung
Mr. Blair G. Ewing
Mrs. Beatrice B. Gordon
Ms. Ana Sol Gutiérrez
Mrs. Nancy J. King
Ms. Mona M. Signer
Ms. Rachel A. Prager
Dr. Paul L. Vance, Secretary/Treasurer

#indicates student vote does not count. Four votes needed for adoption.

RESOLUTION NO. 150-97 Re: **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

Resolved, That the Board of Education approve its agenda for February 24, 1997.

RESOLUTION NO. 151-97 Re: **ITEM OF LEGISLATION**

On recommendation of the superintendent and on motion of Dr. Cheung seconded by Ms. Gutiérrez, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

Resolved, That the Board of Education support HB 1176, *Statewide Aid for Students from Poverty Families*, that would award each jurisdiction, except Baltimore City, the same dollars for each free and reduced price meal (FARM) student as the \$30 million of additional state aid proposed for Baltimore City Public Schools divided by the 76,934 FARM students in the city.

RESOLUTION NO. 152-97 Re: **ITEM OF LEGISLATION**

On recommendation of the superintendent and on motion of Mrs. King seconded by Ms. Prager, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

Resolved, That the Board of Education take no position on HB 1058, *Primary and Secondary Education - New Targeted Poverty Grant Program*, that would provide

additional funding for educating students living in poverty. Under this one year proposal, jurisdictions would receive funds on a scale based on percentages of FARM students.

RESOLUTION NO. 153-97 Re: ITEM OF LEGISLATION

On recommendation of the superintendent and on motion of Mr. Ewing seconded by Ms. Gutiérrez, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

Resolved, That the Board of Education strongly support SB 707, *Education - Funding - Average Daily Attendance*, that would alter the current basic expense formula (APEX) by basing the enrollment factor used in calculating state aid on the average daily attendance rate in the most recent Maryland School Performance Report.

RESOLUTION NO. 154-97 Re: ITEM OF LEGISLATION

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

Resolved, That the Board of Education strongly support SB 773, *Education - State Funding - Social Security Contributions*, that would partially restore state social security funding for public school teachers, community college professors and librarians.

RESOLUTION NO. 155-97 Re: ITEM OF LEGISLATION

On recommendation of the superintendent and on motion of Ms. Prager seconded by Mrs. Gordon, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

Resolved, That the Board of Education strongly support SB 776, *Education - Grants for Non- and Limited-English Proficient Students*, that would increase the state Limited English Proficient (LEP) grant from \$500 to \$1,000 for each LEP student and would remove the two year cap on the time a LEP student may be included in the count.

RESOLUTION NO. 156-97 Re: ITEM OF LEGISLATION

On recommendation of the superintendent and on motion of Ms. Signer seconded by Mrs. Gordon, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

Resolved, That the Board of Education oppose SB 544, *State Tobacco Tax - Smoking and Cancer Prevention Fund - Poverty Grants for Schools*, that would establish a special fund to provide poverty grants to local school boards using 65% of the additional revenue from the proposed tobacco tax increase.

RESOLUTION NO. 157-97 Re: ITEM OF LEGISLATION

On recommendation of the superintendent and on motion of Ms. Signer seconded by Mrs. King, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

Resolved, That the Board of Education support HB 1010/SB 651, *Sales and Use Tax - Exemption for Sales by Schools*, that would exempt schools and PTAs from sales tax on net proceeds from sales and fundraisers that will be used exclusively for the benefit of elementary and secondary schools

RESOLUTION NO. 158-97 Re: ITEM OF LEGISLATION

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

Resolved, That the Board of Education support SB 398, *Education - Student Suspension and Expulsion*, that would permit a county superintendent to deny attendance to a student expelled from another school system anywhere, not only in Maryland.

RESOLUTION NO. 159-97 Re: ITEM OF LEGISLATION

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

Resolved, That the Board of Education support SB 394, *Workers= Compensation - Students in Unpaid Work-Based Learning Experiences*, that would provide workers= compensation coverage for students who have been placed in an unpaid work-based learning experience.

RESOLUTION NO. 160-97 Re: ITEM OF LEGISLATION

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

Resolved, That the Board of Education oppose HB 1034 , *Employees= and Teachers= Pension Systems - Alternate Pension Selection*, which would provide an alternate pension selection for current and future members of the Employees= and Teachers= Pension Systems.

RESOLUTION NO. 161-97 Re: **ITEM OF LEGISLATION**

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

Resolved, That the Board of Education oppose HB 746, *Public School Property - Possession of Portable Pager*, that would permit students to have portable pagers in cars that are lawfully on public school property and not involved in criminal activity.

RESOLUTION NO. 162-97 Re: **ITEM OF LEGISLATION**

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

Resolved, That the Board of Education support HB 1361, *Education - Public Schools - Publishing of Courses and Alternative Activities*, that would require local school systems to provide information in their course catalogues about alternative activities available to students in any courses.

