

APPROVED
22-2010

Rockville, Maryland
August 26, 2010

The Board of Education of Montgomery County held a work session at the Carver Educational Services Center, Rockville, Maryland, on August 26, 2010, at 8:30 p.m.

Present: Mrs. Patricia O'Neill, President
In the Chair
Mr. Christopher Barclay
Ms. Laura Berthiaume
Ms. Shirley Brandman
Dr. Judy Docca
Mr. Michael Durso
Mr. Philip Kauffman
Mr. Alan Xie
Dr. Jerry Weast, Secretary/Treasurer

Staff Present: Mr. Larry Bowers, Chief Operating Officer
Dr. Frieda Lacey, Deputy Superintendent
Mr. Brian Edwards, Chief of Staff

Facilitator: Mr. Andrew Gelber, Panasonic Foundation

Guest: Mr. Fred Stichnoth

The purpose of the work session was to review and discuss Board of Education work topics in order for the Board to have input on the work of the school system.

The facilitator outlined the objectives for the work session as:

PROPOSED OBJECTIVES

- Develop a “disciplined process” for selecting Board work session topics
- Begin to apply to the process to the selection of 2010-11 topics

PROPOSED FLOW

- Defining the category (work session)
- Criteria for selecting topics (What makes for a “good” topic?)
- Criteria for full-Board work session v. initial exploration by committee
- “first pass” at selecting topics for full-Board or committee

The facilitator and Board developed the disciplined process as follows:

Defining the Category for a Work Session

- Opportunity for discussion
- Board/administration dialogue
- Deep background (fuller understanding both internal/external)
- Learning (not just getting updated)
- Opportunity for coherence as a platform for debate
- Learning (positions the Board to give guidance)
- Requires strategic selection of topics
- Defines the real work of the system” and not made up “make work”
- Shared Understanding – outcomes
 - (1) What are the key issues?
 - (2) What are our policy options?
 - (3) What decisions will need to be made?

Criteria for Selecting Topics

- Connection to Core Values and Strategic Plan
- Fits scope of board’s authority and responsibilities
- Commands majority interest
- Deeper learning needed as platform for eventual decision-making and/or problem-solving
- Significance of topic “calibrated” with staff capacity to prepare (no “make work” assignments and/or topics)
- Timely topic (needs discussion in 2010-11)
- Systemic impact
 - (1) Connects with multiple strategies and/or
 - (2) Connects with major system initiatives and/or
 - (3) Impacts large number of students
- Learning/discussion needed because of ultimate Board role regarding policy/decision-making (check if “outcomes” are a match)

Current List of Topics

- Some fall away based on criteria
- “Survivors” got prioritized
- “Survivors” may yet be superseded by even higher 2010-11 priorities (e.g., succession planning)

Next Steps – Followups

- The agendas are set through December.
- Using the steps outlined in this work session, the Ad Hoc Committee (Shirley Brandman, Laura Berthiaume, and Patricia O’Neill) will review and recommend work session topics for the full-Board and committees.
- The agenda-setting process will be used to set work session topics based on the topics, priorities, and need for flexibility.
- Administration will review their list.

The meeting ended at 12:40 p.m.

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY

JDW:gr