

APPROVED
16-1998

Rockville, Maryland
April 8, 1998

The Board of Education of Montgomery County met in regular session at the Carver Educational Services Center, Rockville, Maryland, on Wednesday, April 8, 1998, at 10:10 a.m.

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

Absent: Mrs. Beatrice B. Gordon

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

RESOLUTION NO. 228-98 Re: **AGENDA**

On recommendation of the Superintendent and on motion of Ms. Signer seconded by Ms. Gutiérrez, the following resolution as amended was adopted unanimously by members present:

Resolved, That the Board of Education amend its agenda for April 8, 1998, in order to have a concurrent discussion of Item 2.0 (Section F-3 in Regulation JFA-RA, *Student Rights and Responsibilities*) and Item 6.0 (Regulations IID-RA, *Programs to Cablecast on the MCPS Education Channels and Content and Technical Guidelines for Programs Submitted for Cablecasting on the MCPS Education Channels*).

RESOLUTION NO. 229-98 Re: **NATIONAL WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD**

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

WHEREAS, A goal of the *Success for Every Study Plan* is to secure the commitment of the entire community to maintain quality education in Montgomery County by building partnerships that promote and support initiatives to help all children succeed; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Education reaffirms its strong commitment to early childhood education and recognizes the importance of involving families in a child's education; and

WHEREAS, The *Week of the Young Child* will be celebrated nationally during the week of April 19 through 25, 1998; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the National *Week of the Young Child* be observed by Montgomery County Public Schools during the week of April 19 through April 25, 1998; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board of Education commend the efforts of volunteers and staff for their contributions to the *Week of the Young Child* celebration.

RESOLUTION NO. 230-98 Re: **NATIONAL PROFESSIONAL SECRETARIES WEEK**

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

WHEREAS, Professional Secretaries' Week will be celebrated nationally the week of April 19-25, 1998; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Education wishes to recognize publicly the competence and dedication of its staff of secretarial and clerical employees and express its appreciation for their efforts in the effective, courteous, and economical operation of the Montgomery County Public Schools; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Education thanks its secretarial staff for their contributions to excellence in education and for their commitment to "Success for Every Student;" now therefore be it

Resolved, That National Professional Secretaries' Week be observed by the school system during the week of April 19-April 25, 1998; and be it further

Resolved, That Wednesday, April 22, 1998, be designated as Professional Secretaries' Day for the Montgomery County Public Schools.

RESOLUTION NO. 231-98 Re: **PERSONNEL PROFESSIONALS DAY**

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

WHEREAS, Montgomery County Public Schools is a member of the Local Government Personnel Association (LGPA) of the Baltimore-Washington Metropolitan Area which represents 49 such jurisdictions located in the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia; and

WHEREAS, The goal of the LGPA is “to serve as a forum for the exchange and sharing of information between the personnel offices and staffs of member jurisdictions;” and

WHEREAS, The objective of the LGPA is “to provide opportunities for the education, information, and professional development of its personnel specialists, and to facilitate interaction and discussion which can be helpful in their performance of the personnel function;” and

WHEREAS, The employees of Montgomery County Public Schools include a group of professionals in the Department of Personnel Services who perform our personnel functions with professionalism and distinction; and

WHEREAS, The LGPA has established the “Personnelist Of The Year” Awards Program to promote and encourage professionalism among the personnel staffs of its respective member jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, The program includes an Awards Luncheon scheduled for Friday, May 8, 1998, in Glen Burnie, Maryland, to recognize and honor “The Best And The Brightest” of the personnel profession; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board of Education proclaim Friday, May 8, 1998, as “Personnel Professionals Day” in Montgomery County Public Schools; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board of Education support the goals and objectives of the Local Government Personnel Association; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board of Education congratulate the staff members of the Montgomery County Public Schools’ Department of Personnel Services on both their performance of the personnel functions and as a leader and active participant among jurisdictions.

RESOLUTION NO. 232-98 Re: **RECOGNITION OF JOE HOWARD**

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

WHEREAS, Montgomery County Public Schools is extremely fortunate to be the beneficiary of the valuable contributions of dedicated employees and volunteers; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Joe Howard exemplifies a lifetime of inspirational devotion to and achievement in outdoor education; and

WHEREAS, MCPS students and the entire community are richer for the energy, time and

resources he has devoted to advance awareness of and appreciation for the environment; and

WHEREAS, In addition to his more than three decades as a teacher, and administrator in Montgomery County Public Schools, Mr. Howard continued his volunteer work with many organizations, including: Montgomery County Outdoor Education Association (OEA), Maryland Association of Environmental and Outdoor Educators, Montgomery County Forestry Board, Chesapeake Bay Foundation and Montgomery County Conservation Council among others; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Howard, as a founder, executive staff member and current president of OEA, will conduct OEA's 35th annual Symposium in 1998; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Montgomery County Board of Education and Superintendent of Schools hereby offer commendations and appreciation to Joe Howard for a lifetime of distinguished service to Montgomery County Public Schools and the entire region; and be it further

Resolved, That the Montgomery County Board of Education hereby designate Joe Howard as "Lifetime Honorary Director of Outdoor Education."

Re: **RECOGNITION OF WHEATON HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS
VARSITY BASKETBALL STATE CHAMPIONS**

Recognition of Wheaton High School Girls Varsity Basketball Team

The Board approved the recognition of the Wheaton High School girls' varsity basketball team for winning the Maryland state 3A championship and also recognized several individual players for receiving college scholarships.

Recognition of Gaithersburg High School Boys Varsity Basketball Team

The Board approved the recognition of the Gaithersburg High School boys' varsity basketball team for winning the Maryland state 4A championship and also recognized the team for maintaining a combined 3.1 grade point average.

Re: **BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS**

Dr. Vance reported that eight students had won awards in the 1998 National Achievement Scholarship program conducted by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. David Chia, a fourth grade teacher, had received the Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher award. A recent survey of more than 800 employers in Montgomery County showed a high degree of satisfaction with MCPS students that they have hired as part of the Cooperative Work Experience.