RESOLUTION NO. 163-97 Re: **WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH - MARCH 1997**

On recommendation of the superintendent and on motion Mrs. Gordon seconded by Ms. Gutiérrez, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

WHEREAS, In 1987, Congress passed a resolution proclaiming the month of March as "National Women's History Month;" and

WHEREAS, The Maryland Women's History Project has selected the theme "Maryland Women Leading the Way" to commemorate Women's History Month in 1997; and

WHEREAS, Our state and, in particular, Montgomery County, are home to many outstanding women who have made invaluable contributions at the local, state, and national levels; and

WHEREAS, Women in government and politics, law, medicine, science, business, arts and humanities, athletics, education, law enforcement, the service industries, and the volunteer sector play a vital role in Montgomery County; and

WHEREAS, Women of diverse ethnic, cultural, and socioeconomic backgrounds have enriched their communities and played a vital role in the success of our school system

through their work as homemakers, volunteers, Board of Education members, and staff members; now therefore be it

Resolved, That on behalf of the superintendent, staff, students, and parents of the Montgomery County Public Schools, the members of the Board of Education hereby declare the month of March 1997 to be observed as "Women's History Month."

Re: SCHOOL BUS SAFETY POSTER CONTEST AWARDS

Montgomery County Public Schools=Division of Transportation annually sponsors a school bus safety contest in conjunction with schools and art teachers. The most outstanding posters representing MCPS and Maryland were submitted to the National School Bus Safety Contest. This year's national entries were created by Alexandra Hamlin, Woodfield Elementary School, and Gregory Howard, Westbrook Elementary School. The Board President presented each student with a \$50 United States Saving Board and a certificate.

RESOLUTION NO. 164-97 Re: RECOGNITION OF 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF NATIONAL PTA

On recommendation of the superintendent and on motion Mrs. Gordon seconded by Ms. Signer, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

WHEREAS, The first meeting of the National Congress of Mothers, the predecessor to today's National PTA, was held in Washington, D.C. on February 17, 1897, since celebrated as Founders' Day, with Alice McLellan Birney of Chevy Chase elected as its first president; and

WHEREAS, The first state congress was founded that same year in New York; and

WHEREAS, The first local association was founded in Kansas City, Missouri in 1899; and

WHEREAS, In recognition of the importance of parent-teacher partnerships, the national organization changed its name in 1908 to the National Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Associations, eventually changing its name again to the National Congress of Parents and Teachers in 1924; and

WHEREAS, The Maryland Congress of Parents and Teachers was formed in 1915; and

WHEREAS, The Montgomery County Council of PTAs was formed in 1944, growing from 15 local chapters then to 170 local chapters now, with 60,000 current members; and

WHEREAS, The National PTA has grown today to almost 7 million members, headed by National President Joan Dykstra, a resident of Ellicott City, Maryland; now therefore be it Resolved, That the Montgomery County Board of Education congratulate the National PTA on one hundred years of service on behalf of our nation's children and, further, commend one of its most outstanding councils, the Montgomery County Council of PTA's, for its long-time effective advocacy of parental involvement, increased financing of public education, adequate school construction funding, human relations and cultural diversity, and site-based participatory management, among other noteworthy endeavors.

Re: PUBLIC COMMENTS

The following people appeared before the Board:

<u>Person</u>	<u>Topic</u>
1. Joanne Morris	Sign Language Interpreter
2. Lyda Astrove	Special Education
3. Mary Keyser	Special Education

RESOLUTION NO. 165-97 Re: PROCUREMENT CONTRACTS MORE THAN \$25,000

On recommendation of the superintendent and on motion Mrs. Gordon seconded by Mrs. King, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:#

WHEREAS, Funds have been budgeted for the purchase of equipment, supplies, and contractual services; now therefore be it

Resolved, That having been duly advertised, the following contracts be awarded to the low bidders meeting specifications as shown for the bids as follows:

94-08 Speech Therapy Services - Extension

Awardee

Berman, Peveryly and Associates \$ 207,800 *

53-96 Printing of Adult Education and Summer School
Bulletin - Extension

Awardee

Bartash Publishing, Inc. \$ 70,314

131-96 Hand Held Calculators - Extension

Awardee

Eric Armin, Inc. \$ 200,000

137-96 Library Furniture - Extension

Awardees

Douron, Inc.	\$ 57,536 *
Kunz, Inc.	<u>242</u>
Total	\$ 57,778

85-97 Elevator, Handicap, Stage and Material Lift Maintenance

Awardee

Columbia Elevator Company, Inc. \$ 93,436

220-97 Office and School Supplies

Awardees

BC Lucas Binders	\$ 19,038
Boise Cascade Office Products	172,633
CDP Computer Supplies, Inc.	1,847
Corporate Express	24,338
Elgin School Supply Company, Inc.	28,830
Integrity	58,689 *
Jot, Inc.	35,887 *
Logans Marketing	36,503 *
Office Depot	9,465
Printing Technology, Inc.	29,011
Pyramid School Products	166,807
Reliable Reproduction Supply Company	2,300 *
School Specialty	80,708
Standard Stationery Supply Company	24,412
Willard Packaging Company, Inc.	<u>4,139</u>
Total	\$ 694,607

301-97 Modular Computer Work Stations

Awardees

BT Office Products International, Inc.	
Kerpatrick, Inc.	*
Landon Systems Corporation	
Spectrum Industries, Inc.	
Total	\$ 206,250

