

APPROVED
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Rockville, Maryland
July 1, 2004

The Board of Education of Montgomery County met in special session at the Carver Educational Services Center, Rockville, Maryland, on Thursday, July 1, 2004, at 7:35 p.m.

Present: Ms. Sharon W. Cox, President
in the Chair
Mr. Reginald M. Felton
Mr. Walter Lange
Dr. Henry Lee, Board Member-Elect
Mr. Gabe Romero
Mr. Sagar Sanghvi, Student Board Member
Dr. Jerry Weast, Secretary/Treasurer

Absent: Mr. Kermit V. Burnett
Dr. Charles Haughey
Mrs. Patricia B. O'Neill

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Cox at 7:35 p.m.

Re: **SWEARING IN**

Ms. Molly Ruhl, clerk of the court, administered the oath of office to Dr. Henry Lee and Mr. Sanghvi.

Re: **STATEMENT BY DR. LEE**

"When I was in graduate school I was giving a presentation to a member of my graduate committee when her former advisor, and supposedly the most published man in the history of science, Robert Goode came into her office. He sat down, listened until I was done and then put his arm around me and said, "I want you to know that whatever you do, whatever you accomplish will be as my academic grandchild." What Dr. Goode believed is that we are shaped by education, values and ethics and those that taught us can take credit for whatever we accomplish.

And for those who knew Dr. Goode, it would not be a surprise to see him taking credit for this, too.

But his philosophy is true. What happened in our past will shape our future. In this room today there are many who have shaped my past, present, and future. And together we can shape the future of Montgomery County.

I would first like to acknowledge the votes, support and fellowship of the members of the Board of Education. Without their help I would not be standing before you as a member of the Board

of Education.

I would like to thank Mr. Felton for his 10 years of service to the children of Montgomery County as a member of the Board of Education. I know his abilities will be missed on this Board, especially his ability to build consensus. I know his talents will be put to great use in his future endeavors, and I will look forward to working with him in the future.

I would like to acknowledge my campaign manager of the 2002 election, Terry Schott. She has been a great friend, supporter, and advisor. I will be using her talents in the future.

Then, there are the supporters who do not get enough credit—Michael Lin, many of the council members as well as legislators. Please be advised that your help has only just begun. I hope you will help ensure that Montgomery County Public Schools remains one of the best school districts in the world.

Most of all I would like to thank my family – Diane for her support, and our children, Alex, Justin, and Nathan. Alex and Justin opted to miss their big rivalry game, Magruder v. Sherwood, to be with us this evening. Nathan is my big campaign assistant and would not have missed this for anything.

My mother and siblings can't be left out. My mom never learned English because she never had access to affordable English classes, but she gave us as much support as she understood and could, and that might have been a better gift than having a mom who could speak English but was not supportive.

I can't leave out my older sister who passed away a little over a year ago. She was the surrogate parent who went to many of my parent-teacher conferences, who registered her younger siblings for school, and who communicated with the schools for my parents.

In many ways my family and friends have been a microcosm of many of the challenges that face many families in Montgomery County: multifamily housing, FARMS students, ESOL students, ADD students, GT students, and "average" students, but we were all students who could learn and did succeed.

The challenge in Montgomery County is not just one, two, or three dozen families. It is a challenge of scale, in that more than a quarter of the students are in one or more of the categories mentioned. It is a challenge for which resources are limited, but the needs are not. It is a challenge of training and developing staff and teachers who are diverse and can serve a diverse population with diverse needs. It is a challenge of educating entire families and communities and coordinating those services with not only school-based resources but resources from the county, state and federal agencies as well as from the private sector. It is a challenge in that resources must be balanced for all children in all groups so each can

achieve to the best of his or her ability.

I will work with everyone in this room to face and answer these challenges. I have every confidence that all these challenges can and will be met as long as we communicate, advocate and collaborate.

Thank you again for this trust you have place in me. It is a charge I will not take lightly and with your help, we will continue to make Montgomery County Public Schools a school system that can and will provide the highest level of service to all the children and residents of Montgomery County.”

Re: STATEMENT BY MR. SANGHVI

“I will start out with a little story. I was getting ready today, and I had my clothes ironed at about six o'clock. Since I was ready to leave at 6:45 p.m., I would be right on time. However, when I buttoned my shirt, the third button popped off. It was a brand-new shirt, and I did not expect that to happen. Since my mom and dad were out, I got the sewing kit and tried to sew the button back on the shirt. Anyone who knows me knows that my sewing a button on a shirt is not a good idea. When that did not work, I dug through my dad's closet and found a new shirt to wear. I'm dressed okay.

Why did I tell the story? There are basically one or two reasons. While serving on the Board this past year, I have learned that things rarely go as planned. We finish too early or too late, and our agendas are usually packed with interesting discussions. The second thing I have learned is that it has always been beneficial to be organized and think on the run. So, I am dressed okay, I have my suit on, I have my new shoes on, and I think I am looking good!

You will notice that I do not have anything written. That also comes from serving on the Board this year. I have learned to think on my feet, and that comes from some of the interesting discussions we have had. So, I am just going to speak from the heart today, and thank the people who are here with me.