Mr. Ewing noted the following: (1) Dr. Vance had clarified that all of Zone 33 in the Blair Cluster that was inside the city limits of Takoma Park was assigned to Takoma Park Elementary School. Zone 33 North that was outside Takoma Park was assigned to East Silver Spring Elementary School; however, those students may choose which school they wanted to attend. The Wayne Avenue Capital Budget project had undergone a number of changes due to the expectations of student enrollment and facility requirements. (2) There once was a time when the Board's policy stated that day care was the highest priority for available space in elementary schools, but the policy only had impact when there was space. This issue had come to the Board's attention through Rock View Elementary School where there was no space for day care after modernization and the utilization of a holding school, such as English Manor which is a day care provider. The Board needs to address the issue of day care and its provision for the needs of the community. (3) There are concerns of the Anti-Defamation League about charter schools. The league has dealt with charter schools across the country and they detect separation of church and state issues with the application of criteria for the selection of charter schools. He hoped that the Superintendent would contact the League for advice on the issue.

Mr. Felton announced that he had attended the Construction Trades Foundation's dinner. He commended the Foundation for their success over the years. Also, he attended the anniversary of the Teen Court which is a new program within the county supported by MCPS and attorneys throughout the county. This program focuses on the judicial system.

Ms. Gutiérrez commented that many of the Board members attended the National School Board Association's annual conference. It was an opportunity to benchmark the school system with other districts. Also, the County Council would hear from the community on the school system's operating budget. She encouraged the community to contact the Council with their views on the budget. It was essential in the time of surplus funds that the community focus on education and the Board's initiatives.

Mrs. King reported that she was impressed by the business leaders testifying before the Council regarding the school system's operating budget.

Re: MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT

Mr. Bowers pointed out changes from the last report especially revenue. There had been a supplemental from the county related to the Year 2000 and computer software, deferred maintenance, and state revenue related to special education. There were no changes in the expenditures from last month except for special education where the projected deficit had been reduced by \$500,000.

Dr. Spatz reported that the County Council's Education Committee had expressed concern

about categorical transfers especially from instructional services to non-instructional services. Mr. Subin had introduced a resolution that would disapprove of such transfers.

In regard to that resolution, Ms. Signer asked if there had been discussion about Category 6, Special Education, that included instructional and non-instructional funds. Dr. Spatz replied that that was a concern because resolutions in the past have excluded Category 6. However, categories had not been defined in the resolution.

Mr. Felton pointed out that in Category 3, Instructional Salaries, the surplus of \$300,000 represents a very small percentage of the total budget. Mr. Bowers responded that an instructional day represents \$2.5 million, and the entire category for the year is \$400 million.

Ms. Gutiérrez suggested that the Board communicate to the Council its concerns since a resolution had been introduced. The school system should define those categories as instructional or non-instructional rather than the Council. If the Council will not approve transfers, there will be deficits in certain categories. Mr. Bowers pointed out that the resolution did not suggest that there would be no transfers. It just affected transfers out of instructional categories, but that has not been defined.

Mrs. King was not convinced that a letter was necessary because the Board could work with the Council.

Dr. Cheung stated that the financial monitoring report should be a management tool which shows a comparative analysis of current projections with historical projections. He also suggested that the report should indicate percentages of surplus/deficit to the overall budget.

Mr. Ewing pointed out that a resolution affecting transfers had never been proposed before. No one suggested the same restrictions for the Planning Board, the college, or other departments within the county government. Dr. Spatz replied that there was a need for a parallel policy.

Mr. Ewing stated that the time could come when the Board would be unable to make transfers in order to balance the budget, thereby being in violation of the law. He hoped that the Superintendent would review this situation carefully with the school system's attorneys.

Ms. Signer shared some of the concerns expressed by her colleagues. However, she supported the intent of the Council's resolution. She did not want the school system to transfer money out of instructional categories for non-instructional expenses. If there was a deficit in a specific category, the school system could request a supplemental

appropriation. The Council understood that and believed that it was a more realistic approach rather than shifting categories at the end of the year.

Mr. Ewing stated that he did not know of many governmental bodies that did not adjust at the end of the year based on the fact that some categories do not cover expenditures. Therefore, adjustments are required.

Mr. Felton stated that the budget was a guide for the expenditure of funds, and there should be some flexibility within and between categories.

Ms. Signer replied that a budget was not just a guide because it set the priorities for the school system. Last year, there was a surplus of over \$1 million in the instructional salaries' category, and that was an amount equal to the class size initiative.

RESOLUTION NO. 233-98 Re: CONTRACTS OVER \$25,000

On recommendation of the Superintendent and on motion of Ms. Signer seconded by Mr. Felton, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present:#

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

WHEREAS, It is recommended that Bid No. 1031.1, CICS Software, be rejected due to change in requirements; now therefore be it

Resolved, That Bid No. 1031.1, CICS Software, be rejected due to change in requirements; and be it further

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

92.2 Musical Instruments, Furniture and Equipment

Awardees

Gooddens Music Educator Supply	\$ 5,892
Ideal Music Company	539
Kunkel Piano and Organ Company	262
Lashof Violins	3,902
Victor Litz Music Center	5,242
National Educational Music Company	717
Northeast Music, Inc.	13,255

	Ralon Music Company, Inc.	49,845	
	Rhythm Band, Inc.	16,447	
	S & H Manufacturing Company	695	*
	Suzuki Musical Instruments	1,655	
	Washington Music Sales Center, Inc.	62,546	
	Steve Weiss Music, Inc.	40,325	
	Wenger Corporation	34,520	
	West Manor Music	3,727	
	West Music Company	788	
	Woodwind and Brasswind	61,929	
	Wrights Music Shed	<u>3,625</u>	
	Total	\$ 305,911	
113-95	HVAC Service Contract - Extension		
	<u>Awardees</u>		
	Boland Trane Service	\$ 36,076	
	Carrier Building Systems and Service	20,932	
	AAF-McQuay, Inc.	<u>4,132</u>	
	Total	\$ 61,140	
155-97	Computer Off-the-Shelf(COTS)- Extension		
	<u>Awardees</u>		
	Bell Education	\$ 54,594	
	Integrated Systems Group, Inc.	34,295	*
	Microwarehouse, Inc.	628	
	Software In A Week	<u>38,316</u>	
	Total	\$ 127,833	
171-97	Computer Memory - Extension		
	<u>Awardees</u>		
	Allied Communications, Inc.	\$ 65,619	*
	American Computer Systems Corporation	564	
	Daly Computers, Inc.	592	
	Data Systems Integration, Inc.	170	
	Microwarehouse, Inc.	237	
	Par Technolgies	<u>25,716</u>	
	Total	\$ 92,898	