305-97 Science Equipment for Physics Program

Awardee

Pasco Scientific	\$ 27,075
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MORE THAN \$25,000 \$1,557,260

* Denotes MFD vendors

RESOLUTION NO. 166-97 Re: NORTH CHEVY CHASE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - GRANT OF STORM DRAINAGE EASEMENT AND RIGHT-OF-WAY AND TEMPORARY SLOPE AND GRADING EASEMENT

On recommendation of the superintendent and on motion Mrs. Gordon seconded by Ms. Prager, the following resolution was adopted unanimously: #

WHEREAS, The Montgomery County Government has requested a grant of storm drainage easement and right-of-way and temporary slope and grading easement at North Chevy Chase Elementary School, located at 3700 Jones Bridge Road in Chevy Chase; and

WHEREAS, Design and construction of a storm drain along the frontage of Manor Road require a grant of storm drainage easement and right-of-way of 1,359 square feet of land and an adjacent temporary slope and grading easement of 630 square feet of land; and

WHEREAS, The proposed grant of storm drainage easement and right-of-way will benefit both the school system and community by providing efficient storm water drainage and will not affect any land anticipated to be utilized for school purposes; and

WHEREAS, All construction and restoration will be performed at no cost to the Board of Education, with the Montgomery County Government and its contractors assuming liability for all damages or injury; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the president and secretary of the Board of Education be authorized to execute a grant of storm drainage easement and right-of-way of 1,359 square feet of land and a temporary slope and grading easement in 630 square feet of land along the frontage of Manor Road at North Chevy Chase Elementary School.

RESOLUTION NO. 167-97 Re: GRANT OF STORM DRAINAGE EASEMENT AND RIGHT-OF-WAY
AT ALBERT EINSTEIN HIGH SCHOOL

On recommendation of the superintendent and on motion Mrs. Gordon seconded by Ms. Prager, the following resolution was adopted unanimously: #

WHEREAS, The Montgomery County Government has requested a grant of storm drainage easement and right-of-way on a portion of the Albert Einstein High School site, located at 11135 Newport Mill Road in Kensington; and

WHEREAS, The proposed grant of storm drainage easement and right-of-way, consisting of 3,321 square feet, is necessary to provide storm drainage facilities to serve the adjacent residential development; and

WHEREAS, The proposed grant of storm drainage easement and right-of-way will not adversely affect any land anticipated to be utilized for school purposes and would benefit the school and community by providing improved storm water drainage; and

WHEREAS, All construction, restoration and future maintenance will be at no cost to the Board of Education, with Montgomery County Government and its contractors assuming all liability for all damages or injury; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the president and secretary of the Board of Education be authorized to execute a grant of easement and right-of-way consisting of 3,321 square feet to the Montgomery County Government at Albert Einstein High School.

RESOLUTION NO. 168-97 Re: UTILIZATION OF FY 1997 FUTURE SUPPORTED PROJECT FUNDS
FOR INFUSING TECHNOLOGY INTO INSTRUCTION OF AT-RISK STUDENTS

On recommendation of the superintendent and on motion Mrs. Gordon seconded by Mrs. King, the following resolution was adopted unanimously: #

Resolved, That the superintendent of schools be authorized to receive and expend within the FY 1997 Provision for Future Supported Projects, a second year grant award of \$3,000 from the National Foundation for the Improvement of Education for the continuation of a project to provide in-depth technology training to a team of general and special educators at John F. Kennedy High School in the following category:

<u>Category</u>	<u>Amount</u>
3 Other Instructional Costs	<u>\$3,000</u>
Total	<u>\$3,000</u>

and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be sent to the county executive and County Council.

RESOLUTION NO. 169-97 Re: UTILIZATION OF FY 1997 FUTURE SUPPORTED PROJECT FUNDS FOR THE CHILD ABUSE, YOUTH SUICIDE, AND TEEN PREGNANCY PREVENTION PROGRAM

On recommendation of the superintendent and on motion Ms. Gutiérrez seconded by Mrs. King, the following resolution was adopted unanimously: #

Resolved, That the superintendent of schools be authorized to receive and expend within the FY 1997 Future Supported Project Funds a grant award of \$16,000 from the Maryland State Department of Education for the Child Abuse, Youth Suicide, and Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program in the following categories:

<u>Category</u>	<u>Amount</u>
1 Systemwide Support	\$ 455
2 Instructional Salaries	1,760
3 Other Instructional Costs	13,640
10 Fixed Charges	<u>145</u>
Total	<u>\$16,000</u>

and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the county executive and County Council.

RESOLUTION NO. 170-97 Re: UTILIZATION OF FY 1997 FUTURE SUPPORTED PROJECT FUNDS
FOR THE INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION
PROGRAM

On recommendation of the superintendent and on motion Ms. Signer seconded by Mrs. King, the following resolution was adopted unanimously: #

Resolved, That the superintendent of schools be authorized to receive and expend within the FY 1997 Provision for Future Supported Projects a grant award of \$359,317 from the U.S. Department of Education under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (P.L. 101-476), via the Maryland State Department of Education for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Program, in the following categories:

	<u>Category</u>	<u>Amount</u>
4	Special Education	\$ 306,317
7	Transportation	49,560
10	Fixed Charges	<u>3,440</u>
	Total	<u>\$ 359,317</u>

and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be sent to the county executive and County Council.

