

APPROVED
5-2006

Rockville, Maryland
January 25, 2007

The Board of Education of Montgomery County met in special session at the Carver Educational Services Center, Rockville, Maryland, on Thursday, January 25, 2007, at 7:30 p.m.

Present: Mrs. Nancy Navarro, President
in the Chair
Mr. Steve Abrams
Mr. Christopher Barclay
Ms. Shirley Brandman
Ms. Sharon Cox
Dr. Judy Docca
Ms. Sarah Horvitz
Mrs. Patricia O'Neill
Dr. Jerry Weast, Secretary/Treasurer

Absent: None

RESOLUTION NO. 34-07 Re: **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

On recommendation of the superintendent and on motion of Mrs. O'Neill seconded by Ms. Cox, the following resolution was adopted, as amended:

Resolved, That the Board of Education approve its agenda for January 25, 2007, with an amendment to add Item 2.2—Graduation Venues (new business).

Re: **GRADUATION VENUES (NEW BUSINESS)**

Mrs. O'Neill moved and Ms. Brandman seconded the following:

Resolved, That the Board of Education officers schedule a discussion on a future Board agenda on graduation venue sites, and that discussion should include, but not be limited to, size, capacity, transportation, cost, possible options for large schools, budgetary and policy implications.

RESOLUTION NO. 35-07 Re: **APPEALS**

On motion of Ms. Brandman and seconded by Ms. Cox, the following resolution was adopted with Mr. Abrams, Mr. Barclay, Dr. Docca, Ms. Horvitz, and Mrs. Navarro voting to reverse; Ms. Brandman, Ms. Cox and Mrs. O'Neill voting to affirm:

WHEREAS, The Board of Education has met in closed session, and deliberated on an appeal brought before its members acting in its quasi-judicial capacity under Section 10-

503(a) of the *State Government Article*; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board of Education hereby affirm the decision of the superintendent in the following appeal. A written Decision and Order will be approved at a later date.

<u>Appeal Number</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Disposition</u>
2006-86	Graduation Venue	Reversed

RESOLUTION NO. 36-07 Re: **PROCUREMENT CONTRACTS—E-RATE REIMBURSEMENT**

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

WHEREAS, Funds have been budgeted for the purchase of equipment, supplies, and contractual services; and

WHEREAS, The Office of Information and Organizational Systems is seeking Board of Education approval to purchase telecommunication services under agreements with the vendors listed; and

WHEREAS, These agreements are in response to a request for services under the Schools and Libraries Universal Services Program for E-rate reimbursement; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board president and superintendent be authorized to execute the documents necessary for these transactions; and be it further

Resolved, That having been duly advertised, the following contracts will be awarded to the low bidders meeting specifications as shown below:

DBM 9708	Local Access <u>Awardee</u> Verizon, Maryland, Inc.	\$ 148,000
RQ04- 7175 19-39A	Wireless Communications Services <u>Awardee</u> Sprint/Nextel	\$ 900,000

050R 5800 079	Long Distance Service <u>Awardee</u> Verizon Select Services	\$ 47,000
10-00115	Wireless Communications Service and Equipment <u>Awardee</u> Cingular Wireless	\$ 800,000
1301 1000 569248	Internet Services Provider <u>Awardee</u> Cogent Communications	\$ 60,000
2003-29 723 & 20 004-299078	Local Telephone Service <u>Awardee</u> Verizon, Maryland, Inc.	\$2,100,000
7140.1	Telecommunications and Network Wiring Installation and Integration—Extension <u>Awardees</u> (See note) Automated Cable Services, Inc.* Crawford Technical Services, Inc.* Fiber Plus, Inc. Netcom Technologies, Inc. PrimeNet, Inc. Quality Solution Technologies, Inc.* System, Inc. Texel Corporation USA Future Tech, Inc.* VenAmerica, Inc.* Verizon Network Integration Corporation Total	\$1,700,000

7141.1	Broadband Cable Network Cabling and Installation and Integration—Extension	
	<u>Awardees</u> (See note below)	
	Netcom Technologies, Inc.	
	System, Inc.	
	TCV, LLC	
	Total	\$ 500,000
9079	Data Circuits – Frame Relay and Transparent LAN Services	
70000		
602377	<u>Awardee</u>	
	Verizon, Maryland, Inc.	\$1,390,000
TOTAL PROCUREMENT CONTRACTS EXCEEDING \$25,000		\$7,645,000

* Denotes Minority-, Female-, or Disabled-owned Business

Note: Contract amounts will be based on individual requirements.

Re: **WORKSESSION ON THE SUPERINTENDENT'S
RECOMMENDED FY 2007 OPERATING BUDGET**

Dr. Weast stated that this is a good budget, and he appreciated the questions and interest of the Board and the community. He thanked the staff for their outstanding attention to details.

