

DRAFT  
18-1998

Rockville, Maryland  
April 23, 1998

The Board of Education of Montgomery County met in special session at the Carver Educational Services Center, Rockville, Maryland, on Thursday, April 23, 1998, at 6:10 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

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

RESOLUTION NO. 292-98 Re: **AGENDA**

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 agenda for April 23, 1998.

Re: **NON-RECOMMENDED REDUCTIONS OF THE FY 1999  
OPERATING BUDGET**

On recommendation of the Superintendent and on motion of Mrs. Gordon seconded by Ms. Signer, the following resolution was placed on the table:

WHEREAS, The Board of Education adopted an FY 1999 Operating Budget Request of \$956,411,192, excluding grants and enterprise funds, on February 10, 1998; and

WHEREAS, On April 14, 1998, the County Council designated a spending affordability guideline allocation for MCPS for FY 1999 of \$936,100,000; and

WHEREAS, The County Council has requested its Education Committee to recommend a budget for MCPS at the target allocation with an opportunity to request funding for important priorities in addition to the allocation target; and

WHEREAS, The Education Committee has expressed its expectation that it would receive a list of prioritized non-recommended reductions adopted by the Board of Education; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board of Education submit a list of funding priorities totaling \$20,311,192; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board of Education continue to request full funding of its FY 1999 Operating Budget; and be it further

Resolved, That if full funding of the Operating Budget Request is not approved and the identified reductions are made, the consequences for MCPS programs are described on the Impact Statement; and be it further

Resolved, That reductions such as those listed would have a highly detrimental effect on the quality of education in Montgomery County; and be it further

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

**NON-RECOMMENDED REDUCTIONS TO MEET  
FY 1999 COUNTY COUNCIL SPENDING AFFORDABILITY GUIDELINES**

Option 4

Summary	Positions	Amount
Spending Affordability Guideline April 14, 1998		\$936,100,000
Board of Education Budget Request (less grants & funds)		956,411,192
Difference		(\$20,311,192)

Description	Positions	Amount
1 Reduce funds for opening Blair Middle School #3	(17.9)	(\$1,602,434)
2 Revise employee health plan assumptions		(4,554,889)
3 Reduce operating budget retiree health contribution		(3,300,000)
4 Reduce retirement contribution		(50,000)
5 Adjust fuel costs for transportation		(200,000)
6 Adjust utility/communication costs		(600,000)
7 Reduce special education legal fees		(400,000)

8 Defer funding Y2K Project		(5,197,500)
9, Increase turnover savings		(285,000)
10 Defer purchase of 3 5 bus replacements		(461,000)
11 Reduce recycling		(140,000)
12 Eliminate current painting funds		(300,000)
13 Reduce funds for furniture and equipment		(200,000)
14 Eliminate transportation for special programs	(38.0)	(1,888,881)
15 Delay increase in PPW positions	(2.0)	(120,570)
16 Reduce maintenance positions	(10.0)	(351,370)
17 Reduce building service worker positions at high schools	(23.0)	(659,548)
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>(90.9)</b>	<b>(\$20,311,192)</b>

Re: **DISCUSSION**

Dr. Cheung understood that these were non-recommended reductions. He wanted to stress that the Board did not want to make these reductions, but it had to be done to comply with the spending affordability guidelines (SAG). The same requirements and guidelines established by the County Council when there were deficit revenues have not been amended to address surplus revenues. Dr. Vance thought the Education Committee was aware of the increased revenues and would work to fund as much of the school system's budget as possible.

Mr. Ewing thought it was important to note that the reduction of funds for the opening of the new Montgomery Blair Middle School was on the list because the Board voted to delay the opening of the school until September 1999.

Mrs. Gordon stated that Dr. Vance was right about the tone and comments made at the Education Committee. They were looking at the list for items they could put on the "wish list" for restoration to the operating budget. The items listed as non-recommended reductions in Option 4 could easily be defended by the Board for restoration.

Ms. Signer thought it was important to note that this list of non-recommended reductions included no reductions in instructional categories. She had stated that she would not vote for a list that contained reductions in the instructional programs. It had been difficult for the staff to prepare the list, and she thanked them for their hard work. She hoped that the public understood that even though there were no reductions in instruction, that did not mean that the reductions recommended could or should be taken. The County Executive and County Council have given the school system much of the funding that had been requested.

