

APPROVED
8-2009

Rockville, Maryland
March 3, 2010

The Board of Education of Montgomery County met at the Carver Educational Services Center, Rockville, Maryland, on March 3, 2010, at 7:00 p.m.

Present:

Mrs. Patricia O'Neill, President
in the Chair
Mr. Christopher Barclay
Ms. Shirley Brandman
Ms. Laura Berthiaume
Dr. Judy Docca
Mr. Michael Durso
Mr. Timothy Hwang
Mr. Philip Kauffman
Dr. Jerry Weast, Secretary/Treasurer

Absent: None

Re: **PUBLIC HEARING ON CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS
PROGRAM AND BOUNDARIES**

The following people testified before the Board of Education:

1. Courtney Brown, Bethesda Elementary School PTA
2. Dawn Lee, Damascus Cluster Coordinator
3. Elizabeth Torrey, Bethesda/Bradley Hills Elementary Schools
4. Donna Pfeiffer, Clarksburg Cluster Coordinator
5. Eric Butters, Oakland Terrace Satellite at Sligo Middle School
6. Mary Petrizzo, Oakland Terrace Satellite at Sligo Middle School
7. Anita Balachandra, Bethesda/Bradley Hills Elementary Schools
8. Karen Garner, Bethesda/Bradley Hills Elementary Schools
9. Gene Schlesinger, Whitman Cluster Coordinator
10. Jean Zenklusen, Oakland Terrace Satellite at Sligo Middle School
11. Suzanne Milton, Sligo Middle School PTSA
12. Cindy Larson, Rockwell/Baker Middle School

The Board of Education asked the following questions:

1. Ms. Berthiaume commented on the collaborative work of the system and community to develop a satellite for kindergartners at Oakland Terrace Elementary School who will be housed at Sligo Middle School. She asked if the Board had seen the preliminary plans for Bradley Hills Elementary School. Staff replied that it has not been brought to the Board.
2. Ms. Berthiaume asked staff to talk about the media center at Bradley Hills. Mr. Lavorgna stated that the media center is not the smallest and is suitable for the

school since only one class at a time utilizes that space. Further, the media center is in a location where it would be difficult to add space without triggering other modifications. Dr. Weast stated that staff would reevaluate the media center to ascertain if there are any unique ways to expand the space.

3. Ms. Berthiaume inquired about transfer requests, and she assumed that staff would address those requests with the family's needs taken into consideration. Dr. Weast stated that transfers will be handled as in the past even though the system is solving overcrowding.
4. Mr. Barclay thanked staff for their hard work. The school system has developed a solid process for boundary changes. The Oakland Terrace solution is very unique, but it addresses the need to relieve overcrowding.
5. Mr. Barclay inquired about expansion or improvement at Bradley Hills, and he encouraged staff to take a second look at the plans. At the appropriate time, it would be helpful for the Board to know (1) what types of things does the system look at when the system does expansions, such as a media center, (2) what types of things does that trigger, and (3) what are the costs.
6. Ms. Brandman associated herself with the comments of her colleagues, and she appreciated Dr. Weast's remarks.
7. Ms. Brandman asked staff to review Ms. Milton's testimony and add it to the questions/answer grid.
8. Mrs. O'Neill thanked all staff involved for working on the Oakland Terrace satellite solution. She thought the grid with questions and issues with answers was very helpful for the Board.
9. Mrs. O'Neill noted that it was important that the receiving school, Bradley Hills, has adequate facilities to receive additional students. She appreciated that Dr. Weast stated that staff will take another look at the media center.
10. Mr. Durso echoed his colleagues' observations. Part of the process is for the community to review the system's recommendations and present comments for or against. Everyone should keep in mind that students are more resilient and adaptable than adults.

The Board of Education adjourned its meeting of March 3, 2010 at 7:55 p.m.

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY

JDW:gr