Re: **OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT FOR
INFORMATION AND ORGANIZATIONAL SYSTEMS**

Mr. Abrams asked staff for information on the requirements to operationalize the intranet. Staff replied that there is an intranet, but technology is not the problem. It is a content issue for curriculum. The intranet is used for the financial management system, such as pay stubs.

Mr. Abrams thought there was a desire by administrators and teachers to share curriculum information and lesson plans. These materials are confidential or proprietary and thus would be inappropriate for web distribution. People need to get together to talk over the

protocols with the delivery people. Is there a need to place something in the budget to enhance development? Staff thought discussions were taking place, and there is no need for additional funds.

Mrs. O'Neill asked about Edline and Pinnacle because all secondary schools were not on Edline. Staff replied that the first year is voluntary, and the second year will be mandatory.

Mrs. O'Neill noted there was a problem with Pinnacle during the first grading period. Does the budget assure adequate capacity for this program? Staff replied that the majority of schools are up and running, and there is enough funding.

Ms. Cox remarked that she was pleased with the way technology supports the work of the school system and is seamlessly embedded in the delivery of the curriculum. Edline is especially useful for parents and stakeholders. She asked about the decrease in professional substitutes. Staff explained that the figure is based on need.

Ms. Cox asked for information on the participatory model work with stakeholders in the Department of Shared Accountability.

Mr. Barclay remarked on the field testing at several sites of the voice-over-internet protocol. Staff replied that it is successful, but there are concerns about the cost.

Ms. Brandman asked about the funds for middle school reform and technology. Is there money for training? Staff replied that there are funds available.

Ms. Brandman stated there is such an increase in the demand for evaluating programs. She noted that there is no increase in positions in the Department of Shared Accountability, and there is a decrease in contractual services. Does the department have the capacity to do the evaluations that the Board expects to be done? Staff responded that they are moving to individualized assessment. There never has been an adequate way to evaluate a program with multiple variables.

Re: OFFICE OF ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Barclay asked about the diversity team to build internal capacity, to plan and implement, and to strengthen school staff to close the achievement gaps. What is the size of the team, and what measures are used to assess success in training? Staff replied that there are four people, and they are evaluated on five levels based on the outcomes of training.

Ms. Cox asked about requiring training and review of that training based on the goals of the system. Staff replied that there are cross-functional teams developing a list of required training.

Ms. Brandman asked for information on the funds dedicated for middle school reform in the budget of the Office of Organizational Development.

Re: OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

Ms. Cox asked if there was a decrease in state funding for food services. Staff replied that it is not an entitlement, and there is only a certain amount provided based on the number of projected meals.

Ms. Brandman inquired about maintenance and a decrease in positions. Staff replied that the decrease was the elimination of a renovation team. There are ways to improve productivity, and there are opportunities for apprentices.

Ms. Brandman asked if there is a tracking/priority system for schools needing repairs. Staff explained that there was an assessment program that was updated every year. Furthermore, all work orders are monitored.

Ms. Brandman asked about the field trip fund. Staff replied that this is an enterprise fund for school field trips as well as for outside users.

Ms. Brandman asked if the legal fees could be broken out more. Dr. Weast stated that it depends on the type of litigation.

Re: OFFICE OF HUMAN RESOURCES

Mr. Abrams asked about the ratio of applications to those hired. Staff stated that it is 5 to 1. Mr. Abrams said Montgomery County is an attractive place to teach. He wanted to know what staff was observing about why teachers do not want to come to Montgomery County. Mr. Abrams requested the amount necessary to offer tuition-free enrollment for the children of MCPS teachers who live outside the county.

Ms. Cox asked where the responsibility lies for retention of staff. Are there exit interviews? Staff replied there are interviews with consulting teachers, administrative exit interviews, and teacher surveys. Ms. Cox thought it would be important to find out why special education teachers return to general education teaching.

Mr. Barclay asked for the number of teachers and administrators in the schools who are African-American males.

Re: BOARD OF EDUCATION AND OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Mrs. O'Neill asked how much the budget was increased to support Copy Plus, which

supports the schools with copying. Staff replied that it was a 17-percent increase.

Ms. Cox mentioned the feedback, which is a growing effort in this department. This is useful information, especially for the strategic plan.

Ms. Brandman requested the cost breakdown for publishing the *Bulletin*, as well as other publications.

Ms. Navarro thought that community partnership was located in this department. She was interested in strengthening two-way communication with communities that are not usually heard from on school issues.

Ms. Navarro requested the cost of a person in the Board Office who would be dedicated to program and budget analysis.

Mrs. O'Neill asked staff to provide the Report of the Center for Organizational Excellence to new Board members.

The meeting adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY

JDW:gr