301-97 Modular Computer Furniture- Extension

Awardees

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

1015.1 Football Supplies and Equipment

Awardees

Anaconda Sports, Inc.	\$ 7,793	
Cannon Sports, Inc.	2,505	*
DVF Sporting Goods Company	1,832	
Marlow Sports, Inc.	56,104	*
Marty Gilman, Inc.	6,525	*
Passons Sports	8,420	
Riddell All American	40,269	
Rogers Athletic Company	<u>1,150</u>	
Total	\$ 124,598	

1019.1 Baseball Supplies and Equipment

Awardees

Anaconda Sports, Inc.	\$ 13,681	
Cannon Sports, Inc.	1,576	*
DVF Sporting Goods Company	1,615	
Bill Fritz Sports Corporation	3,078	
Majestic Sales	2,275	
Marlow Sports, Inc.	3,548	*
MMI Federal Marketing Service	279	
Passons Sports	<u>3,136</u>	
Total	\$ 29,188	

1020.1 Basketball Supplies and Equipment

Awardees

Anaconda Sports, Inc.	\$ 6,305	
Cannon Sports, Inc.	406	*
DVF Sporting Goods Company	60,999	
Bill Fritz Sports Corporation	2,504	
Passons Sports	10,218	
Sportmaster Recreation Equipment	<u>2,542</u>	
Total	\$ 82,974	

1021.1 Motor Developmental Supplies for Physical Education

Awardees

Cannon Sports	\$ 2,654	*
DVF Sporting Goods Company	15,101	
Bill Fritz Sports Corporation	2,201	
Goal, Inc.	605	
Gopher Athletic Sport	478	
Passons Sports	<u>22,277</u>	
Total	\$ 43,316	

1022.1 Lacrosse Supplies and Equipment

Awardees

Bacharach Rasin Company, Inc.	\$ 6,363	
Cannon Sports, Inc.	1,884	*
Lax World, Inc.	11,851	
Longstreth Sporting Goods	140	*
Passons Sports	4,783	
Sports Extra, Inc.	2,540	*
Sports Stop, Inc.	<u>4,040</u>	
Total	\$ 31,601	

1025.1 Softball Supplies and Equipment

Awardees

Anaconda Sports, Inc.	\$ 3,907	
Cannon Sports, Inc.	928	*
DVF Sporting Goods Company	23,220	
Bill Fritz Sports Corporation	221	
Longstreth Sporting Goods	1,875	*
Passons Sports	6,978	
Riddell All American	1,828	
Sports Stop, Inc.	2,996	
Wilson Sports	<u>247</u>	
Total	\$ 42,200	

1027.1 Fitness and Team Handball Supplies

Awardees

BE Fit, Inc.	\$ 1,549	
Cannon Sports, Inc.	4,982	*
Creative Health Products	5,317	
DVF Sporting Goods Company	9,824	
Bill Fritz Sports Corporation	2,568	
Goal, Inc.	1,000	
Gopher Athletic Sports	3,135	
Marlow Sports, Inc.	12,823	*
Passons Sports	13,331	
Pioneer Manufacturing	<u>12,513</u>	
Total	\$ 67,042	

1037.1 Soccer Goals and Nets

Awardee

Marlow Sports, Inc.	\$ 43,431	*
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4018.1 Industrial and Technology Education Lumber

Awardees

Allied Plywood Corporation	\$ 920
Albert Constantine and Sons, Inc.	6,760
Lafferty Company, Inc.	18,318
Mann and Parker Lumber Company	30,661
Pikesville Lumber Company	31,368
Rex Lumber Company	<u>4,635</u>
Total	\$ 92,662

7008.2 Cafeteria Disposable Supplies

Awardees

Acme Paper and Supply Company	\$ 62,675
C & K Manufacturing and Sales Company	9,310
Calico Industries, Inc.	15,993
Kahn Paper Company, Inc.	431,182
PK International Company, Inc.	16,305 *
S. Freedman and Sons	12,146
U.S. Foodservice/Continental Division	<u>2,242</u> *
Total	\$ 549,853

7024.1 Art Supplies

Awardees

Beckley Cardy Group	\$ 6,833
Integrity School Supplies	9,191 *
Jackmans, Inc.	4,220
J.L. Hammett Company, Inc.	3,825
Logans Marketing	1,450 *
National School Supply	150,964
Pyramid School Products	14,811
Sax Arts and Crafts	4,350
Standard Stationery Supply Company	16,713
Windtree Enterprises, Inc.	<u>6,935</u>
Total	\$ 219,292

100002 Consultative Services for School Climate

Awardee

Systems III

\$ 99,750

MORE THAN \$25,000

\$2,219,939

* Denotes MFD vendors

Re: **DISCUSSION**

Mr. Felton reminded staff to continue to recruit and expand the pool of minority vendors in procuring supplies and services for MCPS.

RESOLUTION NO. 234-98

Re: **AWARD OF CONTRACT - CONSOLIDATED PRINTING FACILITY**

On recommendation of the Superintendent and on motion of Mr. Felton seconded by Ms. Signer, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present:#

WHEREAS, The following sealed bids were received on March 12, 1998, for the Consolidated Printing Facility, with work to begin April 13, 1998, and be completed by January 15, 1999.

<u>Bidder</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Meridian Construction Company, Inc.	\$ 1,088,000
MIC/CO, Inc.	1,109,329
William F. Klingensmith, Inc.	1,153,000
Heritage Builders, Inc.	1,196,237
Kimmel & Kimmel, Inc.	1,206,000
Northwood Contractors, Inc.	1,297,000
Porter Construction Management, Inc.	1,298,700
Henley Construction Company, Inc.	1,398,000

and

WHEREAS, The low bidder, Meridian Construction Company, Inc., has completed similar work successfully for Montgomery County Public Schools; and

WHEREAS, The low bid is slightly over the staff estimate of \$1,050,000; however, contingency funds are available for the overage; and

WHEREAS, Meridian Construction Company, Inc., has submitted 17.53 percent Minority Business Enterprise participation which exceeds the 14 percent goal; now therefore be it

Resolved, That a contract for \$1,088,000 be awarded to Meridian Construction Company, Inc., for the Consolidated Printing Facility.

