

NUMBER: 5-1991  
STATUS: APPROVED  
PLACE: ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND  
DATE: JANUARY 24, 1991  
TEXT:

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Rockville, Maryland  
January 24, 1991

The Board of Education of Montgomery County met in special session at the Carver Educational Services Center, Rockville, Maryland, on Thursday, January 24, 1991, at 7:35 p.m.

ROLL CALL Present: Mr. Blair G. Ewing, President  
in the Chair  
Mrs. Frances Brenneman  
Mr. David Chang  
Dr. Alan Cheung  
Mrs. Sharon DiFonzo  
Mrs. Carol Fanconi  
Ms. Ana Sol Gutierrez  
Mrs. Catherine E. Hobbs

Absent: None

Others Present: Dr. Harry Pitt, Superintendent  
Dr. Paul L. Vance, Deputy Superintendent  
Mr. Thomas S. Fess, Parliamentarian

Re: STATEMENT BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
ON EFFORTS TO ADDRESS THE FINANCIAL  
CRISIS THREATENING MONTGOMERY  
COUNTY

The following statement was entered into the record:

The members of the Board of Education and superintendent of schools believe the financial crisis in Montgomery County is real and threatens to undermine the fiscal well-being of the Montgomery County Public Schools and the county government at large.

The Board members and the superintendent are prepared to cooperate with the county executive and the County Council in identifying measures to be taken by the school system to reduce expenditures. It should be understood, however, that the revenue shortfall predicted by the county executive of at least \$68 million from the current proposed budget cannot be absorbed without a serious disruption to schools and centrally administered programs and services. (The projected increase of just \$9.3 million over current expenditures will not cover even the increase in enrollment, let alone the impact of just inflation.) This massive loss of revenue, if unresolved by the county, means that every program and activity offered by our schools may face a detailed review for an outright reduction.

The Board will ask all the public, the PTA and employee organizations associated with MCPS to join in our efforts to deal responsibly and resourcefully in finding solutions to the variety of problems created by this fiscal crisis.

Efforts are already being taken to reduce costs, control expenditures, and evaluate existing programs for additional savings. The superintendent has already imposed an extensive hiring freeze, overtime controls and cutbacks in the use of substitutes, consultants, part-time staff and out-of-state travel in order to save \$2.2 million this year. All equipment funds, for example, have been frozen.

The Board of Education has authorized additional measures to identify immediate and long-term cost reductions through greater efficiency and cost savings. Furthermore, a review a next year's operating budget will be made by the Board to further identify significant reductions in the budget. Detailed discussions with internal auditors have been initiated to obtain information about potential areas of expenditure controls for this year, as well as next year.

The Board has also authorized a comprehensive analysis of management improvements that may produce greater efficiency and cost reductions, particularly in the areas of transportation, plant operations, procurement and maintenance. The analysis will also review management systems for curriculum and instruction, special education, program evaluation, and staff development.

Furthermore, the Board is to appoint a task force of citizens knowledgeable about the school system and external management innovation to assist the Board in identifying areas where other savings may be made. The Board is seeking recommendations from employee and parent organizations, community and civic groups, and other public representatives on ways in which the school system can create greater efficiency and cost containment.

Re: PUBLIC HEARING ON OPERATING BUDGET  
PROPOSALS FOR THE SCHOOL AND FISCAL  
YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 1992

The following individuals appeared before the Board of Education:

1. Marge Samels, Parents Supporting Parents, Mental Health Association
2. Joan Karasik, Association for Retarded Citizens
3. Judy Borten, Office of Special Education
4. Warren Rolle and Cheryl Fernandez, Head Start
5. Kermit Burnett, Individual
6. Lisa Baach, PISCES
7. Bonnie Cullison, Speech and Language Liaison Committee
8. George Margolies, Commission on Children and Youth
9. Mark Simon, MCEA
10. Rebecca Carroll, Autism Group
11. Irving Lipskind, Commission on People with Disabilities
12. Carolyn Snowden, Community Action Board

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13. Virginia Flynn, Individual

The following representatives of the Area 3 clusters appeared before the Board:

1. Tookie Gentilcore, Area 3 Vice President
2. Chris Rzeszut, Cluster Coordinator, Seneca Valley
3. Susan DeMessieres, Cluster Coordinator, Poolesville
4. Nancy Little, Cluster Coordinator, Damascus
5. Rick Wood, Cluster Coordinator, Watkins Mill

Re: ADJOURNMENT

The president adjourned the meeting at 10 p.m.

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PRESIDENT

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SECRETARY

HP:mlw