

APPROVED  
36-2001

Rockville, Maryland  
November 27, 2001

The Board of Education of Montgomery County met in special session at the Carver Educational Services Center, Rockville, Maryland, on Tuesday, November 27, 2001, at 8:10 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. 624-01 Re:   **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

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

Resolved, That the Board of Education approve the agenda for November 27, 2001.

RESOLUTION NO. 625-01 Re:   **BOUNDARY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS IN THE QUINCE ORCHARD CLUSTER**

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

WHEREAS, In April 2001, the superintendent convened a Boundary Advisory Committee, composed of two representatives each from the Quince Orchard Cluster elementary schools, plus the Quince Orchard Cluster Coordinator; and

WHEREAS, The Boundary Advisory Committee met in April, May, and June 2001 and submitted a report of five boundary options with committee evaluations on June 14, 2001, to

the superintendent; and

WHEREAS, The superintendent reviewed and carefully considered the Boundary Advisory Committee's report, school PTA position papers, and feedback received from the community at large, and presented a recommendation for boundary changes for consideration by the Board of Education on October 17, 2001; and

WHEREAS, On November 7, 2001, the Board of Education held a work session to review and consider the superintendent's recommendation for boundary changes in accordance with the Board of Education Policy FAA, *Long-range Educational Facility Planning*, and adopted no alternatives; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Education conducted public hearings on November 14 and 15, 2001, on the superintendent's recommendation, and has considered the testimony presented at the hearing; now therefore be it

Resolved, That, effective September 2002, the following areas be reassigned from Rachel Carson Elementary School:

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

and be it further

Resolved, That the reassignments from Rachel Carson Elementary School to Thurgood Marshall and Jones Lane elementary schools described above begin with Kindergarten through Grade 4 in September 2002; and be it further

Resolved, That the middle school assignment for the areas being reassigned from Rachel Carson Elementary School continue to be Ridgeview Middle School until middle school boundaries are reviewed as part of the opening of Quince Orchard Middle School #2.

RESOLUTION NO. 626-01 Re: **BOUNDARY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MIDDLE SCHOOLS IN THE ALBERT EINSTEIN CLUSTER**

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

WHEREAS, In March 2001, the superintendent convened a Boundary Advisory Committee, composed of representatives from each of the five elementary schools in the Albert Einstein

Cluster, one representative each from Sligo Middle School and Albert Einstein High School, and three cluster coordinators; and

WHEREAS, The Boundary Advisory Committee met in March, April, and May 2001 and submitted a report of 10 boundary options with committee evaluations on June 4, 2001, to the superintendent; and

WHEREAS, The superintendent reviewed and carefully considered the Boundary Advisory Committee's report, community position papers, and feedback from the community at large and, on October 17, 2001, presented a recommendation for boundary changes for consideration by the Board of Education; and

WHEREAS, On November 7, 2001, the Board of Education held a work session to review and consider the superintendent's recommendation for boundary changes, in accordance with the Board of Education Policy FAA, *Long-range Educational Facility Planning*, and adopted no alternatives; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Education conducted public hearings on November 14 and 15, 2001, on the superintendent's recommendation, and has considered the testimony presented at the hearing; now therefore be it

Resolved, That, effective September 2002, the following areas be reassigned to Albert Einstein Middle School #2:

- \$ The entire Rock View Elementary School service area
- \$ The area east of Valleywood Drive, south of Henderson Avenue, and east of Judson Road in the Highland Elementary School service area (known during the boundary study process as Highland South)
- \$ The area west of Georgia Avenue in the Oakland Terrace Elementary School service area (known during the boundary study as Oakland Terrace West); and be it further

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

- \$ The entire Glen Haven and Woodlin elementary schools service areas
- \$ The area west of Valleywood Drive, north of Henderson Avenue, and west of Judson Road in the Highland Elementary School service area (known during the boundary study as Highland North)
- \$ The area east of Georgia Avenue in the Oakland Terrace Elementary School service area (known during the boundary study as Oakland Terrace East)

and be it further

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

**Re: FY 2003 CAPITAL BUDGET AND FY 2003-2008  
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM**

On recommendation of the Superintendent and on motion of Mr. Abrams seconded by Mr. Lange, the following resolution was placed on the table:

WHEREAS, In accordance with 5-306 of the Annotated Code of Maryland, the superintendent of schools released the Recommended FY 2003 Capital Budget and FY 2003-2008 Capital Improvements Program (CIP) on October 29, 2001; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Education conducted a work session on November 7, 2001, to review the superintendent's boundary recommendations in accordance with the Board of Education Policy FAA, *Long-range Educational Facility Planning*; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Education conducted public hearings on November 14 and 15, 2001, on the superintendent's recommendations for all capital and noncapital items for the FY 2003 Capital Budget and FY 2003-2008 CIP; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Education, in adopting this capital budget and CIP, considered the implication of decisions on the county's Annual Growth Policy, and is aware that the requested timing of capital projects will enable all clusters to meet the AGP schools test and remain open to residential development; and

WHEREAS, Projected shortfalls in both state and county revenues have necessitated a review of project priorities and revisions to project schedules; and