RESOLUTION NO. 235-98 Re: **AWARD OF CONTRACT - GARRETT PARK
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL REROOFING**

On recommendation of the Superintendent and on motion of Mr. Felton seconded by Ms. Signer, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present:#

WHEREAS, The following sealed bids were received on March 12, 1998, for the reroofing of Garrett Park Elementary School, with work to begin June 18, 1998, and to be completed by August 31, 1998:

<u>Bidder</u>	<u>Amount</u>
R. D. Bean, Inc.	\$ 142,954
Orndorff & Spaid, Inc.	158,232
J. E. Wood & Sons Company, Inc.	162,320
Alliance Roofing & Sheet Metal, Inc.	171,100
Vatica Contracting, Inc.	187,200
Brothers Construction Company, Inc.	190,615
Rayco Roof Service, Inc.	217,325
PEC Construction, Inc.	275,700
A&T Associates, Inc.	300,000
AEO Construction Company, Inc.	305,000

and

WHEREAS, The low bidder, R. D. Bean, Inc., has completed similar work successfully for Montgomery County Public Schools; and

WHEREAS, The low bid is below the staff estimate of \$167,000; and

WHEREAS, The State Interagency Committee for Public School Construction will fund 50 percent of the eligible work for the Garrett Park Elementary School reroofing as part of the state systemic renovation program; and

WHEREAS, Staff has verified that the contractor has made a good-faith effort to obtain minority participation; now therefore be it

Resolved, That a contract for \$142,954 be awarded to R. D. Bean, Inc., for the Garrett Park Elementary School reroofing in accordance with plans and specifications prepared by the Department of Facilities Management; and be it further

Resolved, That the contract be forwarded to the State Interagency Committee for Public School Construction for approval to reimburse Montgomery County Public Schools for the state eligible portion of the Garrett Park Elementary School reroofing.

RESOLUTION NO. 236-98 Re: **MONTGOMERY BLAIR MIDDLE SCHOOL #3/
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL #11 CONSTRUCTION
MANAGEMENT SERVICES**

On recommendation of the Superintendent and on motion of Mr. Felton seconded by Ms. Signer, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present:#

WHEREAS, The FY 1999 Capital Budget request includes construction funds to reopen the Wayne Avenue facility as the Montgomery Blair Middle School #3/Elementary School #11; and

WHEREAS, This project cannot start until June 1998 and must be completed by August 1999; and

WHEREAS, Staff believes that a construction management delivery system should be used for this project given its complexities and abbreviated schedule; and

WHEREAS, A Consultant Selection Committee, in accordance with procedures adopted by the Board of Education on May 13, 1986, identified Oak Contracting Corporation as the most qualified firm to provide the necessary services; and

WHEREAS, Staff has negotiated a fee for necessary construction management services; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Montgomery County Board of Education enter into a contractual agreement with the firm of Oak Contracting Corporation to provide professional construction management services for the reopening of the Wayne Avenue facility for a fee of \$675,000, which is 7 percent of the building construction budget, contingent upon County Council approval of the FY 1999-2004 Capital Improvements Program.

RESOLUTION NO. 237-98 Re: **ARCHITECTURAL APPOINTMENT - ROCK CREEK
VALLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL MODERNIZATION
FEASIBILITY STUDY**

On recommendation of the Superintendent and on motion of Mr. Felton seconded by

Ms. Signer, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present:#

WHEREAS, It is necessary to appoint an architectural firm to provide professional and technical services to conduct a design feasibility study of alternatives for the modernization of Rock Creek Valley Elementary School; and

WHEREAS, Funds for feasibility planning have been programmed as part of the FY 1999 Capital Budget; and

WHEREAS, The Architect Selection Committee, in accordance with procedures adopted by the Board of Education on May 13, 1986, identified McKissack & McKissack as the most qualified firm to provide the necessary professional architectural and engineering services; and

WHEREAS, Staff has negotiated a fee for necessary architectural services; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Montgomery County Board of Education enter into a contractual agreement with the architectural firm of McKissack & McKissack to provide professional architectural services for the Rock Creek Valley Elementary School modernization feasibility study project for a fee of \$30,000, contingent upon final approval of the FY 1999-2004 Capital Improvements Program by the County Council.

RESOLUTION NO. 238-98

Re: **ARCHITECTURAL APPOINTMENT - WOOD ACRES
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL MODERNIZATION
FEASIBILITY STUDY**

On recommendation of the Superintendent and on motion of Mr. Felton seconded by Ms. Signer, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present:#

WHEREAS, It is necessary to appoint an architectural firm to provide professional and technical services to conduct a design feasibility study of alternatives for the modernization of Wood Acres Elementary School; and

WHEREAS, Funds for feasibility planning have been programmed as part of the FY 1999 Capital Budget; and

WHEREAS, The Architect Selection Committee, in accordance with procedures adopted by the Board of Education on May 13, 1986, identified McDonald•Williams•Banks, Architects, as the most qualified firm to provide the necessary professional architectural and engineering services; and

WHEREAS, Staff has negotiated a fee for necessary architectural services; now therefore

be it

Resolved, That the Montgomery County Board of Education enter into a contractual agreement with the architectural firm of McDonald·Williams·Banks, Architects, to provide professional architectural services for the Wood Acres Elementary School modernization feasibility study project for a fee of \$30,000, contingent upon final approval of the FY 1999-2004 Capital Improvements Program by the County Council.

RESOLUTION NO. 239-98 Re: **RECOMMENDED FY 1998 SUPPLEMENTAL
APPROPRIATION AND CATEGORICAL TRANSFER
FOR THE PROVISION FOR FUTURE SUPPORTED
PROJECTS**

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

WHEREAS, The FY 1998 Operating Budget adopted by the Board of Education on June 11, 1997, included \$7,893,943 for the Provision for Future Supported Projects; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Education will receive additional projects that are eligible for funding through the Provision for Future Supported Projects during FY 1998; and

WHEREAS, The new state budget categories and actual revenue and expenditure requirements of grant projects require that categorical transfers be made in the Provision for Future Supported Projects; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the superintendent of schools be authorized to receive an FY 1998 supplemental appropriation of \$1,100,000 from the County Council for the Provision for Future Supported Projects and to effect categorical transfers totaling \$1,430,000 within the FY 1998 Provision for Future Supported Projects, in accordance with the County Council provision for transfers, as follows:

<u>Category</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
1 Administration	\$ 70,000	\$ 20,000
2 Mid-Level Administration		150,000
3 Instructional Salaries		1,150,000
4 Textbooks and Instructional Supplies	1,270,000	50,000
5 Other Instructional Costs		650,000
6 Special Education	75,000	360,000

9 Transportation	15,000	
12 Fixed Charges	_____	<u>150,000</u>
Total	<u>\$1,430,000</u>	<u>\$2,530,000</u>

and be it further

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

Resolved, That the county executive be requested to recommend approval of this resolution to the County Council.