I would like to start by thanking my mom and dad, and my brother, who is the front row. There have been times this year when I wondered why I had run for the Board, and why I ran again. When those times came along, my mom and dad sat me down and told me that what was important was serving on the Board and the accomplishing the tasks ahead of me and understanding why I was doing this. They are a good reminder to me every day of the importance of being organized and being responsible, and keeping the values that have shaped me into the person I am today. Thank you, mom and dad!

When I was sworn in last year, I told the Board and the people here that I would thank my brother if he was here. He is here today, and it is my responsibility to thank him. Thank you

for guiding me with your wisdom. My extended family is also here, and my aunt and uncle are here. Thanks for your support and love throughout this year. All my friends are in the back row. Late at night they would come over and help me with homework assignments, and fill me in on what was happening at schools – who broke up with whom – that type of thing!

Many of my teachers are also here. My SGA advisors, Ms. Price and Ms. Keager, helped me through the process this year and helped me stay involved in SGA. Also, Mr. Bechtell, who is a former SGA advisor, helped me get involved. Ms. Crawford, Ms. Gotcher, Ms. Bouvay, and Dr. Steinberg, my principal, helped me this year.

Finally, I would like to thank the other members of the Board of Education, my colleagues. They have kept me involved in interesting discussions. They have challenged me with the Grading and Reporting Policy all year. I have another year to convince the Board of my position. The Board has shown me the important of serving the public and working with the community. Along with the Board staff, Glenda Rose, George Margolies has sat beside me most of the year. I am looking forward to another good year of working with fellow Board members, the public, friends and family.

To close, I would like to say something that Chris Lloyd said: ‘No matter what picture is taken of you, or what quote is taken, it is never a good one. It never comes out right.’”

Re: PROCLAMATION FOR MR. FELTON

Mr. Silverman, president of the County Council, presented Mr. Felton with a proclamation from the County Council.

Re: PRESENTATION TO MR. FELTON

On behalf of the members of the Board, Ms. Cox presented Mr. Felton with memorabilia of his terms on the Board of Education.

Re: STATEMENT BY MR. FELTON

“Let me thank all of you from joining me in this event. It is certainly a welcome to two outstanding individuals. Sagar, congratulations. You have made history. As most of us know, this is the first student Board member who has been reelected to a second term. I want to congratulate Dr. Henry Lee, who I know since we have worked together over the past few years. He has been a community activist and is someone who will represent District 5 well.

Thanks for the opportunity to serve this community for a decade. I want to thank the superintendent, administrators, principals, teachers, and support personnel for their commitment in keeping children first. I leave now knowing that the focus on academic

instruction for all students is stronger now than even before. Here in Montgomery County we have always talked the talk, but, in these past few years, we can now demonstrate through data and measurable objectives our progress. We still have some issues not resolved. We are not perfect. But, our efforts have been strategic, and we can now document our gains. We remain one of the most outstanding public school systems in this nation. We should all be very, very proud of that fact. I would also thank our parents and families because you have understood that accountability has to be shared. The school district alone cannot do it. We can only be successful with your support. Just as important, we want to thank those partners of the school system, especially the business community. Unlike many school districts across the nation where the business community is on one side and public education is on the other, in this community, we are on the same side. That is very, very important because public education is under attack, and, in Montgomery County, we offer a model to the nation. I want to thank the residents of this community who value public education and continue to invest in education. As taxpayers, as citizens, and as residents, you believe we should have high quality education in our community. It is very important for you to continue to invest because we understand that without a strong public education, the community cannot be strong. You have been very supportive of that.

I told my wife that I would not recount 10 years because one thing about being on a Board for 10 years is that you have a lot to talk about. So, I will simply say that it has been a great experience. We have had many, many challenges. I have been involved in almost every one of those challenges. I have also had the opportunity to work with some great people in our school system and on this Board. I think too few of us really understand the kind of commitment that a Board member – or a Council member or any public official – has to make personally in terms of their family. Obviously and primarily, I want to thank my family for their support. My wife has been very supportive. When I was asked to run for the Board and was convinced to do it, it was based on the fact that Brandon was graduating from high school and my wife had accepted an assignment out of the area. I thought I would be alone, but she did not accept that assignment. When I first started on the Board, she would ask if I had to go out that night. Soon she understood the real question was, “Are you coming home tonight?” I also want to thank my son because he came back to help me on my last campaign. Also, in the audience is my mother who has relocated to the Washington area. She is a retired teacher from Chicago, and she established a true value for high quality education. I also want to thank other family members, and the many friends who are here. Thanks for your support.

Of course, I cannot leave without thanking the Board staff. All of you have been tremendous – George, Roland, Lori, Glenda, Roz, Gail, and Becky. You have made it a tolerable situation for Board members. You never fail to make us 100 percent supported over the years.

Finally, I want to thank my colleagues. It has been a tremendous journey being on the Board for almost a decade. Each Board has its own personality, but in each case it has been a wonderful experience. I will leave here saying: ‘I shall return.’”

Re: **COMMENTS BY BOARD MEMBERS AND THE
SUPERINTENDENT**

Board members welcomed Mr. Sanghvi and Dr. Lee, and thanked Mr. Felton for his work on the Board of Education and wished him well in all his future endeavors.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m. A reception followed in the auditorium.

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY

JDW:gr