RESOLUTION NO. 171-97 Re: APPROVAL OF ADVANCED PLACEMENT ENGLISH LANGUAGE
AND COMPOSITION A&B

On recommendation of the superintendent and on motion Ms. Signer seconded by Mrs. King, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

WHEREAS, The public school laws of Maryland specify that the county superintendent shall prepare courses of study and recommend them for adoption by the county Board (*The Annotated Code of the Public General Laws of Maryland, Education* [Volume], Sec. 4-205; and

WHEREAS, The public school laws of Maryland also state that the county Board, on the written recommendation of the county superintendent, shall establish courses of study for the schools under its jurisdiction (*Ibid.*, Sec. 4-110); and

WHEREAS, The *Program of Studies* is the document that contains all the prescribed curriculum elements, including instructional objectives, of all Montgomery County Public Schools curriculum programs and courses (Montgomery County Public Schools *Regulation IFB-RA, Development and Approval of Curriculum and Supporting Materials*); and

WHEREAS, Excellence in curriculum can be maintained only by continuing attention to the need for curriculum change; and

WHEREAS, The Council on Instruction, charged by the superintendent with considering recommendations for curriculum change, has recommended approval of the curricula for *Advanced Placement English Language and Composition*; and

WHEREAS, The superintendent recommends that the Board approve this course; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board of Education approve *Advanced Placement English Language and Composition* for publication in the *Program of Studies* as part of the Montgomery County Public Schools curriculum to become effective in the 1996-97 school year.

RESOLUTION NO. 172-97 Re: PERSONNEL APPOINTMENT

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

Resolved, That the following personnel appointment be approved effective February 25, 1997:

<u>Appointment</u>	<u>Present Position</u>	<u>As</u>
Carol K. LeVine	Assistant Principal, Montgomery Blair HS	Principal, Ridgeview MS

RESOLUTION NO. 173-97 Re: PERSONNEL APPOINTMENT

On recommendation of the superintendent and on motion of Mrs. King seconded by Ms. Signer, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

Resolved, That the following personnel appointment be approved effective February 25, 1997:

<u>Appointment</u>	<u>Present Position</u>	<u>As</u>
Ellen L. Schaefer	Acting Supervisor, Division Supervisor, Special	

Speech and Language

Education, Programs and
ServicesRe: PROPOSED MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION'S HIGH SCHOOL ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

Dr. Cheung recognized the other members of the Research and Evaluation Subcommittee of the Board of Education: Ms. Gutiérrez, Mr. Felton, and Ms. Signer. The subcommittee had been briefed regularly on the high school assessment program. The staff is working closely with the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) as well as the Education Testing Service (ETS). The subcommittee has been supportive of statewide and national standards, but there are seven critical questions raised by ETS and staff has provided responses for the Board's consideration.

Dr. Vance stated that the MSDE high school assessment program (the assessment) has been a topic of interest and concern for about two years. There has been a group of teachers, curriculum specialists, principals, and parents closely following state developments and assessing the impact on both MCPS students and curriculum. The group has worked closely with MSDE. The Maryland State Board of Education (SBOE) was scheduled to take action on February 26, 1997, that would lock in the design of these assessments. Because of the potential impact on MCPS and the limited feedback from MSDE, staff has been fully involved and this has been productive. There is a position paper written and adopted by the high school workgroup, adopted unanimously by high school principals, and endorsed by senior staff. MCPS is strongly in favor of higher standards and higher achievement levels for students. However, the process is incomplete and the leadership at MSDE is rushing the process without allowing student achievement to catch up with assessment standards.

Dr. Vance invited to the table: Ms. Joy Odom, coordinator of Student Assessment; Mr. Jay Headman, principal of Winston Churchill High School; and Mr. Dale Fulton, teacher at Winston Churchill High School.

Ms. Odom commented on the background of the assessment, steps taken to date, and action(s) to be taken by the Board. Mr. Fulton reported that the position paper of the work group (35 members) was developed after attending the public hearings around the state, attending worksessions with the SBOE, meeting with the state curriculum coordinators, and meeting with MSDE staff and ETS staff to clarify MCPS positions and gain information. Mr. Headman reported that the position paper was unanimously endorsed by the principals. The major concerns are (1) a partnership with the state, and (2) the need for a dialogue about assessment throughout the state. Mr. Felton pointed out that the position paper expresses the view of the Research and Evaluation Subcommittee.

Ms. Prager was concerned about the resolution because it supports high school assessments. She does not support that position based on Milwaukee program where 79% of the students failed when they first took the test, and the fact that the assessment will impact what goes on in the classroom.

Mrs. Gordon was more concerned about the speed and determination with which the state is moving forward on the assessment. There appears to be a disconnect between the SBOE and MSDE since information obtained by MSDE is not being forwarded to the SBOE. There were discrepancies in the answers and information given to the list of questions. The position paper before the Board is adequate, but it is not strong enough in raising issues about the assessment and the decisions being made by the MSDE and SBOE. One issue is the core battery of tests that would require students to pass 10 out of 12 tests, and the discussion that as many as 50% of the students will fail with a lower graduation rate. There needs to be an accompanying statement with the resolution and position paper that raises the issues and concerns on the impact the assessment will have on students. The school system when forward with the assessment plans with the assurance that the assessment would match MCPS= exams; however, it appears that cannot occur under the new definitions of the assessment, and it would have a devastating affect on MCPS students.

