

APPROVED  
31-2001

Rockville, Maryland  
November 7, 2001

The Board of Education of Montgomery County met in special session at the Carver Educational Services Center, Rockville, Maryland, on Wednesday, November 7, 2001, at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL Present:                   Mrs. Nancy J. King, President  
  in the Chair  
  Mr. Stephen Abrams  
  Mr. Kermit V. Burnett  
  Ms. Sharon Cox  
  Mr. Reginald M. Felton  
  Mr. Walter Lange  
  Mrs. Patricia B. O'Neill  
  Mr. Dustin Jeter, Student Board Member  
  Dr. Jerry Weast, Secretary/Treasurer

Absent:                   None

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

RESOLUTION NO. 588-01            Re:    **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

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

Resolved, That the Board of Education approve the agenda for November 7, 2001.

Re:    **BOUNDARY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS IN THE QUINCE  
ORCHARD CLUSTER**

Mr. Joseph Lavorgna, director of the Department of Planning and Capital Programming, gave the background, community involvement, committee criteria, and the committee's evaluation of the options. The superintendent of schools recommended that, effective September 2002, the following areas would be assigned from Rachel Carson Elementary School:

1.    The Quince Orchard Knolls and Potomac Preserve communities (known during the boundary study process as Zones C6 and C7) are assigned from Rachel Carson Elementary School to Thurgood Marshall Elementary School.
2.    The Brighton West Condominiums (known during the boundary study process as Zone C8) is assigned from Rachel Carson Elementary School to Jones

## Lane Elementary School.

The assignments from Rachel Carson Elementary School to Thurgood Marshall and Jones Lane elementary schools begin with kindergarten through Grade 4 in September 2002. The middle school assignment for the areas reassigned from Rachel Carson Elementary School will continue to be Ridgeview Middle School until middle school boundaries are reviewed as part of the opening of Quince Orchard Middle School #2.

**Re: DISCUSSION**

Mr. Lange asked about the Lakelands development and was concerned about the number of students from that area within the next three years. Mr. Crispell replied that the development would be built out in two to three years, and it is two-thirds complete at the present time.

Ms. Cox asked to have the middle school articulation repeated. Mr. Lavorgna replied that the middle school assignment for the areas reassigned from Rachel Carson Elementary School will continue to be Ridgeview Middle School until middle school boundaries are reviewed as part of the opening of Quince Orchard Middle School #2. Jones Lane Elementary School would go to Kingsview Middle School. Ms. Cox clarified that Jones Lane would have a split articulation.

Mr. Felton asked about Jones Lane Elementary School's rising enrollment of both Hispanics and FARMS students, saying he thought this enrollment had significantly increased. Dr. Weast responded that though increased, it was still below the other four elementary schools in the cluster. With the change, it will be comparable to the other schools.

Mr. Felton asked if staff was prepared to address any unintended consequences of that increase. Mr. Lavorgna answered that the cluster would have transition teams to help students, and the communities are supportive of the boundary changes.

Mr. Burnett clarified that Field Road Elementary School would retain the same boundaries, and the utilization percentage would stay the same with the addition of six relocatables.

Board members offered no alternatives.

**Re: BOUNDARY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ALBERT EINSTEIN MIDDLE SCHOOLS**

Mr. Lavorgna gave the background, community involvement, committee criteria, and the committee's evaluation of the options. The superintendent recommended that, effective September 2002, the following areas be reassigned to Albert Einstein Middle School #2:

1. The entire Rock View Elementary School service area.
2. The area east of Valleywood Drive, south of Henderson Avenue, and east of Judson Road in the Highland Elementary School service area.
3. The area west of Georgia Avenue in the Oakland Terrace Elementary School service area.

Also, effective September 2002, the following areas continue to be assigned to Sligo Middle School:

1. The entire Glen Haven and Woodlin elementary schools' service areas.
2. The area west of Valleywood Drive, north of Henderson Avenue, and west of Judson Road in the Highland Elementary School's service area.
3. The area east of Georgia Avenue in the Oakland Terrace Elementary School's service area.

The reassignments to Albert Einstein Middle School #2 begin with Grades 6 and 7 in September 2002.

Re: **DISCUSSION**

Mr. Lange noted the differences between the boundary recommendation of the Quince Orchard and Albert Einstein clusters. Upcounty, there is new development; downcounty, young families are moving into established neighborhoods. He was looking for reassurance from staff that boundary decisions were based on these population shifts and the potential for new students. Mr. Crispell replied that staff had studied the demographics and had accounted for that shift of population, especially downcounty.

Mr. Lange was concerned about the safety of walking students because of the major roads within the area. Would there be added transportation costs? Mr. Lavorgna replied that the transportation costs should decrease because of having two middle schools in the cluster.

Board members offered no alternatives.