WHEREAS, The review of priorities and project schedules has been conducted in a collaborative environment with the county executive and County Council, taking into consideration affordability; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board of Education approve a FY 2003 Capital Budget appropriation request totaling \$100.3 million and a FY 2003-2008 CIP request totaling \$645.4 million; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board of Education approve the FY 2003 State Capital Improvements Program request in the amount of \$22.110 million for FY 2003; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board of Education approve the individual capital and noncapital items included in the Recommended FY 2003 Capital Budget and the FY 2003-2008 CIP that was released on October 29, 2001; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board of Education approve an elementary school boundary study 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; and be it further

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

Re: **DISCUSSION**

Mrs. King stated that, as Board President, she appreciated early participation with the staff, the County Council, and the County Executive. Even though she was unhappy with the amount of funding, the Board had more early input into the budget process.

Mr. Felton asked about the modernization of science labs and whether there could be a line item or special fund for those schools that were not yet scheduled for modernization. Could a process be developed? Mr. Lavorgna suggested that a new category in the CIP could be established. The State of Maryland has funds for rejuvenating science labs, just as there are funds for reroofing projects.

Mr. Felton inquired if that issue and a procedure would come to the Board in March. Mr. Lavorgna stated that a project could be created with an assessment of the costs. There could be an amendment to next year's CIP based on the study. Mr. Felton was simply asking for a mechanism to fund the rejuvenation of science labs.

Mr. Felton inquired about combining programs at the McKenney Hills Center. At the present, it is a special use facility. He was concerned that the community was not engaged in plans for the future use of the facility. He suggested that the Board defer action for one year to allow staff time to explain the programmatic plans to the community. What impact would that have? Dr. Bryant replied that the move would not take place until September 2003. That timing would allow staff to work with the community. Programmatically, the delay would affect the readiness of students for the High School Assessment. The same alternative programs do not have the ability to provide a comprehensive high school education. Mr. Lavorgna added that staff had reviewed the facilities throughout the county to ascertain a suitable building, and the McKenney Hills building is large enough to accommodate the programs. Furthermore, the programs that are currently in the building would be easier to relocate to other spaces.

Mr. Abrams disagreed with Mr. Felton's premise, and there is time for community input throughout the year to demonstrate the why project should not go forward.

Ms. Cox noted that there appeared to be no options for an alternative placement for this project. Over the course of the next year, she would like staff to meet with the community to address its concerns on both the special education and the alternative placement programs. This is a change that has to be made, but the school system should address the concerns, such as the supports for the developmental disability programs, having small children in a middle school environment, and the integrity of the alternative programs with collocation. The programs are systemwide and not all clusters can have programs. Dr. Bryant added that in 1998 a committee came together with the recommendation to improve alternative schools. Over the past two years, staff has worked to implement the recommendations in a cost-neutral option with consolidating programs. There is an opportunity to create two programs that are cost neutral and will be of educational benefit for students.

Mr. Felton moved that the Board of Education postpone for one year the superintendent's process and staging for combining programs at McKenney Hills, which would allow for more extensive involvement of the community in the plans and program. The motion died due to the lack of a second.

Mr. Felton asked how much it would cost to build a small walkway to the athletic fields at Col. Zadok Magruder High School. Mr. Hawes stated that staff would explore the options to ascertain if there was merit and funding for the project. Also, the ADA coordinator will evaluate the request. After that assessment, staff will inform the Board of its recommendations.

Ms. Cox asked about the budget and timeframe for science labs at Longview and McKenney Hills. Mr. Lavorgna reported that there was a feasibility study to renovate both centers completely to accommodate the proposed programs. There would have to be an amendment in next year's CIP request to fund these facility improvements.

Ms. Cox inquired about the highly gifted center at Pinecrest Elementary School. She had asked about the possibility of moving to a cluster model to provide more opportunities for gifted students on a countywide basis. Dr. Weast noted that space available in elementary schools is limited. The gifted program has not expanded in 17 years, and with the growth in enrollment there is a demand for services. With four centers, parents must be willing to transport their children. With regional centers and as space becomes available, there could be a transition to a cluster model.

**Re: CENTERS FOR THE HIGHLY GIFTED**

On motion of Mrs. O'Neill and seconded by Mr. Abrams, the following resolution was placed on the table:

Resolved, That the Board of Education add an additional fourth grade class for one year at Dr. Charles R. Drew Elementary School where there is currently a gifted and talented center to accommodate children from the downcounty area; and be it further

Resolved, That the downcounty consortium partners all be involved in planning and identifying where a future gifted and talented center will be located.

Re: **DISCUSSION**

Dr. Weast pointed out that, with the Board's direction, he was trying to create 100 more slots for gifted students by adding 50 students upcounty and 50 students downcounty. These numbers were based on having transportation to avoid long bus rides. Pinecrest was chosen because it had space for 50 students and potential to grow to 100 students. Mr. Lavorgna noted that Drew has the space today, but if class size initiatives are extended Drew is first on the list.