Mr. Ewing thought the statement is readable, but there is a growing sense of the community that the state is moving too rapidly and issues that were being discussed are quickly reaching the decision stage. The Board should openly communicate that impression to the SBOE, and a failure to do so makes it seem that the Board is in favor of high standards, but not so fast. The LEA wants to be part of the decision making for setting higher standards without implying that participation would lower standards. The Board needs to be very clear on its position, and where it is headed strategically.

Dr. Cheung pointed out that the Board must be clear on what the state's definition is on high standards and how that relates to curriculum and instruction. There is a big gap in the formulation of federal and state policy and implementation and management of those policies at the local level.

Mrs. King asked if the assessment will need approval of the legislature. Ms. Odom responded that the assessment will not need approval, but the funding will be obtained from the legislature.

Ms. Gutiérrez commended staff for working with the state on this issue, and not all LEAs have had the opportunity to become as familiar or as involved with the process. The key question is reflected in what is happening to other states in setting standards and the graduation rate. She was impressed with the expertise and thoughtfulness of ETS=

alternatives and the College Board. In the resolution, the Board needs to be clear that it supports high standards and the efforts of MSDE to improve student achievement throughout the state. A fourth resolved should be added that the Montgomery County Board of Education will continue to work in close partnership with MSDE and other LEAs. Ms. Signer supported the concept, but had some concerns about local school systems not being penalized if they have a rigorous assessment process in place. She hoped that the assessment could be worked into the MCPS assessment process and not an additional assessment. There are other issues relating to accommodations for learning disabled students and a longer no-fault period. The position paper and resolution address the issues raised by ETS, but it does not go far enough in addressing the Board's concerns.

Mrs. Gordon was concerned about the resolve about a close partnership because the partnership the school system has had with the state has been a one-sided partnership. Agreements that were made in the past have now been broken; therefore, a statement about a partnership has to be in the context of meaningful input with agreements upheld by both sides.

RESOLUTION NO. 174-97 Re: PROPOSED MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION'S
HIGH SCHOOL ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

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

WHEREAS, The Maryland State Board of Education is designing a high school assessment program based on Core Learning Goals that will establish high standards for the Maryland High School Diploma; and

WHEREAS, the Maryland School systems have been asked to provide detailed feedback to the Maryland State Board of Education; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Montgomery County Board of Education supports the objectives of the Maryland State Board of Education to improve student achievement throughout the state by designing a high school assessment program; and be it further

Resolved, That the Montgomery County Board of Education engage in a meaningful partnership with the State Board of Education and other Boards of Education within the state to address unresolved issues related to the design and implementation of this program; and be it further

Resolved, That the attached position paper of the high school subcommittee of the Montgomery County Public Schools= Committee on Assessment Design and Implementation be forwarded with this resolution to each member of the Maryland State Board of Education as this position paper articulates issues of grave concern to Montgomery County Public Schools.

Position Paper on the Proposed Maryland State Department High School Assessment Program

(prepared by: The Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) High School Subcommittee of the Committee on Assessment Design and Implementation (CAD))

On January 28, 1997, the Maryland State Board of Education received a report from the Educational Testing Service (ETS) on design options and design issues with respect to the planned High School Assessment (HSA) program. This report is the culmination of two years of discussion among stakeholders throughout the state to identify desired design features of the HSA. Since some of the identified features appear to be incompatible, ETS has requested guidance from the State Board of Education on decisions in seven critical areas before they can continue with the design phase.

The Maryland State Board of Education has been at the forefront of statewide and national educational reform. Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) applauds and supports these efforts. At the same time, we are concerned about the impact of the High School Assessment program on our curriculum, our instructional program and our accountability structure. The MCPS high school subcommittee of the Committee on Assessment Design and Implementation composed of teachers, curriculum specialists, principals, and parents has met to review, discuss, and make recommendations on the critical issues raised in the ETS report.

MCPS has been an active participant from the inception of the HSA. All of the recommendations that we have previously made reinforce the need for a partnership between the State Board of Education and all of the LEAs. For this program to be a model of educational reform, collaboration must work in the best interests of our students and communities. In this spirit of collaboration, we have responded to the critical questions posed by ETS. The ETS questions are in italics and the MCPS responses are in bold type.

1. *Will the High School Assessment program carry individual student accountability?*

The High School Assessment program should carry individual student accountability and incorporate school accountability.

Discussion

The high school assessments must reflect high standards and promote academic achievement through individual student accountability. As a result of the high stakes nature of this program, it is essential that critical issues related to special needs populations be addressed.

Consideration for school-wide accountability will promote a total school focus on helping students achieve defined standards. School-wide accountability will foster improvement in curriculum and instruction.

2. *Is passing the High School Assessment program a prerequisite for graduation with a Maryland high school diploma?*

We are not ready at this time to take a position on this critical question. This question can not be answered, until all of the components of the High School Assessment Aprogram@are clarified.

