

APPROVED
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Rockville, Maryland
January 22, 1998

The Board of Education of Montgomery County met in a special session at the Carver Educational Services Center, Rockville, Maryland, on Wednesday, January 22, 1997, at 7:30 p.m.

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

Absent: None

Re: **PUBLIC HEARING ON OPERATING BUDGET
 PROPOSALS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING
 JUNE 30, 1999**

The following people appeared before the Board of Education:

1. Peggy Stone, Damascus Cluster
2. Beth Rydzewski, Gaithersburg Cluster
3. Peter Craig and Margaret Ascienzo, Northwest Cluster
4. Liz Smith and Michael Gresalfi, Poolesville Cluster
5. Jay Mandelbaum, Quince Orchard Cluster
6. Abby Rogers and Jean Baum, Richard Montgomery Cluster
7. Susan Scofield, Seneca Valley Cluster
8. Bob Hydorn, Watkins Mill Cluster
9. Leonard Braverman, Speech Language Liaison Committee
10. Marty Strombotne, President of MCCSSE
11. Julie Gatewood
12. Linda Plummer, President, NAACP
13. Craig Winslow and Agnes Leshner, Mental Health Advisory Committee
14. Katie Patterson, Commission on Children and Youth
15. Barbara Steckel, President, League of Women Voters
16. Fred Weiner and Jessica Baldi, Advocacy for Transportation Rights for All Children
17. Joe Howard, Montgomery County Outdoor Educators Association
18. Steve Smitson, Community Action Board
19. Debora Hood
20. Joan Snow

21. Suzanne Suchan, Visually Impaired Student Advisory Board
22. Jerry Klobukowski, Commissioners of Poolesville
23. Paul Shibelski
24. Paul Leiberton, Edwin Figuerone, and Karin Rivas Flores
25. Bob Kuecker
26. Barbara Raimondo

The Board members asked the following questions after the testimony indicated:

After Mr. Craig's testimony, Mrs. King asked the Superintendent for a confirmation of what the instructional materials and textbook resources would be for the Northwest Cluster. Mr. Felton assumed there was already a paper published which would advise the Board on how new schools are handled in these terms, and he would like a copy. Mrs. King told Mr. Craig that he would get a copy, too.

After Mr. Mandelbaum's testimony, Ms. Gutiérrez agreed with his analysis of the Global Access approach of the school system. She felt that MCPS needs to strengthen the structure, the framework, goals, planning, and, particularly as it addresses instruction materials. She asked staff to review the specific points that Mr. Mandelbaum made and respond with whatever plans are in place to address these issues. If there are some models that are in existence that address some of these issues, it would be important for the Board to know that. She knew this does not necessarily have budgetary implications, but MCPS was spending an enormous amount of money in an approach that was hardware and connectivity driven without enough of a planned approach for its use. She also asked staff about the previous testimony that John Poole Middle School had no Global Access funds. If that were so, she wanted information about what was available when that new school was opened. It was her understanding that that was part of MCPS' CIP approach for new schools. Dr. Vance pointed out that some of Mr. Mandelbaum's oral testimony was not in his written testimony, and he asked Global Access staff to contact him and set up a meeting. Ms. Gutiérrez stated that her comments were in reference to the very specific point in his paper at the second bullet.

After Richard Montgomery Cluster's testimony, Mr. Felton asked the Superintendent for information regarding those schools with open lunch programs and comparisons of security assistants in those schools.

After Mr. Hydorn's testimony, Mr. Ewing responded to the question on how people can help fund the budget. It seemed to him that the answer was to have a concerted effort where the Board and Superintendent can make suggestions about how all the PTAs and people throughout the community can help. The focus these days (because the General Assembly is beginning its work) is what is happening in Annapolis. The vast majority of the money that comes to the public schools comes from the local taxpayers of Montgomery

County and is appropriated by the County Council on the recommendation of the County Executive. So, while what happens in Annapolis is very important, it is not nearly so important as what happens in Rockville. That is where a lot of energy needs to be focused if the school system is going to get the money it needs to make these schools really function at their top level. The Board owes the gentleman a complete answer on how the school system can all work together. He hoped that the Superintendent and Board officers will work on that issue.

After Mr. Lieberton's testimony, Ms. Gutiérrez pointed out the support that the schools need that house the evening programs. She would like to get an assessment of what kind of supports are available both at the Northwood Center (where Kennedy is) and at Wootton, what kind of collaboration there is, and if improvements could be made.

After Mr. Braveman's testimony, Mr. Ewing asked the Superintendent what would be the cost of returning to the ratio that MCPS used prior to last year (57:1) for speech and language pathologists. Ms. Gutiérrez commented that Mr. Braveman could help in locating qualified people since these are the most difficult vacancies to fill in the school system.

After Ms. Patterson's testimony, Ms. Gutiérrez asked the Superintendent to identify the alternative programs that are not providing hot lunches and transportation, if any.

After the Weiner/Baldi testimony, Ms. Gutiérrez asked for more information on the transportation issue that was raised: (1) what are the solutions that are being proposed for all the other students who attend the Maryland School for the Deaf; and (2) are other counties picking up the cost. A parent responded that Montgomery County is the only county within the commutable area that does not pay the daily transportation costs. All other counties such as Anne Arundel, Howard, Prince George's, and Frederick pick up the commuting costs for the Maryland School for the Deaf students. Ms. Gutiérrez asked if the state only funded Montgomery County. The parent replied yes, as a pilot project.

After Mr. Howard's testimony, Mr. Ewing asked the Superintendent to give the Board what the costs would be for what Mr. Howard proposes — the restoration of one day to the program. Ms. Gutiérrez asked for the costs of the program being restored to what it was before the program was cut.

After Ms. Hood's testimony, Ms. Gutiérrez asked for additional information on the previous funding levels, and where MCPS was for the repair of instruments and the purchase of new instruments. Mr. Felton asked for the rationale and expectations about how instruments were to be maintained as a result of the reductions.

After Mr. Klobukowski's testimony, Mr. Ewing asked the Superintendent to tell the Board what his best estimate was of the costs to do the things recommended and his judgment about the extent to which these recommendations made good educational and instructional sense. Ms. Gutiérrez wanted to know the costs of the all-day kindergarten programs would be individually at each school, what the FARMs level is or Title I (whatever the measure), and include the transportation savings since there would not be a mid-day bus run.

After Mr. Shibelski's testimony, Mr. Felton asked for information on the extent MCPS has used grants to support the music curriculum.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:22 p.m.

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY

PLV:gr