Ms. Cox noted that there were concerns in the Blair Cluster as schools were trying to improve programs and did not want to lose students to a highly gifted program. She asked how many students are currently from the Blair Cluster. Ms. Virginia Tucker, director of the Division of Accelerated and Enriched Instruction, replied that there were 19 fourth graders and 21 fifth graders.

Ms. Cox asked if the new configuration would include a greater percentage of students from the Blair Cluster for the Drew program. Ms. Tucker responded that the new configuration would shorten transportation time for students attending the centers. Also, parents of some children who have been selected for the highly gifted centers have chosen the home school because they believe the strong gifted programs in the school can meet their needs. Dr. Weast added that there were 1,300 people who went to a great deal of trouble to apply for a program that is full. Those parents were willing to be on a wait list.

Ms. Cox asked if there would be much of an impact on the elementary schools if half of the students at the Drew center are already from the Blair Cluster. Dr. Weast thought it would not be as bad as some people think, but there will be parents who will send their children to an area gifted center. Also, there will only be openings for 50 out of 7,500 elementary students.

Mrs. O'Neill withdrew her motion.

RESOLUTION NO. 627-01 Re: **CENTERS FOR THE HIGHLY GIFTED**

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

Resolved, That the Board of Education direct the superintendent to move forward with the Pinecrest Center for the Highly Gifted, and the downcounty consortium's PTA leaders and principals be involved in identifying space and programmatic issues for the cluster.

Re: **DISCUSSION**

Mr. Lange stated that he had no additions. He commented that discussions had gone from facility to program issues, and they are certainly interrelated. The superintendent had noted that the CIP request for six years is \$200 million less than what is needed by the school system. It is not fully appreciated because schools open every day and educate students. By all appearances, things work well. Everyone has to remember that the school system is growing by 2,000 to 3,000 students each year. Those students must be housed, which equals having another 100 classrooms each year. There is concern about the deterioration of many older buildings since the modernization schedules had continually been pushed back. Small spaces are now being utilized for instructional areas. He commended the principals, teachers, and students for what they are doing in restricted buildings.

RESOLUTION NO. 628-01 Re: **AN AMENDMENT TO THE FY 2003 CAPITAL BUDGET  
AND FY 2003-2008 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS  
PROGRAM**

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

Resolved, That should the economy recover over the next year, amendments to the FY 2003-2008 Capital Improvements Program will be requested in FY 2004 to improve the capital project schedules that have been delayed and restore projects that were removed from the six-year CIP.

Re: **DISCUSSION**

Mrs. O'Neill was concerned about where the current programs at McKenney Hills would be housed. Would there be space available in McKenney Hills for any of the existing programs? Mr. Lavorgna replied that there would be space for the current day-care provider. Mrs. O'Neill noted that Longview and the Lynnbrook Center with Tahoma and Wakanda programs both had day-care programs.

Mr. Burnett was more comfortable about the CIP after listening to the discussions. He spent time last year at the Gateway Program, and he was disappointed because the services and



facilities provided for those students lacked the support mechanisms needed for success. Therefore, to move this program to a better facility is the right thing to do. This is a fiscally tight year, and staff did a good job of putting together the CIP.

**RESOLUTION NO. 629-01 Re: FY 2003 CAPITAL BUDGET AND FY 2003-2008 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM**

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

WHEREAS, In accordance with 5-306 of the Annotated Code of Maryland, the superintendent of schools released the Recommended FY 2003 Capital Budget and FY 2003-2008 Capital Improvements Program (CIP) on October 29, 2001; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Education conducted a work session on November 7, 2001, to review the superintendent's boundary recommendations in accordance with the Board of Education Policy FAA, *Long-range Educational Facility Planning*; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Education conducted public hearings on November 14 and 15, 2001, on the superintendent's recommendations for all capital and noncapital items for the FY 2003 Capital Budget and FY 2003-2008 CIP; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Education, in adopting this capital budget and CIP, considered the implication of decisions on the county's Annual Growth Policy, and is aware that the requested timing of capital projects will enable all clusters to meet the AGP schools test and remain open to residential development; and

WHEREAS, Projected shortfalls in both state and county revenues have necessitated a review of project priorities and revisions to project schedules; and

WHEREAS, The review of priorities and project schedules has been conducted in a collaborative environment with the county executive and County Council, taking into consideration affordability; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board of Education approve a FY 2003 Capital Budget appropriation request totaling \$100.3 million and a FY 2003-2008 CIP request totaling \$645.4 million; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board of Education approve the FY 2003 State Capital Improvements Program request in the amount of \$22.110 million for FY 2003; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board of Education approve the individual capital and noncapital items

included in the Recommended FY 2003 Capital Budget and the FY 2003-2008 CIP that was released on October 29, 2001; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board of Education approve an elementary school boundary study 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; and be it further

Resolved, That should the economy recover over the next year, amendments to the FY 2003-2008 Capital Improvements Program will be requested in FY 2004 to improve the capital project schedules that have been delayed and restore projects that were removed from the six-year CIP; and be it further

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

RESOLUTION NO. 630-01 Re: **ADJOURNMENT**

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

Resolved, That the Board of Education adjourn its meeting of November 27, 2001, at 9:10 p.m.

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY

JDW:gr