

APPROVED
2-2006

Rockville, Maryland
January 12, 2006

The Board of Education of Montgomery County met in special session at the Carver Educational Services Center, Rockville, Maryland, on Thursday, January 12, 2006, at 7:00 p.m.

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

Absent: Ms. Valerie Ervin
 Dr. Jerry Weast

Re: FY 2007 OPERATING BUDGET HEARING

The following people testified before the Board of Education:

1. Jerry Klobukowski -- Commission of Poolesville
2. Nigel Booker -- Head Start Policy Council
3. Cindy Kerr -- President of MCCPTA
4. Allyson Morrison -- Watkins Mill Cluster
5. Susie Scofield -- Magruder Cluster
6. Carroll Lovelace -- Gaithersburg Cluster
7. Leslie Cuneo -- Damascus Cluster
8. Nina Hamburg -- Wootton Cluster
9. Steve Crowley -- Rockville Cluster
10. Kate Savage -- Richard Montgomery Cluster
11. Lilo Litz -- Churchill Cluster
12. Northeast Consortium Cluster -- Bob Braun and Dawn Dolan
13. Rosemary Dove
14. Aldrin Leung -- Chinese American Parents and Students Association
15. Jeremy Buzzell -- Special Education Continuous Improvement Advisory Committee
16. Ricki Sabia -- Montgomery College Task Force
17. Jeffrey Hooke -- Maryland Tax Education Foundation
18. Debra Feldman -- Maryland Coalition for Inclusive Education
19. Enrique Zaldivar -- Upcounty High School Magnet Programs Association
20. Wai-Yee Chan -- Chinese Culture and Community Service Center
21. Bob Astrove

22. Sharon Friedman – Montgomery County Mental Health Association
23. Karen Craney – Montgomery County Pupil Personnel Workers Association
24. Faith Schwartz – Montgomery County School Psychologists' Association
25. Nguyen Minh Chau – Asian American Political Alliance
26. Sandy Vogelgesang – West Bradley Citizens Association
27. Gadi Romem – ESOL Bilingual Advisory Committee
28. John Surr – Maryland Community Association for Education of Young Children
29. Kyra Kreinbrook – Montgomery County Educational Media Specialists Association

The Board of Education asked the following questions:

1. Ms. Cox noted that the school system engages in two kinds of parent outreach (1) funding and expansion of study circles and (2) school-based parent outreach positions. What is the value of each approach, and why was only one chosen to be expanded?
2. Mrs. Navarro asked about school-based parental outreach, and what the connection is between the translation unit. Are there cross functions that could be piggybacked for outreach for non-English speaking parents?
3. Mr. Johnson wanted to know when the magnet school's grant ended. Was it a lump amount?
4. Mr. Romero referred to the Gaithersburg Cluster and the highly impacted elementary schools without assistant principals. He asked for a list of elementary schools that do not have assistant principals, along with each school's FARMs rate, mobility, and educational load.
5. A point was raised by the Damascus Cluster, and Mr. Abrams wanted to know what contingency the school system has for funding the needs of changed circumstances of schools, i.e., downsizing or boundary decisions for the opening of new schools.
6. Mrs. Navarro asked about the \$250,000 for violence prevention. Is that the only amount dedicated for that purpose or is it an increase to current funds?
7. Mr. Johnson wanted clarification about the reduction of textbooks and supplies stated in the testimony of the Churchill Cluster.
8. Mr. Abrams asked staff to prepare a performance evaluation of the Wootton Cluster over the four years using indicators such as state testing, rankings, college admissions, and the like.
9. Regarding the Richard Montgomery Cluster, Mr. Abrams asked if there were any conversations with the City of Rockville on the securities issues, given the

construction at the site.

10. Mr. Abrams inquired about the International Baccalaureate certificate noted in the Rockville Cluster's testimony. Is that a nomenclature or is it a different kind of IB program?
11. Ms. Cox asked about full-time reading specialists in every high school that were mentioned in the testimony of Richard Montgomery Cluster. She wanted a response from Office of Curriculum and Instructional Programs in terms of efficacy, given the changing nature of students skills and ability levels, and the number of students that transfer into schools without the benefit of MCPS reforms. What is MCPS doing to teach reading at the secondary level? Is every teacher a reading teacher opposed to one specialist?
12. Mrs. O'Neill noted that some schools in the Wootton Cluster do not have all-day kindergarten. She asked for a list of schools that will not have all-day kindergarten after this year and what the cost would be to implement fully all-day kindergarten – operating costs and the number and cost of the needed portables.
13. Mr. Romero asked for the range of salaries for high school assistant principals.
14. Mrs. Navarro inquired about the criteria for assistant principals in elementary schools.
15. Mrs. Navarro wanted to know whether there is any possibility of continuing the parent community coordinator at White Oak Middle School.
16. Mr. Abrams asked staff to respond to Mr. Hooke's testimony, especially the second bullet.
17. Mrs. Navarro asked for a response to the testimony of the Chinese American Parents and Students Association regarding an inadequate number of parent-community coordinators and counselors for the Chinese community.
18. Mrs. Navarro wanted a response to Mr. Romem's testimony about the lack of standards-based ESOL curriculum at other grade levels.
19. Mrs. Navarro asked for an update and response to the testimony of the Pupil Personnel Workers Association about its concerns regarding the opening of new schools without an increase in PPWs.
20. Mr. Abrams inquired about the shortfall in spending for the last two years in Mr. Astrove's testimony. He asked for a staff response on the accuracy of that statement and, if accurate, he wanted to know the percentage of the total special

education budget. Also, he requested information on the statement made by Mr. Astrove about underestimating the enrollment of special education students in nine of the last 12 years. If true, he wanted an explanation of the process used to forecast enrollment and the methodology.

21. Regarding the Upcounty High School Magnet Programs Association, Mr. Abrams thought the school system was pursuing that program. What is identified in the current budget versus what the group wants? What are the significant differences, and what are the implications for implementation?
22. Regarding the ESOL Bilingual Advisory Committee, Mr. Abrams wanted to know what the requirement was in terms of having a specific curriculum developed for the program. Is the characterization in the testimony correct? Is the requirement for a standards-based curriculum development for ESOL one that integrates it toward transition to English? If so, that has implications as to the rationale. He wanted information to clarify this issue.
23. Regarding Mr. Surr's testimony, Mr. Abrams thought the school system currently has the responsibility for pre-K programs for income-eligible students. One of the problems is the identification of students. Could MCPS engage Mr. Surr's organization to help identify and encourage parents to enroll their children?
24. Ms. Cox asked for information on the issue that Ms. Feldman raised regarding the recommendation that came out of the staffing plan versus what is in the budget. How were those decisions made?
25. Ms. Cox wanted to know how travel time affects the efficiency of a PPW.
26. Ms. Cox asked that if there was a discrepancy in Mr. Romem's understanding of the ESOL programs, what staff would do to work with the advisory committee to clarify his issues.
27. Mrs. O'Neill asked for a response about a partnership with a university for the revisions of the ESOL curriculum.
28. Mrs. O'Neill wanted the actual number of PPWs over the last five years and student enrollment. What is the cost for one additional PPW? What would be the benefit of adding one PPW?
29. Mr. Romero asked what the timetable is for the completion of the ESOL curriculum. If the system added an ESOL curriculum coordinator, how would that change the timetable?
30. Mr. Romero wanted to know the cost of one parent-community coordinator.

31. Dr. Haughey asked staff to respond to Ms. Feldman's concerns in Paragraph 5.

32. Dr. Haughey wanted to know what is met by "magnet" terminology.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY

JDW:gr