RESOLUTION NO. 240-98 Re: **UTILIZATION OF FY 1998 FUTURE SUPPORTED PROJECT FUNDS FOR THE SCIENCE CONNECTIONS PROJECT**

On recommendation of the Superintendent and on motion of Mr. Felton seconded by Ms. Signer, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present:#

Resolved, That the superintendent of schools be authorized to receive and expend within the FY 1998 Provision for Future Supported Projects a grant award of \$266,451 from the National Science Foundation for the Science Connections Project in the following categories:

<u>Category</u>	<u>Positions*</u>	<u>Amount</u>
2 Mid-Level Instruction	2.0	\$ 81,747
3 Instructional Salaries		95,355
4 Textbooks & Instructional Supplies		2,825
5 Other Instructional Costs		35,767
12 Fixed Charges	_____	<u>50,757</u>
Total	<u>2.0</u>	<u>\$ 266,451</u>

* 1.0 Instructional Specialist (B-D)

* 0.5 Secretary Grade 12

* 0.5 Fiscal Assistant Grade 13

and be it further

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

RESOLUTION NO. 241-98

Re: **UTILIZATION OF FY 1998 FUTURE SUPPORTED PROJECT FUNDS FOR THE CONTINUATION OF THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION PROJECT**

On recommendation of the Superintendent and on motion of Mr. Felton seconded by Ms. Signer, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present:#

Resolved, That the superintendent of schools be authorized to receive and expend within the FY 1998 Provision For Future Supported Projects a grant award of \$8,600 from the Johns Hopkins University for the School Administration Project, in the following categories:

<u>Category</u>	<u>Amount</u>
3 Instructional Salaries	\$5,248
5 Other Instructional Costs	3,352
Total	<u>\$8,600</u>

and be it further

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

RESOLUTION NO. 242-98

Re: **RECOMMENDED FY 1998 SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION FOR THE ADULT EDUCATION AND SUMMER SCHOOL FUND**

On recommendation of the Superintendent and on motion of Mr. Felton seconded by Ms. Signer, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present:#

Resolved, That the superintendent of schools be authorized, subject to County Council approval, to receive and expend an FY 1998 supplemental appropriation of \$412,000 from the County Council for the Adult Education and Summer School Fund in Category 41 Adult Education and Summer School Fund; and be it further

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

Resolved, That the county executive be requested to recommend approval of this resolution to the County Council.

RESOLUTION NO. 243-98

Re: **PERSONNEL APPOINTMENT**

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

Resolved, That the following personnel appointment be approved effective June 15, 1998:

<u>Appointment</u>	<u>Present Position</u>	<u>As</u>
Louis Martinez	Northwest Region Assistant Albuquerque Public Schools	Principal, Watkins Mill HS

RESOLUTION NO. 244-98

Re: **CLOSED SESSION RESOLUTION**

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

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 sessions; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board of Education of Montgomery County conduct a portion of its meeting on Monday, April 20, 1998, from 7:30 to 8:00 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 the meeting be conducted in Room 120 of the Carver Educational Services Center, Rockville, Maryland, as permitted under Section 4-107, *Education Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland* and Section 10-508 of the *State Government Article*; and be it further

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

Re: **REPORT OF CLOSED SESSION**

On March 10, 1998, by the unanimous vote of members present, the Board of Education voted to conduct a closed session on March 23, 1998, as permitted under § 4-107, *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 March 23, 1998, from 7:30 to 8:15 p.m. The meeting took place in Room 120, Carver Educational Services Center, Rockville, Maryland.

The Board met to discuss personnel appointments and legal matters with its attorney. The Board reviewed and adjudicated Appeals 1997-37, 1998-3, and 1998-4.

In attendance at part or all of the above closed session were: Elizabeth Arons, Larry Bowers, Judy Bresler, 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, Glenda Rose, Ruby Rubens, Mona Signer, Mary Helen Smith, Pam Splaine, Paul Vance, and Debbie Wheat.

RESOLUTION NO. 245-98 Re: **MINUTES DECEMBER 9, 1997**

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

Resolved, That the Board of Education approve its minutes for December 9, 1997.

RESOLUTION NO. 246-98 Re: **MINUTES JANUARY 14, 21, and 22, 1998**

On motion of Ms. Wheat and seconded by Ms. Gutiérrez, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present:

Resolved, That the Board of Education approve its minutes for January 14, 21, and 22, 1998.

RESOLUTION NO. 247-98 Re: **MINUTES JANUARY 27 and 28, 1998**

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

Resolved, That the Board of Education approve its minutes for January 27 and 28, 1998.

RESOLUTION NO. 248-98 Re: **SUPERINTENDENT'S RESPONSE TO THE WORK GROUP ON SAFETY AND SECURITY**

On motion of Ms. Gutiérrez and seconded by Mrs. Gordon, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present:

Resolved, That the Board of Education schedule a public discussion and action on the issues presented in the Superintendent's Response to the Work Group on Safety and

Security; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board review the newly revised regulations:

- a. New authority granted to deny enrollment of previously expelled students from other jurisdictions across the country
- b. Identification of bomb threats as an explicit punishable offense as a felony
- c. Inclusion of more definitive language in the prohibition of drug use and distribution
- d. Greater authority for searching students and lockers
- e. Clarification of restrictions on portable communication devices
- f. Tougher provisions for monetary restitution for vandalism
- g. Increased authority to enforce stricter dress and grooming standards;

and be it further

Resolved, That the Board address the issues raised by NAACP regarding current search and seizure practices.

RESOLUTION NO. 249-98 Re: **SELECTION OF ARCHITECTS**

On motion of Mr. Felton and seconded by Mrs. Gordon, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present:

WHEREAS, It is necessary to appoint an architectural firm to provide professional and technical services during the design and construction phases of MCPS educational facilities; and

WHEREAS, The "learning environments for the 21st century" will require substantially different accommodations than needed in the past; and

WHEREAS, MCPS embraces creativity and innovation in the design of curriculum, policies, and programs for its students; and

WHEREAS, MCPS is fully committed as an Equal Opportunity Employer; and

WHEREAS, The procedures and criteria for the selection of architects have not been revised since 1986; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Superintendent formally review the current procedures and criteria for the selection of architects; and be it further

Resolved, That the Superintendent provide to the Board of Education specific recommendations for revisions to the selection criteria to include, as a minimum, demonstrated ability to integrate design and information technology requirements of the "learning environments of the 21st century;" and be it further

Resolved, That the Superintendent include among his recommendations revised procedures to address MCPS expanded outreach efforts in soliciting bids from minority and women architects.

