

APPROVED
28-2005

Rockville, Maryland
November 2, 2005

The Board of Education of Montgomery County met in special session at the Carver Educational Services Center, Rockville, Maryland, on Wednesday, November 2, 2005, at 7:30 p.m.

Present: Mrs. Patricia B. O'Neill, President
in the Chair
Mr. Steve Abrams
Ms. Sharon W. Cox
Dr. Charles Haughey
Mrs. Nancy Navarro
Mr. Sebastian Johnson, Student Board Member
Mr. Larry Bowers, Acting Secretary/Treasurer

Absent: Ms. Valerie Ervin
Mr. Gabriel Romero

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

RESOLUTION NO. 578-05 Re: **AGENDA**

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

Resolved, That the Board of Education approve its agenda for November 2, 2005.

Re: **FY 2007 CAPITAL BUDGET AND FY 2007-2012
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM (CIP)**

The recommended FY 2007 Capital Budget and FY 2007-2012 Capital Improvements Program (CIP) take advantage of a leveling off in enrollment to try to reduce the significant shortages in school capacity. This year, 17,000 students attend classes in 719 portable classrooms.

During the past decade, the school system has built 14 schools and constructed numerous additions to other schools. Next fall, MCPS will open five new schools – one high school and four elementary schools. Still, the construction of additional space has not kept pace with enrollment growth and, more recently, with class-size reduction initiatives. Student enrollment increased by 42,620 students from 1987 to 2002, an average increase of more than 2,800 students per year.

Over the last three years, enrollment growth has slowed considerably. This trend is a result of lower birth rates in the 1990s and higher housing costs, forcing many young families to seek housing in more affordable areas.

The capital budget proposals, if approved by the Board of Education and the Montgomery County Council, would increase the FY 2007 Capital Budget to \$267.5 million, an increase of \$82.5 million over the amount approved by the County Council for FY 2006. The six-year CIP would increase by \$239 million, to \$1.172 billion. The increased budget is due primarily to significant increases in construction costs.

Over the next six-year period, the recommended capital improvements would provide for:

- Construction of one high school and six elementary schools.
- Modernization of four high schools, three middle schools, and nine elementary schools.
- Construction of 14 additions to elementary and high schools.
- Planning/construction for six new elementary school additions.
- Construction of 30 elementary school gymnasiums for all existing, new, and reopened schools.
- Core improvements at one high school and two middle schools.
- Funding for various systemic projects.

In addition, a supplement to the capital plan includes a recommendation to form a site selection committee in 2006 for a new central area high school that would provide relief for overcrowded high schools in that area (Gaithersburg, Quince Orchard, Northwest, and Wootton). A request for funding for such a high school will be considered for a future CIP recommendation, depending on enrollment trends.

The budget also increases funding to replace roofs, upgrade heating and air conditioning, improve indoor air quality, and address safety and security needs.

The recommendations include two elementary school boundary studies to be conducted in spring 2006, one for the replacement facility for Seven Locks ES and the other for the new Downcounty Consortium ES #28.

Overall, total expenditures in the recommended FY 2007 Capital Budget and FY 2007-2012 CIP are approximately 26 percent higher than the previously approved CIP. Increased construction costs are the primary reason for the budget increase. The global demand for metal products, concrete, and other materials have significantly increased construction costs for MCPS and other entities. Other factors that have shaped this budget plan include enrollment patterns, school capacity needs, and local and state funding levels.

Re: **DISCUSSION**

Mrs. O'Neill remarked that there was a lot of input about the central area high school, especially from the Churchill Cluster. Mr. Bruce Crispell, director of long-range planning, explained that the Churchill Cluster does not need additional seats for high school. Furthermore, assignment plans would take place a year or two before a school opens.

