

APPROVED
32-2007

Rockville, Maryland
November 27, 2007

The Board of Education of Montgomery County met in special session at the Carver Educational Services Center, Rockville, Maryland, on Tuesday, November 27, 2007, at 6:00 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
Mr. Ben Moskowitz
Mrs. Patricia O'Neill
Dr. Jerry Weast, Secretary/Treasurer

Absent: None

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

Re: **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

RESOLUTION NO. 552-07 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 unanimously:

Resolved, That the Board of Education approve its agenda for November 27, 2007.

Re: **SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDED FY
2009 CAPITAL BUDGET AND THE FY 2009-
2014 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM**

On recommendation of the superintendent and on motion of Mrs. O'Neill seconded by Ms. Cox, 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 2009 Capital Budget* and the *FY 2009–2014 Capital Improvements Program (CIP)* on October 29, 2007; and

WHEREAS, In accordance with the Montgomery County charter and the biennial CIP

process, in odd-numbered fiscal years, such as FY 2009, all CIP projects will be reviewed and considered by the county executive and the County Council; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Education conducted a work session on November 8, 2007, to review the superintendent's recommendations, which include the following, over the next six-year planning period:

- The opening of one elementary school
- The reopening of one elementary school
- The construction of 14 school additions
- The planning and construction of nine new elementary school addition projects
- The modernization of three high schools, three middle schools, and 12 elementary schools
- The construction of 19 elementary school gymnasiums
- The construction of facility improvements to two middle schools
- The funding for new initiatives in the School Security and Technology Modernization projects
- The funding for systemic projects such as Planned Life-cycle Asset Replacement (PLAR); Roof Replacement; Heating, Ventilating, and Air Conditioning (HVAC); Water and Indoor Air Quality; and Improved Safe Access to Schools; and

WHEREAS, The Recommended FY 2009 Capital Budget and the FY 2009–2014 CIP include recommendations for conducting two boundary studies in the spring of 2008 to create new service areas for Bells Mill Elementary School and for the new Clarksburg Elementary School #8; and

WHEREAS, The superintendent's recommendation to study the collocation of the Stephen Knolls and Carl Sandburg special education centers was withdrawn prior to the Board of Education's work session on November 8, 2007; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Education conducted public hearings on November 14 and 15, 2007, on the superintendent's recommendations for all capital and noncapital items for the FY 2009 Capital Budget and the FY 2009–2014 CIP; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Education approved the FY 2009 State CIP request of \$132,748,000 on November 13, 2007; and

WHEREAS, Based on the special legislative session just completed in Annapolis, it is likely that Montgomery County will receive more than the \$40 million in state aid budgeted by the County Council for FY 2009; and

WHEREAS, As a result of this new information, the superintendent, on November 21, 2007, released a revised Recommended FY 2009–2014 CIP to include an additional \$6.5 million for the facility improvements at Redland Middle School and shifted \$2.0 million from FY 2010 to FY 2009 for the modernization at Paint Branch High School to begin the site work

for this project; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board of Education approves a FY 2009 Capital Budget appropriation request totaling \$268,957,000 and an FY 2009–2014 CIP request totaling \$1.497 billion; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board of Education approves the individual capital and noncapital items included in the Recommended FY 2009 Capital Budget and the FY 2009–2014 CIP; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board of Education approves an elementary school boundary study to create the service area for Bells Mill Elementary School to be conducted in the spring of 2008; this boundary study will include Bells Mill, Seven Locks, and Potomac elementary schools, with participation by representatives from Cabin John and Herbert Hoover middle schools, with Board of Education action scheduled for November 2008; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board of Education approves an elementary school boundary study to create the service area for the new Clarksburg Elementary School #8, to be conducted in the spring of 2008; this boundary study will include Little Bennett, Clarksburg, and Cedar Grove elementary schools, with Board of Education action scheduled for November 2008; and be it further

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

Re: **DISCUSSION**

Mr. Abrams stated that Redland Middle School was put in the CIP in 2001 for something less than a full modernization, but those areas needed to be fixed until a renovation could take place at a cost of \$22 million. He was concerned about spending less than was needed to cosmetically fix the building. He thought there was a need to look at the CIP structure to determine what projects are scheduled and why. If there is a need for a deferral of the project, there must be a very good reason for that delay and the project needs to stay on a timeline for completion. Mr. Abrams was concerned that if the projects are bumped again, no one could give him a good answer on when these projects would be rescheduled and completed because the need has not changed. Finally, he said he believes that the CIP mechanism is not geared to adjust as quickly as needed and in a rationale fashion.