RESOLUTION NO. 250-98 Re: **READING/LANGUAGE ARTS**

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

Resolved, That the Board of Education add to its scheduled discussion on reading/language arts or to have a separate discussion on that subject, focusing especially on what the Board hopes to accomplish through the budgetary initiative (assuming it is approved) to reduce class size and improve the teaching of reading and raise student outcomes in elementary schools; and be it further

Resolved, That the discussion include, among other subjects, a discussion of grammar instruction and *Reading Recovery*.

RESOLUTION NO. 251-98 Re: **MOVEMENT OF SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS**

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

Resolved, That the Board of Education ask the Superintendent to provide the Board with information about the movement of special education programs among schools, including the guidelines that he and his staff use for making decisions about the placement of those programs when they are moved.

RESOLUTION NO. 252-98 Re: **NEW EXTENDED ELEMENTARY EDUCATION
PROGRAM GUIDELINES**

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

Resolved, That the Board of Education request that the Superintendent provide the Board with information about the likely impact on elementary schools of the new EEEP guidelines.

Re: **NEW BUSINESS**

The following new business items were introduced:

1. Mr. Felton moved and Mr. Ewing seconded the following:

Resolved, That the Board of Education request that the Superintendent provide guidelines to the Board and schools regarding what a graduate may and may not wear with their cap and gown.

2. Ms. Wheat moved and Ms. Gutiérrez seconded the following:

Resolved, That the Board of Education hold a separate ceremony to acknowledge and honor the high school athletic county champions in each sport, either in one yearly ceremony or after each season depending on which is more feasible, and scholar-athletes.

3. Mr. Ewing moved and Ms. Gutiérrez seconded the following:

Resolved, That the Board of Education schedule a discussion with the staff in the Safe and Drug Free Schools Program regarding the issues related to safety and drug-free schools.

4. Mr. Ewing moved and Mrs. King seconded the following:

Resolved, That Board of Education allow students in Darnestown Elementary School service area who are now in Grades 9, 10, and 11 to choose to attend Quince Orchard High School rather than the Northwest High School; and be it further

Resolved, That this motion, if approved by the Board, would be done as amendment to past action and in conjunction with existing policy.

Re: **ITEMS OF INFORMATION**

The following items were available for information:

1. Items in Process
2. Construction Progress Report

The Board of Education recess for lunch and closed session from 11:50 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Re: **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

The following people testified before the Board of Education:

	<u>Person</u>	<u>Topic</u>
1.	John Mathwin	Live Broadcasting
2.	Stefanie Weldon	Special Education
3.	Karin Chenoweth	Special Education
4.	Phillip Gainous	Live Broadcasting
5.	Bruce Jentleson	Live Broadcasting
6.	Steve Guyman	Live Broadcasting
7.	Michael Heller	Live Broadcasting
8.	Matthew Smith	Live Broadcasting
9.	Adam Jentleson	Live Broadcasting
10.	Karen Cooper	Autism Program
11.	Jennifer Mason	Holding Schools
12.	Debbie VanBrunt	Autism Program

Mrs. King requested that the Superintendent respond to the concerns raised in Mrs. Weldon's testimony.

Re: **SECTION F-3 IN REGULATION JFA-RA, *STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES AND REGULATIONS IID-RA, PROGRAMS TO CABLECAST ON THE MCPS EDUCATION CHANNELS AND CONTENT AND TECHNICAL GUIDELINES FOR PROGRAMS SUBMITTED FOR CABLECASTING ON THE MCPS EDUCATION CHANNELS***

Dr. Vance asked the following people to the table: Dr. Hiawatha B. Fountain, associate superintendent for the Office of Pupil and Community Services; Ms. Kathy McGuire, director of the Department of Comprehensive Pupil Services; Dr. Pam Splaine, coordinator of the Policy and Records Unit; and Judith Bresler, general counsel. The regulation was updated in July 1997 to reflect changes in the state and federal law. School staff and Board members voiced concerns of Section F.3. He agreed that the language needed clarification and more definition.

Ms. Wheat addressed the issue of shared values and noted that there was a difference in our society as to the interpretation by students and adults. If a student journalist wrote an article on teen sex and focused on the education students, it could be perceived in conflict of shared values if adults believed in abstinence. Therefore, there was no reason to include shared values. Section D's reference to balanced reporting did not need to be in the regulation. If there was an overwhelming response for the students with a one-sided

position, there would be the need to present the opposing side. Most student journalists present a well-balanced article and controversy sparks an interest in the topic.

Mr. Felton referred to Section D of IID-RA, as amended by staff, and asked if that language could be used to substitute in the Regulation JFA-RA at 3. Ms. Bresler stated that the Board had a lot of discretion in establishing parameters, and the Board could make them the same. However, the Board should consider its Decision and Order and case law that drew a distinction between school-sponsored communications and curriculum. The Board had authority to exercise the direction of the curriculum. Cable TV, which the Board had defined as an extension of the curriculum, was different from a student newspaper and the guidelines that regulate student publications. The *Tinker* standard addressed speech that causes a disruption of the education environment that would be ongoing.

Ms. Signer was still troubled by JFA-RA even though there were some improvements. She thought the school system had a long way to go to make the regulation what it should be. She understood that *Hazelwood* gave the school system the authority to regulate school-sponsored speech to a greater degree than private speech. The fact that the school system could do it legally did not mean that it should do it morally. She was troubled by the lesson that MCPS was giving students when speech was regulated to the degree that has been chosen. She subscribed to the dissent in *Hazelwood* in that students expected a civics lesson and not learning to write a paper and honing their writing skills. She thought Regulation JFA-RA at Section F.3 was not clear. She was troubled by F.3.a)(1)d and thought it should be struck since it might be appropriate to write an article that was one-sided. At the appropriate time, she would offer amendments to the regulation.

Ms. Gutiérrez wanted to step back and examine how the Board had reached this point. She was concerned that the Board was trying to fix something that did not need fixing. She agreed with many of the comments by the students during Public Comments. There had been a unique occurrence in Montgomery County where MCPS created a climate of the excellence in instruction and learning since students have been held to the highest expectations and they stepped up to it. The school system was moving toward unnecessary control and tying the hands of the instructors. She would hate to limit students' freedom of expression. Language is powerful and that was why the Board was having this discussion. Ms. Gutiérrez was surprised when she saw the regulation and it had not been passed before the Board in a visible way. That was not the way she wanted the Board to operate. If there are controls, it should be done in public. She did not understand what the destination was based on the medium used. The medium was the definer and not the educational content. She wanted the Board to get back to an open policy statement without tinkering with guidelines or regulations. The policy stated the intent of the Board, and the Superintendent implemented the policy.