Discussion

In view of the very serious, cautionary nature of the ETS report, it is critical that further study and dialogue regarding this issue occur throughout the state among major stakeholders. The ETS report presents questions, issues, and proposals of such a significant nature that to force premature decision-making by the State Board of Education may ultimately defeat the original purpose of the High School Assessment initiative.

Experience with high stakes tests used in Maryland and other states indicates that when tests are implemented before the program is clearly defined and problems with format, content, and scoring are identified and fully solved, educators and other citizens lose confidence in the assessments, and valuable time and resources are lost.

The ETS report acknowledges the intensity of concern raised statewide regarding special populations taking the high school assessments. It is critical that recommendations for modifications, adjustments, and interventions be developed prior to test implementation. Without such attention to these important issues, students may be placed at risk and litigation may become more likely.

Therefore, in order to resolve these important issues we recommend the following:

- \$ Revise and extend the time line for seeking final State Board of Education action regarding this question on the High School Assessment to enable careful study and discussion of issues raised in the ETS Report by major stakeholders. Important in

this discussion is careful consideration of the "How High is High Enough" question and the phase-in recommendations.

- \$ Begin immediately to develop recommendations for accommodations, modifications and alternatives for special populations (e.g., special education students, ESOL students, and late entrants) so that those recommendations become a part of the discussion on this question.
- \$ Extend the proposed testing no-fault period so that each test is administered on a pilot basis for a minimum of two years prior to becoming a graduation requirement.
- 3. *Should the high school diploma have endorsements which reflect multiple levels of student performance?*

A single diploma with endorsement levels, each designed to meet a specific purpose is highly recommended.

Discussion

The diploma would result from students meeting high levels of proficiency standards on a core battery of end-of-course tests. An endorsed diploma would result from students passing more than the core battery of the end-of-course tests. The endorsements must be defined and validated for specific purposes. Such purposes might include placement, financial assistance, and scholarships for higher education or employment opportunities.

- 4. *How many tests are to be developed?*

A core battery of end-of-course tests that all students must take should be developed as part of the requirement for high school graduation. This core battery would be a sub-set of the end-of-course assessments to be developed. We recommend that students take tests beyond this required core to earn an endorsement linked to a system of rewards such as entrance into the University of Maryland System institutions or to career and vocational opportunities.

Discussion

The ETS Report cautions Maryland educators to reconsider the original proposal that would require all students to pass ten end-of-course tests in order to receive a Maryland diploma. Among the reasons for the ETS caution were high failure rates and extraordinary logistical problems for schools. Limiting the required number of tests to a core number of end-of-course assessments, would provide the opportunity for additional endorsement assessments to address the need for accountability and high standards. A core battery would provide a rigorous academic program while promoting further incentives and opportunities for all students. In the development of either core end-of-course tests or

endorsement tests, there is a need to develop assessments that respond to alternative curricular patterns in math and science (e.g., Matter and Energy and Integrated Math).

5. Will the state assessments be scored using multiple proficiency levels?

No, a single level of proficiency for student demonstration of performance on each test should be the initial design.

Discussion

Because each test within the core battery will have features unique to the content of the Core Learning Goals measured, each test should have its own designated proficiency level. These levels should be selected with great care and reviewed on the basis of experiences with the pilot testing.

6. Is it acceptable to have three annual administrations with one make up for each test?

The structure of the state assessment program should not require any LEA to alter its present accountability structure. MCPS has a firmly established, rigorous end-of-course assessment program that was designed to provide for student accountability proximate to instruction. The HSA will be add-on testing which will require significant time away from instruction. To minimize this loss of instructional time, every LEA must be able to incorporate the state assessment program into its own structure. No LEA should be penalized for exceeding the state assessment structure.

Discussion

The ETS Report cautions Maryland educators to provide sufficient numbers of testing opportunities to accommodate variance in school schedules and variances in students' programs and needs. Commitment to making this work is critical in a partnership environment. If the no-fault experience indicates the need for a revision to this structure, then the affected LEAs and Maryland State Department of Education should work on a collaborative solution.

Many LEAs within the state have established successful high school testing programs that have enabled them to increase student achievement, monitor student progress, and promote accountability. A statewide assessment program that would be inconsistent with these local procedures may actually reduce the impact of both programs and cause confusion among educators, parents, and students. Every effort must be made to maintain the integrity of the local assessment and instructional program.

The position taken by ETS on the issue of half-credit courses is not shared by all psychometricians. Other psychometricians have indicated that it is possible, with

additional resources, to develop statistically comparable assessments for half-credit courses. Further time and discussion are required to resolve this important concern.

7. *Which design option is preferable?*

There is no single design option that is appropriate to all content areas. Individual content areas included in the High School Assessment program must determine which design option best assesses the Core Learning Goals within that discipline.

Discussion

The ETS Report encourages Maryland educators to consider the types of item formats best suited to the Core Learning Goals being measured. For example, writing skills are most appropriately assessed through actual student composition, while certain content in other subject areas can be adequately measured through use of multiple choice formats. The instructional impact of the testing formats selected must be carefully considered so Maryland students and educators do not lose the valuable gains that have been evident as a result of the MSPAP emphasis on performance instruction. ETS also stated that rapid turnaround of exams is not possible with some design options. Trade-offs are clearly called for. Time is needed to examine the impact of such trade-offs.

