

APPROVED
33-1985

Rockville, Maryland
July 1, 1985

The Board of Education of Montgomery County met in special session at the Carver Educational Services Center, Rockville, Maryland, on Monday, July 1, 1985, at 8:10 p.m.

ROLL CALL Present: Dr. Wilmer S. Cody, Secretary/treasurer
 in the Chair
 Mrs. Sharon DiFonzo
 Miss Jacquie Duby
 Mr. Blair G. Ewing
 Dr. Jeremiah Floyd
 Mrs. Marilyn J. Praisner
 Absent: Dr. James E. Cronin
 Dr. Robert E. Shoenberg
 Mrs. Mary Margaret Slye
 Others Present: Dr. Harry Pitt, Deputy Superintendent
 Dr. Robert S. Shaffner, Executive Assistant
 Mr. Thomas S. Fess, Parliamentarian
 Mr. John D. Foubert, Board Member-elect

Re: ANNOUNCEMENT

Dr. Cody announced that once a year the superintendent presided at a Board meeting when officers were elected. This evening he was presiding because both officers were unavailable. Dr. Cronin was teaching, and Dr. Shoenberg was out of town. He explained that Mrs. Slye was ill and unable to attend. He introduced former student Board members David Naimon, Traci Williams, and Peter Robertson. He also acknowledged the presence of Delegate Gordon and Senator Denis.

Re: SWEARING IN

Mrs. Cindy McAlister, clerk of the court, administered the oath of office to Mr. Foubert.

Re: STATEMENT BY MR. FOUBERT

Mr. Foubert made the following statement:

"As a member-elect of the Board of Education for the past two months, I have had a chance to work in private and in public with the Board of Education, and during this time I have realized what I have gotten myself into. Although it is a lot of work, I have really enjoyed becoming a part of the Board. I am very pleased with the way I have been treated. Every Board and staff member has been very friendly and very helpful. I feel privileged to live in a county which values student input as much as this one.

"I have set my personal goals as student Board member. I would like attendance and teacher evaluation policies examined. I am also pleased with changes being made in the guidance and counseling system and hope that they will continue. However, I feel that it is

important for a Board like this one to work together towards common goals. That is the way great accomplishments are made, and that is the philosophy I intend to use throughout my term of office.

"There are many groups this evening which I would like to thank. To my mother and father, family, teachers, and adult friends, I thank you for all that you have taught me. For that, I am truly grateful. I thank you for your tremendous moral and financial support. When I first decided to solicit funds through the mail, I had absolutely no idea that I would receive a total of \$225 towards my campaign expenses. Not only did this help me fund my direct campaign expenses but my gas to visit 19 schools as well. To my friends and peer supporters, I thank you for all the time and energy you put into seeing that I was elected. I also thank you for making the posters, wearing the pins, cheering me on at those town meetings, and telling your friends in other schools who to vote for. To my predecessor, Miss Jacquie Duby, I thank you for all of your advice and for the questions of mine that you have answered and for continuing the reputation of creativity, trust, and respect among student Board members.

"There is one man here this evening who I believe deserves the most thanks of all. He has worked harder than anyone I know of to see that this election ran smoothly, decently, and in order. He has spent countless hours with the special elections committee of MCR, with me on the telephone, and many late nights. The man I speak of is Mr. Mike Michaelson. Mike, wherever you are, will you please stand.

"During the campaign I had a chance to visit 19 of these county schools, and I saw many things. I saw students who cared what happened to them, who took this election very seriously, and who showed evidence of being taught well by good teachers. Another promising thing that happened was that five students came to me and said that someday they, too, would like to be student-on-the-board - some for next year and others for years to come. I think that says a lot.

"I would like to thank you all for coming this evening and hope that you can make my next swearing-in ceremony, wherever that may be."

Re: PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATE TO
MISS JACQUIE DUBY

On behalf of the Board of Education and staff of the Montgomery County Public Schools, Dr. Cody presented Miss Duby with a certificate of appreciation for her work on the Board of Education.

Re: REMARKS BY MISS JACQUIE DUBY

Miss Duby made the following statement:

"If I could only make it through the election with my sanity intact

-- I can't wait until November 1 has come and gone and my applications are postmarked - gosh, winter break is just down the road -- once I survive the end of the semester, I know I'll be ok. Heck, as soon as I know where I will be next year. After we are done with facilities and budget, graduation is just around the corner. July 1, now that's the real end. I'll be free again.

"I suppose I have often sounded as if I were wishing this past year away. Well here I am at last, my official swearing-out, and in many respects time has gone too fast. One year on the Board is hardly enough time to see tangible progress on commitments, to gain political savvy, to educate a constituency of 50,000, or to become truly comfortable with the personal role in a vast system such as ours.