Furthermore, Mr. Abrams questioned the value of the public hearings. He asked staff to report on the conditions at Maryvale Elementary School, prompted by the testimony at a hearing. Staff stated that the building is not new but serviceable. All restrooms have been renovated, and staff could not find the conditions reported. Mr. Abrams stated that the Board does listen and acts when there are concerns expressed through testimony.

Mr. Abrams asked what the proposal funds for Redland Middle School would make a difference to improve the school's instructional program. Staff explained that the original scope of the work would expend the existing walls for acoustical isolation, modify duct work, replace interior lighting, ceiling tile and grids, interior painting, replace floor in designed areas, security system at the main entrance, and separate bus loop. For an additional \$6.5 million, the work would move the administration suite, renovate classrooms, science labs, technology labs, and interior circulation issues.

Mrs. O'Neill was glad that the staff had checked out the reported situation at Maryvale Elementary School. She pointed out that all schools have needs, and it is important for those testifying to listen to each other because the needs are similar. It is the Board's job to make decisions within the amount of money that is available.

Re: **AMENDMENT**

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

Resolved, That the Board of Education direct the superintendent of schools to move money from architectural fees to do a feasibility study to determine and review segmented options addressing the primary concerns of the community for future improvements at Ridgeview Middle School: and be it further

Resolved, That the Board of Education appropriates \$150,000 for whiteboards for Ridgeview Middle School.

RESOLUTION NO. 553-07 Re: **DIVIDE THE QUESTION**

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

Resolved, That the Board of Education divide the question.

Re: **DISCUSSION**

Mr. Abrams supported the \$150,000 for the whiteboards. However, he had some qualms about the segmented options at Ridgeview Middle School, since it might send the wrong message. The Ridgeview community stated that the projects that were being deferred are it's top priority, and the scheduled projects would not make that much of a difference. In fact, there should be a review of how the project was placed in the CIP in the first place, which was a whole project that would last until a full renovation was scheduled. What are the implications of segmenting the project? With the acknowledgment that Ridgeview will not lose its place, even though projects were deferred, the scope will be determined from the results of the study. Mrs. O'Neill said that was the intent of the

motion, not to lose the essence of what really needs to be done at Ridgeview.

Ms. Cox asked for more clarity about the feasibility study. She said it sounded like the intent would guarantee that the project would be included in a future CIP. The Board should have qualms about dictating what has to go into future CIPs. If the feasibility study is for information for a recommendation, then she was ready to support the amendment. However, if it is a requirement, she thought the Board was overstepping the process.

Mr. Abrams stated that his intent and concern were that it should not be scrutinized, but all the feedback he was getting was that once the project was deleted, it would never reappear in the CIP. He wanted to make sure that consideration is still given based on a prior judgment of an imminent need. If that becomes less of a priority, then that needs to be brought to the Board with that assessment. That recommendation needs to be made prior to a hearing when the community expects that the CIP would be funded with their project.

Ms. Cox thought there could be language in the motion that indicates that it is a review of the potential and possibility on segmented options for future improvements and a report from the superintendent on recommendations.

Dr. Docca agreed with Mr. Abrams that the renovation should not be lost, but the school needs construction to make the it more manageable.

Ms. Brandman thought that the general consensus in the community was to prioritize the health and safety concerns surrounding the HVAC system. They understood that the \$6 million could repair a chiller, replace five of the nine air handlers, and replace the VAV boxes. With a feasibility study, there may be ways to zone the building differently and improve the HVAC system.

Mr. Abrams thought that, by force or political courage, there are other alternatives that merit exploration to increase capacity and use of existing facilities instead of continually building under the current model, especially with ebbs and flows of enrollment. There is no magic in the seven-period day, and the system could get an additional 15 percent more capacity out of existing facilities. However, the system needs to be rational using the current policies and things cannot be shifted when there is no money.

