

APPROVED
10-2000

Rockville, Maryland
March 21, 2000

The Board of Education of Montgomery County met in special session at the Carver Educational Services Center, Rockville, Maryland, on Tuesday, March 21, 2000, at 7:10 p.m.

ROLL CALL Present: Mrs. Patricia B. O'Neill, President
 in the Chair
 Mr. Stephen Abrams
 Mr. Kermit V. Burnett
 Mr. Reginald M. Felton
 Mrs. Beatrice B. Gordon
 Mrs. Nancy J. King
 Ms. Laura Sampedro, Student Board Member
 Ms. Mona M. Signer
 Dr. Jerry Weast, Secretary/Treasurer

Absent: None

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

Re: **PUBLIC HEARING ON DEFERRED BOUNDARIES AND
 FACILITIES**

The following people testified before the Board of Education:

1. Councilmember Bob Wright, City of Rockville
2. Councilmember Chris Bruch, City of Kensington
3. Mayor Lynn Raufaste, City of Kensington
4. Jerry Heupel, Stephen Knolls School
5. Marilyn Shoenfeld, MCCPTA Area 6 Coordinator
6. Stephanie Weldon, Einstein Cluster
7. Bill Waller, Kennedy Cluster
8. Heidi Coleman, Montgomery Blair Cluster
9. Nick Farson, Wheaton Cluster
10. Marney Jacobs, Walter Johnson Cluster
11. Jerry Loux, Richard Montgomery Cluster
12. Brian Gifford, Quince Orchard Cluster
13. Alan Schwartz, Northwest Cluster
14. Larry Center, Horizon Hill Civic Association
15. Mary Jane Engelhardt
16. Pamela Moomau
17. Sally Taber

18. Kim Leichtling
19. Randall Gentry, Twinbrook Civic Association
20. Thomas Murphy, Old Farm Civic Association
21. Paul Silver, Luxmanor Civic Association
22. Robert Harris
23. Tad Franson
24. Charles Haughney
25. Tamara Rickman
26. Frank O'Donnell
27. Diana Kohn
28. Catherine Laudwein
29. Michael Ettliger
30. Mak-El Adlek

Board of Education members asked the following questions:

31. Mr. Abrams had a question for Mayor Raufaste. One of the historical issues that was troubling was whether a mistake had occurred. People focused on what was literarily in the record, but not on the omissions on the record. He asked if her recollection of the understanding of the community both in 1967 and 1981 was the whole town was included in one cluster. Mayor Raufaste thought the whole town was in the Walter Johnson Cluster. Mr. Abrams asked about 1981-82 when Kensington Elementary School was closed and the decision was made to move all of the students into Kensington-Parkwood Elementary School. Was it the assumption at that time that the move encompassed all of the students? Mayor Raufaste replied that that was the assumption of the community.
32. Mrs. King noted the Kennedy Cluster testimony, and she asked that Mr. Waller's ten questions be answered.
33. Mrs. Gordon asked to what extent the Blair, Einstein, and Kennedy clusters have gone beyond the leadership to involve the rest of the community about consortium idea. Several speakers reported on the community involvement activities.
34. Mrs. Gordon wanted clarification on the Board's decision to move forward on the consortium. That decision would mean that the communities involved (Blair, Einstein, Kennedy, and Wheaton) would develop signature programs through the established process. She wanted to know if the decision could be revisited in November after each of the communities had opportunity to become more involved in the process. She did not want the Board to take an action that would lock in or lock out any school. She asked if there would be points in the process where the Board could make subsequent decisions as was done with the Northeast Consortium. Mr. Bowers replied yes since the program and what is best for

students will drive the process. Dr. Weast explained that his recommendation contemplated flexibility throughout the process; however, in December there will be an opportunity to get a funding stream for the consortium up to \$4 million a year for three years.

35. On the issue of federal funding, Mrs. O'Neill asked if a cluster was not in the consortium, would that cluster be eligible for funds. Dr. Weast replied that the cluster would need to be in the consortium since the grant is designated for consortiums.
36. Mr. Burnett asked what was MCPS's position on the impact of Albert Einstein High School's planned addition by its inclusion in the consortium.
37. Mr. Burnett wanted to know if there were other schools that were considered as alternatives to the Stephen Knolls School's situation. Mr. Abrams asked about the modernization of the existing Stephen Knolls School's facility. Mr. Burnett asked staff to look at the balance between the feasibility study of modernization versus joining another school.
38. Mrs. O'Neill understood that base area assignments for a consortium reviews the capacity in the existing high schools.
39. Mrs. O'Neill asked if there had been an increase in transportation costs in the Northeast Consortium during the recent gasoline price increases, and what would be the projected transportation cost for the proposed consortium.
40. Mrs. O'Neill asked what the viability of making Newport an 8th grade school and were there educational benefits or disadvantages.
41. Mr. Felton inquired about Blair Cluster's testimony about the FARMS and ESOL rates of the Northeast Consortium compared with the four schools. He wanted the data for the three schools.
42. Regarding the window of opportunity for the consortiums, Mr. Felton wanted to know what federal funding was available for public school choice.
43. Ms. Signer noted Mr. Bruch's testimony and asked if the eastern boundary was Silver Creek and not Wheatley Street.
44. Ms. Signer asked about other feasible sites for the Stephen Knolls School, whether there were sufficient sites down-county that exceed 10 acres, and, if so, please list the sites.

45. Ms. Signer asked about Ms. Weldon's testimony and the four schools in the consortium would have 549 spaces available out of a total enrollment of 7,108 students. She wanted to know how that compared with the excess capacity that was made available in the Northeast Consortium.
46. Ms. Signer wanted to make sure that the committees who develop signature programs would have full access to all data, including ESOL, FARMS, and academics of the students in the consortium.
47. Ms. Signer inquired if the Ritchie Park Elementary School's PAC rooms would be remodeled for regular classes.
48. Ms. Signer asked if Richard Montgomery High School would be able to access the planning dollars in FY 2001 if money became available to accelerate the project. Were there plans to convert the garage to four classrooms?
49. Ms. Signer asked what plans did the school system have to address the overcrowding at Kingsview Middle School until 2004. Is it possible to site portables at that location and, if so, how many?
50. Mr. Felton asked about the enrollment growth and the CIP, and to what extent the school system was embracing the concept of schools within schools in the actual design and structure.
51. Mrs. King asked about the feasibility of changing boundaries and moving some children from Kingsview Middle School before the new school is built.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY

JDW:gr