Re: **UPDATE ON SUBSTITUTE TEACHER HANDBOOK AND TRAINING**

Dr. Vance invited the following staff to the table: Mr. David Fischer, associate superintendent of the Office of Supportive Services; Dr. Elizabeth Arons, director of Department of Personnel Services; Mr. Stan Schaub, director of the Division of Staffing; and Ms. Brenda Holmes, training specialist of the Systemwide Training Unit.

Dr. Vance pointed out the two issues that had emerged from the June 24, 1996, discussion: (1) improved communication from staff to substitute teachers, and (2) training that would be beneficial for substitute teachers.

Dr. Arons stated that the first issue was more communication with all substitute teachers throughout the system; therefore, they requested a handbook. Such a handbook has been compiled and includes professional expectations, working with students, using the automated substitute calling system, marketing tips to increase number of days worked, advice for substitute teachers, important central office telephone numbers, and school telephone numbers. The handbook was developed with input from experienced and inexperienced substitute teachers and has been reviewed by the Montgomery County Education Association (MCEA). In addition, an insert with updated information will be provided each year.

Ms. Gutiérrez thought the handbook was wonderful. She asked about system-wide training, and how the schools prepare and support substitute teachers. Mr. Schaub replied that regulations speak to the role of the school, and what they are to provide. Under professional expectations, there is a school packet that is to be provided to the substitute teacher with items of benefit to that teacher as they come into the building for the first time.

Mr. Ewing thought the handbook was good and responded to many of the issues raised by substitute teachers. He asked for the plans for feedback on how well the handbook works.

Dr. Arons stated that she meets with MCEA each month, and that organization invites substitute teachers to those meetings. When training takes place, staff will be able to talk with substitute teachers to see how things are working.

Ms. Holmes reported that the Systemwide Training Unit (STU) has developed training that will meet the needs of both new and experienced substitute teachers. Substitute teachers are being involved in the planning and delivery of the training. The training sessions will be held twice a year, and widely advertised and is voluntary. Workshops will be held in starting classroom activities and identifying routines; taking attendance efficiently implementing classroom rules; locating needed teaching materials and resources; creating instant activities and materials for enrichment; preparing for transitions; developing instructional effectiveness; and identifying individual student needs.

Dr. Cheung asked how the remaining substitute teachers will be trained if only 20 percent are trained in a year? Ms. Holmes replied that a comprehensive program will address the needs of both the new and experienced teacher with classroom teachers supplying training at the local school. Dr. Arons stated that staff is estimating 500 attendees for training; staff would be thrilled if more attended the workshops.

Mr. Ewing asked if the training or handbook deal with obligations of the principal and classroom teacher to the substitute teacher? Dr. Arons replied that she and Dr. Seleznow will set up a meeting to address this concern with principals.

Dr. Vance thought it would be appropriate if Dr. Arons, Dr. Seleznow, and Mr. Fischer would periodically apprise the Board of the activities and progress made on these issues.

Re: BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

Dr. Vance brought to the Board's attention an MCCPTA sponsored address by Governor Glendening at Walter Johnson High School on Monday, March 10, at 7:00 p.m. The Governor expects to cover a wide range of issues affecting Montgomery County including education funding and program initiatives.

Mr. Ewing reported that the theme groups from the Future Search Conference have met, and the Future Search Action Group will meet and hear from those groups on their progress. The Board's Subcommittee on Long-Range and Strategic Planning will draft visions and mission statements for Board review and consideration.

Ms. Gutiérrez encouraged Board members, staff, and the audience to participate in Thanksgiving in February sponsored by the Community Ministers of Montgomery County to help feed the hungry.

Mr. Felton thanked the staff for the support when the Board met with the County Council on February 18, 1997. The feedback is that the meeting was very positive and the Council looks forward to continuing open dialogue.

RESOLUTION NO. 175-97 Re: RESOLUTION FOR CLOSED SESSION

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

WHEREAS, The Board of Education of Montgomery County is authorized by the Education Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland and Title 10 of the State Government Article to conduct certain meetings or portions of its meetings in closed session; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board of Education of Montgomery County conduct a portion of its meeting on Tuesday, March 11, 1997, at 8:30 to 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. to discuss personnel matters and other matters protected from public disclosure by law, to review and adjudicate appeals, and to address other issues including consultation with counsel to obtain legal advice; and be it further

Resolved, That these meetings be conducted in Room 120 of the Carver Educational Services Center, Rockville, Maryland, as permitted under Section 4-106, Education Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland and State Government Article 10-508; and be it further

Resolved, That such meeting shall continue in closed session until the completion of business.

Re: REPORT ON CLOSED SESSION

On January 27, 1997, by the unanimous vote of members present, the Board of Education voted to conduct a closed session on February 11, 1997, as permitted under Section 4-106, Education Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland and State Government Article 10-501.