"In September everything was new and exciting. In January everything was still new and exciting. Right through my last Board meeting last week, every agenda opened a new challenge. Most of which are merely stored away for future exploration. One of these days I will be glad to have an introduction to the alphabet soup of ICBs, AFPOs, and EYEs. I learned to be brief as the planned adjournment time ticked closer. I will try now to condense my thank yous, reflections, and aspirations into a reasonable good-bye.

"I knew I was bound to turn this evening into a facsimile of the Academy Awards. So I came prepared to do it right. Before thanking my supporting cast, I would like to present awards - I will actually give them out later - to the leading professionals with whom I have been so privileged to work with at the table across the hall and behind the exec room door.

"For Mrs. Slye, who couldn't be here tonight, the 'mostest mommy' award. Watch her face light up when kids enter the Board room and you will lose a little of the cynicism with which most of us approach management and elected officials.

"For Dr. Floyd, the 'two plus two equals four' award. You would be amazed at how easy it is to get lost in educationese gobbledegook around here. Thank you, Dr. Floyd, for speaking in plain English and for applying the basic syllogisms to policies evidently based on principles of logic I must have missed in ninth grade math.

"For Mr. Ewing, the 'memorable memo' award. Sometimes I thought that if Mr. Ewing were to take a break from his typewriter my Friday night packets would disappear concurrently. Fortunately Mr. Ewing's memos are always straight to the point, usually coming to the rescue of a parent or student stuck in the system's inevitable bureaucracy and usually ending something like this 'are we really doing this? I find it appalling. I want an answer and I want it yesterday.' Thank you, Mr. Ewing, for never forgetting what is important.

"For Dr. Shoenberg, the 'practical Plato' award. He is one of the few philosophers I know or know of with his mind in MCPS rather than

the clouds. He has big ideas but understands kids and can keep a meeting right on schedule, too.

"For Dr. Cronin, the 'deadly details' award for never ever letting anything slip by. I've often wondered how I would fare in his Monday evening class.

"For Mrs. Praisner, the 'cheerful chauffeur' award. Boardwalk can now go back to being Shanandale Drive. Oh, and I still owe you a Chinese dinner.

"Finally for Mrs. DiFonzo, the 'colorful quip' award. I don't need to explain Mrs. DiFonzo's ability to provide a laugh and to make an incisive point with a single metaphor. Thanks to Mrs. D, I will never ask elephants to fly though I often wish they could.

"I would also like to thank Dr. Pitt and Dr. Cody for their tremendous personal support this year and Midge, Lillian, Mary Lou, David Fischer, Tom Fess, and all the senior staff for answering my questions, lending encouragement, and basically making me feel welcome from day one.

"Thanks also, of course, to my friends and family for understanding the moods and changes that accompany the pressure of the position or for tolerating them without understanding which was, I now realize, a great deal to ask.

"The Academy Awards are now officially over. I am tempted to broadcast my own rendition of typical Board meetings just for fun, but wouldn't know how to write lines for a cross of 'The Price is Right,' 'The Peoples Court,' 'Days of Our Lives,' and 'Ripley's Believe It or Not.' Instead I will answer the questions I have most often been asked since last June - 'why do you want to be an SOB anyway' became obsolete. First, of course, the question - 'What have you learned this year on the Board?' The answer: the difference between Chicken Kiev and Chicken a la King, a smattering about seat belts, governmental domain, legal services policies, asbestos, early childhood education, and Title IX. A whole lot about people from different backgrounds who espouse different ideas and advocate them in different ways. That decisions are easiest for those not making them. That the Peter Principle doesn't always apply. Politics isn't always dirty, and that Mark Twain was right. 'Always do good. It will please some people and astonish the rest.'

"The second most popular question this year - 'Have you done what you said you would do?' Well, I worked for student representation on task forces, and I have pushed hard for peer counseling. I have published SIGNPOSTS and I have been a student advocate in individual cases. I've spoken up without fear. In short, I have done my best. I was smart last spring. I didn't promise much more. Yes, I think I made a difference. I have my regrets, of course, not adequately addressing the issue of staff evaluations is one, not visiting as many schools as I would have liked is another. I wish I had been more proactive more often, but perhaps I wouldn't have learned as

much if I had spoken more and listened less. I'm sorry to have missed the ends of a few meetings, but I am cranky when I am tired anyway.

"Finally, I will pass verdict on the question - 'Was it worth it?' I can tell you the answer was yes. So, John, good luck. I am sure you will do a fine job. But if I may be so presumptuous to offer some advice. What the students in this county need, I have learned, is not a spokesman for all their opinions but the skills, the channels, and the motivation to speak up for themselves. I have done a lot of listening this year. My interpretation of what kids are trying to say is this - the pressure is too heavy, the cookie-cutter molds don't fit, we want to learn, but we want more to grow. I would like to thank this Board of Education and the people here tonight for the opportunity to do both."

Re: REMARKS BY BOARD MEMBERS

Dr. Cody read the following statement from Dr. Shoenberg:

"I am terribly sorry not to be with you tonight to say formal farewells and hellos. I did say a few words last Monday at Jacquie's last Board meeting, but I cannot let tonight pass without repeating some of the same thoughts when the many people who are about her and about John are on hand.