Mr. Ewing thought that it might be advisable if the Board took additional time and asked journalists for some advice. He wanted to make sure what the Board's decision produced balance between the accountability for reassuring that the school system did not sponsor activities that violate the law and still maintained a climate of free expression. Balance has to be sought within broad bounds and assures that any limitation on free speech was justified and cannot be seen as an abridgement of free speech. The language in JFA-RA F.3. was not sufficiently clear. Student publications might not be approved if it advocated drug or alcohol use, etc. That was clearer and did not raise shared values. The balance would be in the news stories. They need not be advocacates. All publications need to distinguish between opinion and fact, and Mr. Ewing wanted that in the regulation. There were two different kinds of activities in-house as different from cable, but he did not see the distinction.

Dr. Cheung looked at the issue as the Board's responsibility for the curriculum to educate students. The teachers were an important part of implementing policy since the students cannot learn by themselves. The Board had to look at these issues because the means of communications are different. It would be important to bring the teachers into this discussion.

RESOLUTION NO. 253-98 Re: **SECTION F.3.a) IN REGULATION JFA-RA, *STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES***

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

Resolved, That the Board of Education amend the agenda in order to take action on Regulation JFA-RA.

RESOLUTION NO. 254-98 RE: **AN AMENDMENT TO SECTION F.3.a) IN REGULATION JFA-RA, *STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES***

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

Resolved, That the Board of Education amend Regulation JFA-RA, F.3. a)(1) (Publications and Productions - Print and Nonprint), to read:

School-sponsored publications, such as newspapers, yearbooks, and literary magazines, and school-sponsored productions, such as school plays and television shows **produced for use within schools**, are to be encouraged as important aspects of the learning experiences that schools can provide.

For the Record: Ms. Gutiérrez voted in opposition and stated: "I am opposed because I really believe that if we are having a policy that says school-sponsored publications and productions and other media, it needs to include Cable TV."

RE: **AN AMENDMENT TO SECTION F.3.a) IN REGULATION JFA-RA, STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES (Failed)**

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

Resolved, That the Board of Education amend Regulation JFA-RA, F.3. a)(1) (c) and replace (d) (Publications and Productions - Print and Nonprint), to read:

- (c) advocates teen drug, alcohol and tobacco use, violence, illegal discrimination or illegal activities**
- (d) contains language that is obscene, libelous, slanderous or profane**

RESOLUTION NO. 255-98

RE: **AN AMENDMENT TO SECTION F.3.a) IN REGULATION JFA-RA, STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

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

Resolved, That the Board of Education amend Regulation JFA-RA, F.3. a)(1)(c) and replace (d) (Publications and Productions - Print and Nonprint), to read:

- (c) advocates teen drug, alcohol and tobacco use, violence, teen sex, illegal discrimination or illegal activities**
- (d) contains language that is obscene, libelous, slanderous or profane**

RE: **AN AMENDMENT TO SECTION F.3.a) IN REGULATION JFA-RA, *STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES* (Failed)**

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

Resolved, That the Board of Education amend Regulation JFA-RA, F.3. a)(1) (Publications and Productions - Print and Nonprint), at (new e) to read:

is not fairly presented in that those communications which are factual and intended to inform are labeled that way and those communications that are intended to generate discussion and controversy are labeled in that way

RESOLUTION NO. 257-98 Re: **AN AMENDMENT TO SECTION F.3.a) IN REGULATION JFA-RA, *STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES***

On motion of Ms. Wheat and seconded by Ms. Signer, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present:

Resolved, That the Board of Education Regulation JFA-RA, F.3. a) (Publications and Productions - Print and Nonprint) to include tobacco whenever alcohol and/or illegal drugs are referenced.

RESOLUTION NO. 256-98 Re: **POSTPONEMENT OF REGULATION IID-RA**

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

Resolved, That the Board of Education postpone its discussion and possible action on Regulation IID-RA; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board accept the offer of the representative from the Society for Professional Journalists and journalism teachers to consult with the school system and offer a proposal that would be different than what was proposed by staff; and be it further

Resolved, That their proposal and recommendations would be from the school system's and curriculum standpoint; and it be further

Resolved, That their proposal and recommendations would include the technical

guidelines.

For the Record: Mr. Felton was assured by the President and Superintendent that the Board had taken final action on Regulation JFA-RA.

**Re: REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EARLY
CHILDHOOD TASK FORCE**

Dr. Vance invited the following people to the table: Ms. Nancy Schneider, chair; and task force members Ms. Julie Bader, supervisor, Child Find/Early Childhood Disabilities Unit; Ms. Kathy McGuire, director, Department of Comprehensive Pupil Services; and Ms. Pam Prue, director, Division of Early Childhood Services. Other members of the task force were in the audience and introduced by Ms. Schneider.

Charting the Right Course for the First Five Years, the Report and Recommendations of the Early Childhood Task Force on Meeting the Needs of Young Children and Their Families in Montgomery County was presented. This task force was established in February, 1997, to make recommendations for children ages 0-5 so that they have the necessary health care, nutrition, and early childhood programs they need to be successful at school.

Ms. Schneider reported that Montgomery County families with children from birth to age five need access to an integrated system of information and services designed to make sure all children are "ready to learn" when they enter school at age five. Programs and services within this system should be based on models that promote prevention and early intervention. They should address children's and families' needs in the areas of health, housing, education, family support, and child care services.

Through surveys and study, the Early Childhood Task Force developed six recommendations that, if implemented, would go a long way toward meeting the needs of our county's very young children. The recommendations were aimed at protecting children from many health, behavior, and social problems that could become increasingly more serious as they grow older.

The Montgomery County Early Childhood Task Force presented the results of their work to Montgomery County policy makers including the: County Executive, County Council, Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Housing Opportunities Commission, and the Collaboration Council. They planned to share it with other stakeholders including: families, businesses, and the faith and civic communities.

RECOMMENDATION ONE

Develop a comprehensive data collection system that contains accurate information on:

- The demographics of Montgomery County children, including trends

- Types of services provided, for whom, at what cost
- Program eligibility requirements
- Reporting procedures
- Program performance measures and indicators

RECOMMENDATION TWO

Reorder and reallocate resources for prevention and intervention to address the needs of families with children from birth to age five, with special emphasis on children from birth to age three.