Re: **BOUNDARY, NON-CAPITAL SOLUTIONS, AND CIP ISSUES**

Mr. Lavorgna pointed out that the Board will be asked to approve (1) a study of an elementary school boundary in the Gaithersburg Cluster, limited to Gaithersburg and Strawberry Knoll elementary schools, to be conducted in spring 2002 to relieve projected overutilization at Gaithersburg Elementary School; (2) a plan to build an elementary school at the Brookview Site; (3) a plan to add at Clearspring and Pinecrest elementary schools two centers for highly gifted students; (4) a study of moving some students from Highland

Elementary School to Sligo Middle School; and (5) a plan to pair Cresthaven Elementary School with the new consortium elementary school #16.

**Re: DISCUSSION**

Mrs. O'Neill asked how the Brookview Site would be returned to the school system. Mr. Lavorgna replied that when the property was deeded to the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC), there was a caveat to return the property to MCPS if it needed a school in that area. The school system would reimburse M-NCPPC for any improvements.

Mrs. O'Neill inquired about the road that led to the property. Mr. Lavorgna answered that the street, Oak View Drive, is the same width (without sidewalks) as other community streets with elementary schools.

Mr. Burnett asked if the seven-plus acres would be useable for construction. Mr. Lavorgna thought the trees would provide a natural buffer to the Beltway, and the building, parking lots, and ball fields would be placed at the front of the property.

Ms. Cox understood the concern of the community about the Brookview Site and a major boundary review. She reviewed the enrollment figures of 15 elementary schools; three were well over capacity, 10 were under capacity, and two were at capacity. She asked if there was a non-capital solution. Mr. Lavorgna replied that staff looked at schools in rings of five. The first ring would still have schools over capacity. They would have to go to all schools in the consortium before there was enough capacity for all students, and that would cause major school shifts within established communities.

Ms. Cox asked if there was a non-capital solution to capacity issues that would last for more than three to four years. She was concerned about explaining to communities why the school system was choosing to build a new school when there appeared to be capacity within the cluster. Mr. Lavorgna answered that capacity is calculated on 25 students in a classroom, but those classrooms are staffed at 23 to 1. Therefore, there is not an empty classroom in the cluster. A boundary change, especially in communities with moderately priced housing, is very tenuous. Three reasonably sized schools provide flexibility for the future. Dr. Weast stated that three factors affected his decision – (1) high growth; (2) size of an elementary school; and (3) concentration of poverty and mobility. Mrs. O'Neill noted that at last year's Council meeting, the Cresthaven and Burnt Mills communities suggested building a new school.

Mr. Lange asked about the centers for highly gifted students. Mr. Lavorgna stated that there are four centers. Dr. Weast replied that the addition of two new centers would mean a 50-percent increase in the number of students served by such programs. The centers would serve students geographically and reduce transportation time. Clearspring Elementary School is upcounty, and Pinecrest Elementary School is downcounty. The increased capacity would serve a total of 600 students at all six centers.

Mrs. O'Neill noted that community members were concerned that the addition of highly gifted classes would dilute some initiatives, such as all-day kindergarten. What about funding for Title I and class-size reduction? Dr. Weast believed that the two locations selected for the highly gifted centers would not affect school programs. Dr. Weast added that this is clearly a Board priority and his office has worked to find the best locations with a staged increase of highly gifted centers.

Re: **OVERVIEW OF THE SUPERINTENDENT'S  
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PLANS AND  
RECOMMENDATIONS**

The recommended FY 2003 Capital Budget is \$105.8 million, which is \$4.7 million less than the amount previously approved for FY 2003 in the adopted CIP and approximately \$53 million less than what was being planned. The Recommended FY 2003-2008 CIP is \$644.4 million, a decrease of \$51.4 million from the previously approved six-year CIP and about \$176 million less than what would be recommended if funding were available. However, most projects do remain as planned for enrollment growth.

Re: **DISCUSSION**

Mr. Lange asked for the projection on relocatables for the coming year. Mr. Lavorgna replied that the school system will move 70 relocatables, and he did not envision any new relocatables.

Mrs. O'Neill asked about the Damascus Cluster and the timeline on the new home construction in that area. Mr. Crispell replied that the impact will begin this year, and developments have been approved that will affect future enrollment projections.

Ms. Cox inquired about a feasibility study on high school alternatives at the McKenney Hills and Longview centers. Mr. Lavorgna stated that a feasibility study was done on the alternative school facilities. The hope is to consolidate programs without a lot of capital improvements. Ms. Cox reported that science facilities for a high school program do not exist at these centers.

RESOLUTION NO. 598-01

Re: **ADJOURNMENT**

On recommendation of the Superintendent and on motion of Mrs. O'Neill seconded by Mr. Burnett, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

Resolved, That the Board of Education adjourn its meeting of November 7, 2001, at 8:55 p.m.

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PRESIDENT

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SECRETARY

JDW:gr