Mrs. O'Neill commented that it was not her intention to lock the school system into spending \$27 million. She wanted to know about options for segmenting the renovation. What has to be done and done together?

Ms. Cox wanted to amend the resolution by adding improvements where the funding was allotted to address the concerns of the community and then report back to the Board on the items that cannot be addressed with the funding allotted.

Mr. Abrams commented that the Board wants to avoid waste, and should always be looking for ways in which the system can utilize the money that is being recommended to be consistent with an orderly approach to remedy the issues at Ridgeview Middle School. If it can be done, do it. If not, recommend an alternative.

Mr. Barclay thought it was an information request, and it would not lock the system into spending money. The community is concerned that everything is lost when a project is reduced. He said he thought the process needed to be examined since it is opaque to the public. When there are competing factors, the community needs to know that the project will not be lost but delayed. There is a need to know the running list of projects.

Staff stated that the feasibility study would consult with the community to ascertain its priorities and incorporate those items into the project. Beyond that, it will be determined what else can be done in segmented options for future improvements.

RESOLUTION NO. 554-07 Re: AMENDMENT

On motion of Mrs. O'Neill and seconded by Dr. Docca, the following amendment was adopted unanimously:

Resolved, That the Board of Education direct the superintendent of schools to move money from architectural fees to do a feasibility study to determine and review segmented options addressing the primary concerns of the community for future improvements at Ridgeview Middle School.

RESOLUTION NO. 555-07 Re: AMENDMENT

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

Resolved, That the Board of Education appropriates \$150,000 for whiteboards for Ridgeview Middle School.

Re: DISCUSSION

Ms. Cox stated that the Board needs to understand the criteria that staff uses within the priorities. How does staff make the decisions? She said there should be a work session on explanation on facilities and how we weigh and balance projects and what is the tipping point with priorities. Ms. Brandman wanted to know the scope of the needs in the schools and the schedule for HVAC and PLAR projects. What is the impact on older buildings? Mr. Barclay suggested that the Board review the process.

RESOLUTION NO. 556-07 Re: AMENDMENT

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

Resolved, That the Board of Education expands the Clarksburg/Damascus middle school feasibility study to include a possible addition at Montgomery Village Middle School, at a cost of \$38,000.

Re: **STEPHEN KNOLLS SCHOOL AND CARL SANDBURG LEARNING CENTER**

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

WHEREAS, In November 1997, as part of the Requested FY 1999–2004 Capital Improvements Program (CIP), the Board of Education directed the superintendent to conduct a program planning review of the Special Education Program Delivery Model as it relates to special education programs located in stand-alone centers; and

WHEREAS, In February 1998, the Special Education Centers Advisory Committee (SECAC) was formed and charged with conducting a program planning review of the special education center delivery model to determine if the existing special education centers (Longview, Stephen Knolls, Mark Twain, Carl Sandburg, and Rock Terrace) should be modernized or if there were alternative capital solutions that could be planned; and

WHEREAS, The SECAC Committee, comprising Montgomery County Public Schools staff and parent and community representatives from schools affected by the proposals, reviewed how current programs function and explored the possibility of continuing these programs in their current setting or in cluster, quad-cluster, or countywide delivery models; and

WHEREAS, In April 1999, the Board of Education identified potential relocation sites for both the Longview Special Education Program and the Stephen Knolls Special Education Program, and the amended FY 2001-2006 CIP included funds to relocate the Longview Special Education Program to Spark M. Matsunaga Elementary School; and

WHEREAS, Due to site limitations at Glen Haven Elementary School, it was decided not to relocate the existing Stephen Knolls Special Education Program to that location, and plans were developed to promote greater interaction between special education and general education students by relocating the preschool programs from the McKenney Hills Center to the Stephen Knolls facility in September 2003, with both programs utilizing the Stephen Knolls facility; and

WHEREAS, Although the superintendent revisited these issues in his recommended FY

