

APPROVED  
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Rockville, Maryland  
January 13, 1999

The Board of Education of Montgomery County met in special session at the Carver Educational Services Center, Rockville, Maryland, on Wednesday, January 13, 1999, at 7:35 p.m.

ROLL CALL Present:                    Mr. Reginald M. Felton, President  
    in the Chair  
    Mr. Kermit V. Burnett  
    Mrs. Beatrice B. Gordon  
    Mrs. Nancy J. King  
    Mrs. Patricia O'Neill  
    Ms. Mona M. Signer  
    Dr. Paul L. Vance, Secretary/Treasurer

Absent:                    Mr. Stephen Abrams  
    Mr. Geonard F. Butler, Jr., Student Board Member

**Re:    FY 2000 OPERATING BUDGET HEARING**

The following people testified before the Board of Education:

1. Sharon Cox, President of MCCPTA
2. B.J. Mills, Gail West, and Liz Folk, Sherwood Cluster
3. Sherry N. Davis, Northeast Consortium
4. Ann Stein, Blake Cluster
5. David Peña, Springbrook Cluster
6. Paula Nerret, Paint Branch Cluster
7. Nick Farson, Wheaton Cluster
8. Terry Schott, Magruder Cluster
9. Kevin Byrne, Rockville Cluster
10. John Hoven, Gifted and Talented Association of MC
11. Jo Ann LaVay and Judy Madden, MC Pupil Personnel Workers Association
12. Anna Bishop and Judy Amick, MC Psychologists Association
13. Gene Kijowski, Superintendent's Council on Business and Education
14. Doug Schiffman, Montgomery SUCCESS, Inc.
15. John Hardy, African American Business Council
16. Kenneth Colburn, Individual
17. Ellen Daniels, ESOL Liaison Committee
18. Lori Cohen, Individual
19. John Low, Individual

The Board of Education asked the following questions:

1. Ms. Signer asked for a response to the four issues raised in Ms. Folk's testimony. A number of middle schools were interested in special/signature programs, and it would be helpful to the Board if it had the staff's input on that topic.
2. In the Springbrook Cluster testimony, there was reference to the guided reading books and the shared big books. Mrs. Gordon asked if those were part of the instructional materials funds and/or media material funds that principals had discretion over. Dr. Vance relied yes. Mrs. Gordon asked if there had been any reductions in those funds and if principals still had the ability to expend those funds as needed. Dr. Vance relied that had not changed.
3. In the Paint Branch Cluster testimony as well as other testimony, Mrs. Gordon asked about the issue of additional security assistants for middle schools. She wanted to know the cost of providing a minimum of two security assistants at all middle schools and the cost for administrators for every 300 students. Dr. Vance responded that there was in progress an audit on the needs for security assistants with an analysis of the needs of the schools. Mrs. Gordon asked if the audit would be completed before final budget action. Dr. Vance replied that the audit would not be completed by that time.
4. In the Paint Branch testimony, Ms. Signer asked about retaining the position of the signature program coordinators as permanent, full-time positions. She wanted to know what the current plan was for those positions; what it would cost to retain them as permanent, full-time positions, what the school system does in other schools with signature program coordinators, how many of those a permanent, full-time positions, and what the cost was; and a comparison of the numbers of students served in all of those signature programs.
5. Mr. Felton was aware that the Department of Education had an initiative on safety and drug free schools and within the money allotted for grants supported security assistants and guards. He wanted to know what action the school system planned to take in applying for those grants in 1999 and 2000.
6. In the support for SAT enhancement classes, the Board had heard from Springbrook High School about their initiative to have all students take a practice SAT. Mrs. Gordon asked if there were opportunities for Springbrook High School to share its approach with Wheaton High School and if there was any support for available resources. Dr. Vance was confused by the testimony because the school system certainly encouraged principals in high schools with additional resources to develop SAT prep classes or enhancement classes which, in some schools, are

part of the school day. Dr. Vance asked Dr. Seleznow to report to the Board on what was happening at Wheaton High School.

7. Regarding the reading initiative, Mrs. Gordon stated that there was a focus on class size reduction in 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grades to enable students to read on level by the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. Given the large number of students who enter MCPS after 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, Mrs. Gordon asked if any of the requested funds would be used for intervention for those students. Dr. Vance replied that they would not be included in the initiative, but would receive what was normally provided which was considerable, including special programs. In the Wheaton Cluster, there was support provided through additional staff, Title 1 funds, and the Challenge Grant. Given the testimony, Dr. Vance would direct a review of those programs.
8. Mr. Burnett asked if there was an effort underway to provide an all-day kindergarten in the Wheaton Cluster.
9. In the Wheaton Cluster testimony, there was a reference to added on-site educational support and accountability assistance. Mr. Felton asked what additional efforts were planned with the estimated cost.
10. Mr. Felton asked if there were programs to reduce teacher mobility
11. After visiting Redland Middle School, Ms. Signer noted that there was a need for a coordinator for the algebra project to work with the feeder schools. She wanted to know what plans MCPS had for a coordinator, what the cost would be, and when that person would be hired.
12. Mr. Felton asked about the lack of availability in honors/AP classes. He wanted to know the extent of the problem in the Magruder Cluster. Dr. Vance thought the problem was an earlier application date, and there was no shortage of classes.
13. In the Rockville Cluster testimony, there was an issue about the French immersion program for secondary students. Ms. Signer wanted to know how many spaces were available at the French immersion program that would be placed in the Blair Cluster middle school and whether that would accommodate all of the French immersion program students from both Maryvale and the new Blair elementary school. She asked what was the feasibility of placing a French immersion secondary program in the Rockville Cluster, and what would be the cost.
14. After the testimony of the Pupil Personnel Workers Association, Mr. Felton asked if MCPS had explored greater collaboration between the county's family services and PPWs.

15. After the testimony of the Psychologists Association, Mr. Felton asked for MCPS's rationale for determining the number of psychologist position rather than basing the positions on student population.
16. Mrs. O'Neill asked what the cost would be if MCPS brought all oversized classes into compliance with the recommended guidelines.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

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PRESIDENT

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SECRETARY

PLV:gr