APPROVED 48-1992

The Board of Education of Montgomery County met in special session at the Carver Educational Services Center, Rockville, Maryland, on Thursday, November 19, 1992, at 6:45 p.m.

ROLL CALL Present: Mrs. Catherine Hobbs, President

in the Chair

Mrs. Frances Brenneman

Dr. Alan Cheung
Mrs. Sharon DiFonzo
Mr. Blair G. Ewing
Mrs. Carol Fanconi
Ms. Ana Sol Gutierrez
Mr. Jonathan Sims

Absent: None

Others Present: Dr. Paul L. Vance, Superintendent

Mrs. Katheryn W. Gemberling, Deputy

Dr. H. Philip Rohr, Deputy

Mr. Thomas S. Fess, Parliamentarian Mr. Stephen Abrams, Board Member-elect Mrs. Beatrice Gordon, Board Member-elect

Re: MARYLAND SECOND BUDGET

RECONCILIATION ACT FOR FY 1992

Mrs. Hobbs announced that this was a special session of the Board to discuss what had just happened in Annapolis. Dr. Vance invited Mrs. Lois Stoner, legislative aide, and Mr. Larry Bowers, budget director, to come to the table to discuss what had occurred over the past two days with the state cut of \$27 million to Montgomery County.

Mrs. Stoner stated that she would characterize the actions of the past days as cooperation, animosity, and retribution. Cooperation referred to the efforts of the Montgomery County and Prince George's County delegations working together to get alternative proposals before the legislature. All Montgomery County people and most of Prince George's opposed the bill. After the session, Mr. Potter and the Montgomery County Delegation had held a press conference in which they stated that the most important commitment was education and expressed deep concern about the future of the schools. Mrs. Fanconi and Mrs. Marcy Canavan of Prince George's had testified together about the effect of the bill on education in their respective counties. for the animosity, Mrs. Stoner thought that both delegations were stunned by the unwillingness of the speaker and other leadership to consider alternative proposals to the bill. Each side accused the other of rewriting history on commitments made in the 1980's regarding comprehensive educational funding and no changes in social security and retirement programs. As far as retribution,

delegates stated that Baltimore City should not expect Montgomery County votes in the future to support any of their programs.

Mrs. Stoner explained that the bill repealed provisions of the law requiring the state to pay social security for education, libraries, and community colleges, and this went into effect on July 1, 1993. For the current year a reduction would be made equivalent to the amount for social security, and Montgomery County would have to submit a proposed payment schedule by January 15, 1993. In addition, they were faced with the Neall amendment which authorized counties to reduce appropriations or take any other action to reduce funds for the current year, and this had been interpreted by the attorney general as line item control.

Mrs. Hobbs expressed the Board's appreciation for the hard work of the Montgomery County Delegation.

Mr. Ewing inquired about the provision regarding elimination of positions. Mrs. Stoner replied that there was not total agreement on this, but it seemed to mean that the county could not reduce classroom instruction or materials, but the Board of Education could. Mr. Ewing asked if they had an indication from the county executive on how he planned to treat this reduction, and Dr. Vance replied that they had not. He assumed there would be meetings with the county executive and County Council. Ms. Gutierrez asked if the legislature addressed increasing revenue, and Mrs. Stoner replied that they had not.

Mrs. Fanconi joined with Mrs. Hobbs in expressing her thanks to the Delegation. When she had testified, she felt that many of the delegates from other counties did not understand that the bill was a cut to public education. She had tried to get across the idea that a cut of this magnitude would have a devastating effect on education, transportation, and the classroom. Mrs. Brenneman added her personal thanks for the spirit of cooperation among the Delegation, the Board, citizens, and the County Council.

Mr. Ewing hoped that on Monday evening the Board could have a resolution expressing the Board's appreciation and thanks to the Delegation for its work.

Mr. Bowers explained that for the current fiscal year the action of the General Assembly will not require that all or any part of the reduction comes from MCPS. The wording required the County Council to come up with a plan for reimbursing the funds to the state; however, in July 1, 1993, MCPS would assume the full responsibility for the costs of social security for all employees eligible for the retirement or pension systems. Therefore, MCPS would have to pay \$24.9 million, and he had estimated that this amount might increase by another million to cover step increases

and enrollment growth. He noted that when they had discussed next year's budget he had indicated that it would take \$23 million above the FY 1993 budget to maintain services which did not include salary increases. The county's guideline was \$16 million above this year's budget which meant that there already existed a gap before they had to consider the \$25 million or so in social security. He indicated that they had not heard any specifics on how the county executive or County Council planned to address this most recent loss.

Re: PUBLIC HEARING CIP AND FACILITIES PROCESS

The following individuals appeared before the Board of Education:

- 1. Dorothea Thoms, Rockshire Homeowners Association
- 2. Ej Schaeffer Landsman, Hunting Woods HOA
- 3. Don Crawford, Fallsmead Homes Corporation
- 4. Jeff Szkely, Lakewood Estates Civic Association
- 5. Rita O'Donnell, Quince Orchard Estates
- 6. Liz Lawrence, Willow Ridge Civic Association
- 7. Bernard Zycherman, DuFief Mill Homeowners Association
- 8. Joseph Lupia, Stonebridge Homeowners Association
- 9. Mike Burke, Fallswood Civic Association
- 10. Michael Firestone, DuFief Mill Estates Homeowners Assoc.
- 11. Bridget McLeman, Paint Branch Cluster
- 12. Susan de Messieres, Poolesville Cluster
- 13. Tom Hill, Quince Orchard Cluster
- 14. Sharon Matsui, Claude Matsui, and Susan Borden, Rockville Cluster
- 15. Carolyn Leclaire, Seneca Valley Cluster
- Cillie Gerstenzang, Sherwood Cluster
- 17. Cindy Waetjen, Springbrook Cluster
- 18. Nancy King, Watkins Mill Cluster
- 19. John Taylor, Wheaton Cluster
- 20. Linda Lang, Walt Whitman Cluster
- 21. Walter Lange, Sue Kassell, and Eric Stone, Wootton Cluster

Re: ADJOURNMENT

The president adjourned the meeting at 10:40 p.m.

PRESIDENT	
SECRETARY	

PLV:mlw