2009 Capital Budget and the FY 2009–2014 Capital Improvements Program with respect to Stephen Knolls and the Carl Sandburg Center but has since withdrawn his proposal out of respect for concerns raised by the community and the Board of Education regarding community involvement in the proposal; now therefore be it

Resolved, That at such a future time when the superintendent is ready to address facilities improvements in existing stand-alone special education centers, a multi-stakeholder work group of community members and appropriate MCPS staff should be convened to review and make recommendations to the superintendent and the Board of Education on the following:

1. Review and update of SECAC Committee's 1998 recommendations in light of current conditions.
2. Options for upgrading the facilities that house stand-alone special needs and alternative programs such as Stephen Knolls, Carl Sandburg, Rock Terrace, and Mark Twain, including the feasibility of co-location with existing general education facilities.
3. Cost-benefit analysis and implications for instructional quality of programs.

and be it further

Resolved, That the work group's report and the superintendent's recommendations be presented to the Board of Education in advance of any future CIP recommendations regarding these stand-alone special education centers.

RESOLUTION NO. 557-07 Re: **AMENDMENT**

On motion of Mrs. O'Neill and seconded by Ms. Cox, the following amendment was adopted unanimously:

Resolved, That at such a future time when the superintendent is ready to address facilities improvements in existing stand-alone special education centers, a multi-stakeholder work group of current parents of students in the programs, community members, and appropriate MCPS staff should be convened to review and make recommendations to the superintendent and the Board of Education on the following:

RESOLUTION NO. 557(a)-07 Re: **AMENDMENT**

On motion of Ms. Cox and seconded by Mr. Abrams, the following amendment was adopted unanimously:#

Resolved, That the Department of Facilities, Planning, and Management offers a workshop for interested members of the special education community on the Capital Improvements process.

RESOLUTION NO. 558-07 Re: **STEPHEN KNOLLS SCHOOL AND CARL SANDBURG LEARNING CENTER**

On motion of Ms. Navarro and seconded by Mrs. O'Neill, the following resolution, as amendment, was adopted unanimously:

WHEREAS, In November 1997, as part of the Requested FY 1999–2004 Capital Improvements Program (CIP), the Board of Education directed the superintendent to conduct a program planning review of the Special Education Program Delivery Model as it relates to special education programs located in stand alone centers; and

WHEREAS, In February 1998, the Special Education Centers Advisory Committee (SECAC) was formed and charged with conducting a program planning review of the special education center delivery model to determine if the existing special education centers (Longview, Stephen Knolls, Mark Twain, Carl Sandburg, and Rock Terrace) should be modernized or if there were alternative capital solutions that could be planned; and

WHEREAS, The SECAC Committee comprising Montgomery County Public Schools staff and parent and community representatives from schools affected by the proposals reviewed how current programs function and explored the possibility of continuing these programs in their current setting or in cluster, quad-cluster, or countywide delivery models; and

WHEREAS, In April 1999, the Board of Education identified potential relocation sites for both the Longview Special Education Program and the Stephen Knolls Special Education Program, and the amended FY 2001-2006 CIP included funds to relocate the Longview Special Education Program to Spark M. Matsunaga Elementary School; and

WHEREAS, Due to site limitations at Glen Haven Elementary School, it was decided not to relocate the existing Stephen Knolls Special Education Program to that location, and plans were developed to promote greater interaction between special education and general education students by relocating the preschool programs from the McKenney Hills Center to the Stephen Knolls facility in September 2003, with both programs utilizing the Stephen Knolls facility; and

WHEREAS, Although the superintendent revisited these issues in his recommended FY 2009 Capital Budget and the FY 2009-2014 Capital Improvements Program with respect to Stephen Knolls and the Carl Sandberg center but has since withdrawn his proposal out of respect for concerns raised by the community and the Board of Education regarding community involvement in the proposal; now therefore be it

Resolved, That at such a future time when the superintendent is ready to address facilities improvements in existing stand-alone special education centers, a multi-stakeholder workgroup of current parents of students in the programs, community members, and appropriate MCPS staff should be convened to review and make recommendations to the superintendent and the Board of Education on the following:

1. Review and update of SECAC Committee's 1998 recommendations in light of current conditions.
2. Options for upgrading the facilities that house stand-alone special needs and alternative programs such as Stephen Knolls, Carl Sandberg, Rock Terrace, and Mark Twain, including the feasibility of co-location with existing general education facilities.
3. Cost-benefit analysis and implications for instructional quality of programs.

and be it further

Resolved, That the workgroup's report and the superintendent's recommendations be presented to the Board of Education in advance of any future CIP recommendations regarding these stand-alone special education centers; and be it further

Resolved, That the Department of Facilities, Planning, and Management offers a workshop for interested members of the special education community on the Capital Improvements process.