Re: **BOUNDARIES (Clarksburg Area High School, Northwest Elementary School #7, and Northeast Consortium Elementary School #16)**

Re: **AN ALTERNATIVE FOR CLARKSBURG AREA HIGH SCHOOL**

On motion of Mrs. O'Neill and seconded by Dr. Haughey, the following resolution failed with Mr. Abrams, Dr. Haughey, (Mr. Johnson), and Mrs. O'Neill voting in the affirmative; Ms. Cox and Mrs. Navarro voting in the negative:#

Resolved, That the Board of Education offer an alternative for consideration at the public hearings that the ninth and 10th grades go to Clarksburg Area High School.

Re: **AN ALTERNATIVE FOR CLARKSBURG AREA HIGH SCHOOL**

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

Resolved, That the Board of Education offer an alternative for consideration at the public hearings that there would be choice for rising 11th grade students assigned to the new Clarksburg Area High School.

Re: **DISCUSSION**

Mr. Abrams thought that school choice should provide flexibility and academic options for 11th graders at certain schools. There are also special programs that a student may wish to continue. With an inventory of the special programs, different scenarios can be developed on partial levels of flexibility.

Ms. Cox asked about the impact on the new school and a depressed enrollment in the junior year without enough students to sustain certain classes within the new school. She could not support this motion because it was too nebulous, the school system could not communicate all options, there are no parameters for choice, and it would set a precedent.

Dr. Haughey thought the motion would allow students in the 11th grade to have a choice of enrollment. Mr. Abrams believed that the motion would accommodate 11th graders who had chosen a program that may not be offered in the new school.

Re: **AN ALTERNATIVE FOR CLARKSBURG AREA HIGH SCHOOL**

On motion of Mrs. O'Neill and seconded by Dr. Haughey, the following resolution failed with

Dr. Haughey voting in the affirmative; Mr. Abrams, Ms. Cox, (Mr. Johnson), Mrs. Navarro, and Mrs. O'Neill voting in the negative:#

Resolved, That the Board of Education offer an alternative for consideration at the public hearings that there would be choice for rising 11th grade students assigned to the new Clarksburg Area High School.

Re: **AN ALTERNATIVE FOR CLARKSBURG AREA HIGH SCHOOL**

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

Resolved, That the Board of Education waive the probation against transfers and honor transfers where a boundary adjustment has been made for those 11th grade students who chose to apply for and were accepted into academic admissions programs in their current schools.

Re: **DISCUSSION**

Mr. Abrams noted that parents wanted to make sure that their children could continue in rigorous programs and would not be interrupted by the boundary change for the new high school. If the student makes an application and is accepted into the program, the student should be allowed to pursue that academic interest. This would apply only to the 11th grade students affected by the boundary change.

Ms. Cox asked when the system would know the programs available at Clarksburg. Dr. Maxwell replied that there will be an enhanced program review with components of several programs. Ms. Cox asked about defined courses within academies that do not have an application/acceptance process.

Re: **AN ALTERNATIVE FOR CLARKSBURG AREA HIGH SCHOOL**

On motion of Mr. Abrams and seconded by Mrs. O'Neill, the following resolution failed with Mr. Abrams, Ms. Cox, Dr. Haughey and Mrs. O'Neill voting in the affirmative; (Mr. Johnson) and Mrs. Navarro voting in the negative:#

Resolved, That the Board of Education waive the probation against transfers and honor transfers where a boundary adjustment has been made for those 11th grade students who chose to apply for and were accepted into academic admissions programs in their current schools.

Re: **PROXY AND DIRECTED VOTING**

Mr. Abrams asked what Mr. Romero's thoughts were on the alternatives. Mrs. O'Neill replied that she had an email, not a proxy, from Mr. Romero. The email stated that he was supportive of the 9-10 grade option since this would allow the community to present further input.

Mr. Abrams asked if the statement from Mr. Romero could be researched to determine if it constituted a proxy. If so, he wanted the Board to be contacted to alter the decision on the Clarksburg Area High School.

RESOLUTION NO. 579-05 Re: **ADJOURNMENT**

On recommendation of the Superintendent and on motion of Mrs. Navarro seconded by Dr. Haughey, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present:

Resolved, That the Board of Education adjourn its meeting of November 2, 2005, at 9:00 p.m.

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY

JDW:gr