The Montgomery County Board of Education met in closed session on February 11, 1997 from 9:35 to 10:00 a.m. The meeting took place in Room 120, Carver Educational Services Center, Rockville, Maryland.

The Board met to discuss personnel issues, the January 1997 Equal Employment Opportunity Report, and the Legal Fees Report.

In attendance at part or all of the closed session were: Betsy Arons, Larry Bowers, Alan Cheung, Blair Ewing, Reggie Felton, David Fischer, Kathy Gemberling, Bea Gordon, Ana Sol Gutiérrez, Pat Hahn, Roland Ikheloa, Nancy King, George Margolies, Brian Porter, Rachel Prager, Glenda Rose, Ruby Rubens, Mona Signer, Steven Seleznow, and Paul Vance.

RESOLUTION NO. 176-97 Re: **MINUTES OF JANUARY 14, 1997**

On recommendation of the superintendent and on motion of Dr. Cheung seconded by Ms. Signer, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

Resolved, That the Board of Education approve its minutes for January 14, 1997.

RESOLUTION NO. 177-97 Re: **MINUTES OF JANUARY 27, 1997**

On recommendation of the superintendent and on motion of Mr. Ewing seconded by Ms. Gutiérrez, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

Resolved, That the Board of Education approve its minutes for January 27, 1997.

RESOLUTION NO. 178-97 Re: **MINUTES OF JANUARY 29 and 30 , 1997**

On recommendation of the superintendent and on motion of Ms. Signer seconded by Mrs. King, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

Resolved, That the Board of Education approve its minutes for January 29 and 30, 1997.

RESOLUTION NO. 179-97 Re: **MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 3, 1997**

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

Resolved, That the Board of Education approve its minutes for February 3, 1997.

RESOLUTION NO. 180-97 Re: **MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 4, 1997**

On recommendation of the superintendent and on motion of Mrs. King seconded by Ms. Signer, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

Resolved, That the Board of Education approve its minutes for February 4, 1997.

RESOLUTION NO. 181-97 Re: **LONGER SCHOOL DAY AND YEAR**

On motion of Mr. Ewing and seconded by Dr. Cheung, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

WHEREAS, The Board of Education is on record in support of a continuing process of inquiry into the possibilities and options associated with a longer school day and year; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Education desires to continue to work with the County Executive and County Council on issues associated with a longer school day and year; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the President of the Board of Education appoint two new representatives to join the working group on a longer school day and year, and will continue to work on these issues, focusing on research on the options, their costs and benefits, as well as their drawbacks, in order to develop a coherent set of options for public and governmental consideration.

RESOLUTION NO. 182-97 Re: **COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF ALL ASPECTS OF THE K-12 PROGRAM IN ENGLISH AND LANGUAGE ARTS**

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

WHEREAS, The Board of Education approved a resolution instructing the superintendent of schools to make a comprehensive review of all aspects of the K-12 program in English and language arts; and

WHEREAS, The work has begun and it is reflected in the Board of Education-s adopted FY 1998 operating budget for MCPS; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board of Education direct the superintendent of schools to provide a detailed progress report to the Board by September 1, 1997, of progress on the comprehensive review, and to show in that report how it will support efforts to address the issues raised by Montgomery College about the need some students entering Montgomery College from MCPS have for remediation in reading; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board of Education schedule time for discussion of these reports in the fall of 1997.

RESOLUTION NO. 183-97

Re: **IMPLEMENTATION OF THE POLICY ON THE EDUCATION OF GIFTED AND TALENTED STUDENTS**

On motion of Mr. Ewing and seconded by Ms. Signer, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

WHEREAS, The Board of Education has received a report from the superintendent of schools on progress made since November 1995 in implementation of the policy on the education of gifted and talented students; and

WHEREAS, There is a plan to complete an assessment of the status of implementation by school; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the superintendent of schools be directed to provide to the Board of Education as soon as practicable, but not later than November 1997, a report that makes clear where each school stands with respect to implementation, and what plans exist to ensure full implementation in each school; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board schedule time to discuss this report at a second anniversary review of actions taken since the passage of the revised policy.

RESOLUTION NO. 184-97

Re: **TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE**

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

Resolved, That the Board of Education schedule a discussion about the Technology Conference sponsored by NFUSSD and how we might use lessons learned to foster implementation of Global Access, and that the discussion take place at the time of the next update on Global Access.

RESOLUTION NO. 185-97

Re: **NON-HONORS COURSES AND TEACHER ACCOUNTABILITY**

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

Resolved, That the Board of Education take time to discuss the instruction in non-honors courses and teacher accountability in such courses.

Mr. Ewing stated that he was not opposed to the examination, but he thought it should be clarified. From the point of view of the Board, it is a mistake to vote for a new business item and wait for one Board member to clarify what it means. Other Board members may have seven or eight different views about what it means. If you do not know what it means, you should not vote for it. I do not know what this means.

Re: ITEMS OF INFORMATION

1. Change Order Quarterly Report - Under \$25,000

RESOLUTION NO. 186-97 **Re: ADJOURNMENT**

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

Resolved, That the Board of Education adjourn its meeting of February 24, 1997, at 10:50 p.m.

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY

PLV:gr

MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
SUMMARY SHEET
FEBRUARY 24, 1997

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