RESOLUTION NO. 559-07 Re: **SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDED FY 2009 CAPITAL BUDGET AND THE FY 2009-2014 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM**

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

WHEREAS, In accordance with §5-306 of the Annotated Code of Maryland, the superintendent of schools released the Recommended FY 2009 Capital Budget and the FY 2009–2014 Capital Improvements Program (CIP) on October 29, 2007; and

WHEREAS, In accordance with the Montgomery County charter and the biennial CIP

process, in odd-numbered fiscal years, such as FY 2009, all CIP projects will be reviewed and considered by the county executive and the County Council; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Education conducted a work session on November 8, 2007, to review the superintendent's recommendations, which include the following, over the next six-year planning period:

- The opening of one elementary school
- The reopening of one elementary school
- The construction of 14 school additions
- The planning and construction of nine new elementary school addition projects
- The modernization of three high schools, three middle schools, and 12 elementary schools
- The construction of 19 elementary school gymnasiums
- The construction of facility improvements to two middle schools
- The funding for new initiatives in the School Security and Technology Modernization projects
- The funding for systemic projects such as Planned Life-cycle Asset Replacement (PLAR); Roof Replacement; Heating, Ventilating, and Air Conditioning (HVAC); Water and Indoor Air Quality; and Improved Safe Access to Schools; and

WHEREAS, The Recommended FY 2009 Capital Budget and the FY 2009–2014 CIP include recommendations for conducting two boundary studies in the spring of 2008 to create new service areas for Bells Mill Elementary School and the new Clarksburg Elementary School #8; and

WHEREAS, The superintendent's recommendation to study the collocation of the Stephen Knolls and Carl Sandburg special education centers was withdrawn prior to the Board of Education's work session on November 8, 2007; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Education conducted public hearings on November 14 and 15, 2007, on the superintendent's recommendations for all capital and noncapital items for the FY 2009 Capital Budget and the FY 2009-2014 CIP; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Education, on November 13, 2007, approved the FY 2009 State CIP request of \$132,748,000; and

WHEREAS, Based on the special legislative session just completed in Annapolis, it is likely that Montgomery County will receive more than the \$40 million in state aid budgeted by the County Council for FY 2009; and

WHEREAS, As a result of this new information, the superintendent, on November 21, 2007, released a revised Recommended FY 2009–2014 CIP to include an additional \$6.5 million for the facility improvements at Redland Middle School and shifted \$2.0 million from FY 2010 to FY 2009 for the modernization at Paint Branch High School to begin the site work

for this project; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board of Education approves an FY 2009 Capital Budget appropriation request totaling \$269,185,000 and an FY 2009–2014 CIP request totaling \$1.497 billion; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board of Education approves the individual capital and noncapital items included in the Recommended FY 2009 Capital Budget and the FY 2009–2014 CIP; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board of Education approves an elementary school boundary study to create the service area for Bells Mill Elementary School to be conducted in the spring of 2008; this boundary study will include Bells Mill, Seven Locks, and Potomac elementary schools, with participation by representatives from Cabin John and Herbert Hoover middle schools, with Board of Education action scheduled for November 2008; and be it further
Resolved, That the Board of Education approves an elementary school boundary study to create the service area for the new Clarksburg Elementary School #8 to be conducted in the spring of 2008; this boundary study will include Little Bennett, Clarksburg, and Cedar Grove elementary schools, with Board of Education action scheduled for November 2008; and be it further

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

RESOLUTION NO. 600-07 Re: **ADJOURNMENT**

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

Resolved, That the Board of Education adjourn its meeting of November 27, 2007, at 7:35 p.m.

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY

JDW:gr