"The School Board has had many outstanding students as members - indeed, all of them have done credit to the students of Montgomery County - but Jacquie DUBY stands out among them for her stunning intelligence and ability to find exactly the right words for the situation. Her clarity, her tone and her manner of expression have never failed to communicate exactly the right thing. Hers is an ability that I wish we all had and which I know we all have appreciated. We will miss her gracious presence and the strong support that she has provided this past year. I hope that she will stay in touch because I cannot wait to see what wonderful things will happen to her.

"We welcome John Foubert with enthusiasm. His faithfulness in attending Board meetings since his election has been exemplary and we know that he is learning and getting ready to make the kind of contribution that will carry on the strong tradition of student Board members. We welcome him officially tonight and hope that we can make this an outstanding year for him.

"My congratulations to the families and friends of both Jacquie and John. You have much to be proud of."

Mrs. Praisner said that personally she looked forward to getting to know John better and to working with him. She thought they had made an excellent beginning. She explained that this was a difficult meeting for her because she felt almost like a mother saying goodbye to a daughter. She had known Jacquie a long time and, as she said, Shannondale Drive would go back from being Boardwalk to Shannondale

Drive. This last year had been pleasant for her because she had had excellent company going back and forth to Board meetings. She wished Jacquie all the best and wanted to hear about all the great things that would be coming in the future.

Mr. Ewing commented that Jacquie as a Board member had done what he thought Board members needed to do and that was to raise good questions which had called into question the logic of a number of policies which the Board in the past, sometimes in the present, had adopted. He had been particularly pleased with that because he thought that was what Board members needed to do and did not always do. She had frequently shown them the way to look in a fresh and new light at things which they had been doing and shouldn't have been doing and ought to stop doing and do something more sensible and reasonable. He thought that was a quality which certainly could be and he hoped was encouraged in the public schools, but it was a quality, too, that all of the student Board members had shown, and he spoke from experience having served with everyone of them. It was a great tradition which those Board members had established. Jacquie had carried it on in a distinguished way, and he was sure that she would continue to pursue in the future her career in a way that will reflect well on her and well on her parents and well on her community, and he hoped well on her service with the School Board. John faced a tradition that he didn't create but needed to be aware of, and he was sure he was. It was a tradition of student Board members who had taken the job very seriously, worked very hard at it, found it often baffling and wonderful, interesting and challenging, and had contributed a great deal. He noted John in his two months with us had already begun to make a serious and useful contribution. Mr. Ewing was sure he would continue in the tradition of other Board members. He said it was a pleasure to have John, and it was a sorrow to lose Jacquie.

Mrs. DiFonzo said she had served with Jacquie a shorter period of time than anyone at the table, but in those few months she came rapidly to appreciate Jacquie for the sharp, clear, incisive, and sometimes devastating manner in which she asked questions cutting through all the gobbledegook and froufrou and the various other verbal obfuscations and getting to the heart of any given matter and laying it bare for even the blindest of them to see. She complimented Jacquie on her exceedingly good humor - a face that always had a very winning and engaging smile on it, a spirit of cooperation. She always came to Board meetings prepared and had always done her homework. She was ready to participate fully. She said she would miss her and wished her all the best in the future and was sure that all the best would be hers. To John, although she was sure his feet were bigger than Jacquie's, she was sure he would have awfully big footsteps in which to walk. She said for herself and other members of the Board if there were anything she could do, to please let them know and they would be glad to help. She wished Jacquie good luck and welcomed John.

Dr. Floyd welcomed John aboard. He said that the legislature in its great wisdom created the position of student Board member a few years

ago, and they had had the privilege of seeing and watching such notables as David, Traci, Peter, Jacquie, and a number of others serve in that capacity. In the nine months that he had been on the Board, he had noted that Jacquie had great compassion, keen intelligence, and good wisdom and she had represented not only students well on this Board of Education but all citizens in Montgomery County. It was not too difficult to sit in the public room out there and watch some of them as they tried to deal with some of the thorny issues that came before them, but it was not too well known that at times in creating boards of education the legislature also recognized the sensitivity and privacy of some kinds of issues and provided for closed discussions on some of those issues. In creating the position of student Board member, the legislature provided that the Board itself due to the sensitivity of some of these issues needed to have to vote as to whether or not the student Board member could participate in these. In his nine months on the Board in every issue before the Board of Education the vote had been unanimous that Jacquie should participate in it. He thought that spoke to their conviction and their trust in her wisdom and their respect for her judgment. To her parents and her, he said this was quite an accomplishment. He suggested that in the next few weeks she take a few days out and take her last fling at just being a kid because Duke University was not going to provide that for her when she got down there.

Re: ADJOURNMENT

The secretary-treasurer adjourned the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

Secretary

WSC:mlw