Ms. Gutiérrez thought the list of non-recommended reductions was a method by which the Council could select a reduction that the Board was forced to make because of SAG. She

thought it was a flawed way of preparing a budget. The SAG was set well before the revenues were known.

Mr. Ewing thought that the items on the non-recommended reduction list varied considerably. The Montgomery Blair Middle School reduction was the result of the Board changing the plans for the facility. Other items listed were doable and reasonable. However, there were reductions that would be devastating for the operation of the school. He suggested that the Board might employ some mechanism to prioritize or differentiate these items.

Mrs. King suggested sending an impact statement describing each non-recommended reduction.

Mrs. Gordon agreed that there were some reductions that should be made, some that could be made, and some that cannot be made. The law provides that each agency should send a prioritized list.

Mrs. King asked Board members to prioritize the items on the non-recommended reduction list. After polling the Board, the results were as follows:

**NON-RECOMMENDED REDUCTIONS TO MEET  
FY 1999 COUNTY COUNCIL SPENDING AFFORDABILITY GUIDELINES**

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Spending Affordability Guideline April 14, 1998		\$936,100,000
Board of Education Budget Request (less grants & funds)		956,411,192
Difference		(\$20,311,192)
Description	Positions	Amount
<b>Significant</b>		
1 Reduce funds for opening Blair MS #3	(17.9)	(\$1,602,434)
2 Reduce retirement contribution		(50,000)
3 Adjust fuel costs for transportation		(200,000)
4 Adjust utility/communication costs		(600,000)
5 Reduce recycling		(140,000)
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>(17.9)</b>	<b>(2,592,434)</b>

**Critical**

1 Revise employee health plan assumptions		(4,554,889)
2 Increase turnover savings		(285,000)
3 Reduce special education legal fees		(400,000)
4 Eliminate current painting funds		(300,000)
5 Reduce operating budget retiree health contribution		(3,300,000)
6 Reduce funds for non-instructional equipment		(200,000)
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>(9,039,889)</b>

**Devastating**

1 Defer funding Y2K Project		(5,197,500)
2 Defer purchase of 35 replacement buses		(461,000)
3 Reduce transportation services	(38.0)	(1,888,881)
4 Delay increase in PPW positions	(2.0)	(120,570)
5 Reduce maintenance positions	(10.0)	(351,370)
6 Reduce building service worker positions at high schools	(23.0)	(659,548)
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>(73.0)</b>	<b>(8,678,869)</b>

**Grand Total** (90.9) (\$20,311,192)

Required Reduction (\$20,311,192)

RESOLUTION NO. 293-98

Re: **NON-RECOMMENDED REDUCTIONS OF THE FY 1999  
OPERATING BUDGET**

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

WHEREAS, The Board of Education adopted an FY 1999 Operating Budget Request of \$956,411,192, excluding grants and enterprise funds, on February 10, 1998; and

WHEREAS, On April 14, 1998, the County Council designated a spending affordability guideline allocation for MCPS for FY 1999 of \$936,100,000; and

WHEREAS, The County Council has requested its Education Committee to recommend a budget for MCPS at the target allocation with an opportunity to request funding for important priorities in addition to the allocation target; and

WHEREAS, The Education Committee has expressed its expectation that it would receive a list of prioritized non-recommended reductions adopted by the Board of Education; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board of Education submit a list of funding priorities totaling \$20,311,192; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board of Education continue to request full funding of its FY 1999 Operating Budget; and be it further

Resolved, That if full funding of the Operating Budget Request is not approved and the identified reductions are made, the consequences for MCPS programs are described on Impact Statement; and be it further

Resolved, That reductions such as those listed would have a highly detrimental effect on the quality of education in Montgomery County; and be it further

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

**NON-RECOMMENDED REDUCTIONS TO MEET  
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<b>Subtotal</b>		(9,039,889)
<b>Devastating</b>		
1 Defer funding Y2K Project		(5,197,500)
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<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>(73.0)</b>	<b>(8,678,869)</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>(90.9)</b>	<b>(\$20,311,192)</b>
Required Reduction		(\$20,311,192)

RESOLUTION NO. 294-98

Re: **ADJOURNMENT**

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

Resolved, That the Board of Education adjourn its meeting at 7:00 p.m.

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 PRESIDENT

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 SECRETARY

PLV:gr