RECOMMENDATION THREE

Replace the Montgomery County Early Childhood Advisory Council and other early childhood advisories with an Interagency Early Childhood Committee. This committee would function under the Collaboration Council, which sets the agenda for children and families in Montgomery County. It would report directly to the Collaboration Council and regularly to the Executive, County Council, Board of Education, Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, and the public on the status of young children.

The Interagency Early Childhood Committee would be charged with carrying out the recommendations of the report and have the responsibility and authority to:

- Develop measures for outcomes and benchmarks
- Develop a system for program evaluation
- Expand and direct the collection of data
- Recommend budget allocations and priorities based on a comprehensive view of needs
- Prepare an annual report on the status of young children from birth to age five
- Reach out to and include local stakeholders in decisions affecting their communities

The Committee must include representatives of family, community, business, government, school system, faith, and provider organizations committed to the goal of school readiness by age five for all children.

RECOMMENDATION FOUR

To the greatest extent possible, use a single standard of financial eligibility for County-funded services. In order to reflect the real cost of living in Montgomery County programs should use the Minimum Standard of Need (MSON) established by the Community Action Board. That is, all families earning less than the MSON should be eligible for programs that will enable them to meet the needs of their children -- either at no cost or on a sliding scale proportionate to income.

Aggressively pursue additional federal and state funding targeting young children, such

as Child Care and Development Funds and the State Child Health Insurance Plan. These funding sources have potential long-term benefits to the County's children.

Lobby federal and state agencies to recognize the Minimum Standard of Need in Montgomery County.

RECOMMENDATION FIVE

Develop a comprehensive system of outreach and support to inform parents, families, and caregivers about the critical importance of early childhood brain development.

RECOMMENDATION SIX

Public and private caregivers of young children and home visitors working with families with young children should be trained specifically directed to nurturing early brain development. Standards of caregiver training that allow for local community values and needs should be established.

Incentives should be developed for child care providers to become accredited by nationally-recognized organizations with professional standards that are more demanding than minimum state licensing requirements. Affordable continuing education and consultation in child development, health, mental health, and parent involvement should be made accessible for all providers.

Ms. Signer asked about prevention and remediation that could be provided to children earlier than when they enter school system programs. She asked for details on what the school system should or could be doing that it was not. Ms. Schneider responded that health and special education problems could be cured or reduced if discovered early in a child's life. Some mental health problems begin early and lead to drop outs or behavioral issues when the child becomes an adolescent.

Ms. Signer stated that she was looking for how the school system might create a nexus for children not in the system. Those students that needed special education services were sometimes brought to the school system for services prior to kindergarten. That would not be an affirmative action by the school system. She wanted to know how the school system could insert itself into the identification process prior to providing services. Ms. Schneider hoped that the Early Childhood Committee would identify a process with collaboration between all county agencies.

Beyond the school system representatives serving in the advisory council, Ms. Signer asked what the school system could provide toward this effort in the short- and long-term. Ms. Schneider stated that the important contributions would be data collection, benchmarks, communication with the community on early childhood issues, and reordering and reallocating resources to avoid duplication.

Mr. Felton thanked the committee for focusing on practical recommendations. He asked how the county moves from the recognition of research and recommendations to a defined program for action. He asked what was the strategy for building the county's agenda so that it was not just an overwhelming project. Ms. Schneider replied that the committee was promoting the concepts of the report and the priority of children within Montgomery County. A reordering of resources was called for in the early prevention of childhood afflictions. Public relations and a media campaign would help to educate parents and community members on the learning modality of young children. There was a need for funds to further the recommendations in the report. The first step would be data collection.

Mr. Felton asked where the accountability was for moving the report forward. Ms. Schneider responded the County Executive had designated a staff person to continue the work. It was evident that MCPS staff support was essential for data collection and public relations. The County Executive promised more support for Health and Human Services to lead the effort to implement the report's recommendations.

Dr. Cheung commended the committee on an important report. Someone must be placed in charge of implementing the recommendations. Children are the future and the recommendations should be set in motion. He asked how the caregivers and grandparents would be informed about early childhood development. Also, he asked what implications and commitment were for the health care industry. He asked if there were partnerships with large companies within Montgomery County. Ms. Schneider stated that Marriott Corporation helped its employees with social problems and had programs for working mothers. She would present the recommendations to the Economic Advisory Council since they should be and want to be a part of the project.

Mr. Ewing was pleased with the report and hoped that the school system would do its part as recommended by the report. Intellectually, everyone recognizes that the first five years of life are critical for childhood development. He hoped that the Board would support the money in the County Executive's budget to start implementation of the recommendation for data collection. He suggested that the Education Foundation might help with the media campaign because it had received funds for advertising. Mr. Ewing was concerned about the portion of students receiving FARMS and the number of children in poverty. That statistic had increased dramatically over the last 20 years with one child in four receiving FARMS.

RESOLUTION NO. 258-98

Re: **REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EARLY CHILDHOOD TASK FORCE**

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

Resolved, That the Board of Education support the money in the County Executive's

budget to begin the data collection.

Re: **DISCUSSION**

Ms. Wheat left the meeting at this point.

Ms. Gutiérrez commended the committee on the recommendations and presentation of the report. It was very important to get data analysis, but there was data available through the school system and could be extrapolated. The report showed Hispanic children at 9.5 percent of the population, but those children already in the school system were 12.5 percent. In the recommendations, she did not see a sensitivity toward ethnicity which was very important in Montgomery County. The recommendation to put the project under the Collaboration Council may add to the bureaucracy because the interagency approach continued to ignore large portions of the minority population. The mass media campaign was important, but many minority parents cannot read the information and there needed to be a different approach. There needed to be literacy programs as well as parenting programs. There was a need for new money because reordering and reallocating funds would displace other projects.

RESOLUTION NO. 259-98

Re: **REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EARLY CHILDHOOD TASK FORCE**

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

Resolved, That the Board of Education ask the Superintendent to provide the Board with a response to the report of the Early Childhood Task Force and its recommendations along with a plan for MCPS participation in this ongoing effort.

RESOLUTION NO. 260-98

Re: **ADJOURNMENT**

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

Resolved, That the Board of Education adjourn its meeting of April 8, 1998, at 4:25 p.m.

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY

PLV:gr

MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION SUMMARY SHEET

April 8, 1998

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