

APPROVED
13-1993

Rockville, Maryland
February 11, 1993

The Board of Education of Montgomery County met in special session at the Carver Educational Services Center, Rockville, Maryland, on Thursday, February 11, 1993, at 8:10 p.m.

ROLL CALL Present: Dr. Alan Cheung, President
 in the Chair
 Mr. Stephen Abrams
 Mrs. Frances Brenneman
 Mr. Blair G. Ewing
 Mrs. Carol Fanconi
 Mrs. Beatrice Gordon
 Ms. Ana Sol Gutierrez

 Absent: Mr. Jonathan Sims

 Others Present: Dr. Paul L. Vance, Superintendent
 Mrs. Katheryn W. Gemberling, Deputy
 Dr. H. Philip Rohr, Deputy
 Mr. Thomas S. Fess, Parliamentarian

#indicates student vote does not count. Four votes are needed for adoption.

RESOLUTION NO. 148-93 Re: BOARD AGENDA - FEBRUARY 11, 1993

On recommendation of the superintendent and on motion of Mrs. Fanconi seconded by Mrs. Gordon, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present:

Resolved, That the Board of Education approve its agenda for February 11, 1993.

RESOLUTION NO. 149-93 Re: FACILITIES ALTERNATIVE - WOOTTON CLUSTER

On motion of Mr. Ewing seconded by Mr. Abrams, the following resolution was adopted with Mr. Abrams, Mrs. Brenneman, Dr. Cheung, Mr. Ewing, Mrs. Gordon, and Ms. Gutierrez voting in the affirmative; Mrs. Fanconi being temporarily absent#:

Resolved, That the Board of Education approve as a facilities alternative Option 4B and the Churchill Cluster's Variation of Option 4B as contained in their letter of February 10, 1993.

 Re: EASTERN AREA OPTIONS AS SUBJECT FOR
 PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Ewing moved and Ms. Gutierrez seconded the following:

WHEREAS, In November, 1992 the Board of Education adopted the FY94-99 Capital Improvements Program that included the Board-

adopted comprehensive plan for secondary space needs in the eastern part of the county; and

WHEREAS, The plan included construction of a new northeast school to relieve Paint Branch, Sherwood, and Springbrook high schools, a replacement school for Montgomery Blair High School on the Kay tract, and additions as required at the remaining eastern high schools; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Education and the superintendent continue to support the comprehensive plan for the eastern area as adopted and do not recommend any other options; and

WHEREAS, The County Council in a letter from the Council president, dated December 8, 1992, requested that the Board present a "workable alternative" to the Board's recommended option "that does not use the Kay tract"; and

WHEREAS, On December 14 the Board adopted a timeline for consideration of the Council's request that directed the superintendent to present alternatives for the eastern area on or about February 1, 1993; and

WHEREAS, The Board seeks comments, reactions, and advice from potentially affected schools and communities about aspects of all options; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the options contained in the February 11, 1993, paper, Comprehensive Eastern Area Solution Options, be subject to public testimony at the Board of Education March 1, 1993, hearing; and be it further

Resolved, That school communities be informed of this action.

Re: A MOTION BY MR. ABRAMS TO AMEND THE
PROPOSED RESOLUTION ON THE EASTERN
AREA OPTIONS (FAILED)

A motion by Mr. Abrams to amend the proposed resolution on the eastern area options by deleting "continue to support" in the third whereas clause and substituting "supported" failed for lack of a second.

RESOLUTION NO. 150-93 Re: EASTERN AREA OPTIONS AS SUBJECT FOR
PUBLIC COMMENT

On recommendation of the superintendent and on motion of Mr. Ewing seconded by Ms. Gutierrez, the following resolution was adopted with Mrs. Brenneman, Dr. Cheung, Mr. Ewing, Mrs. Fanconi, Mrs. Gordon, and Ms. Gutierrez voting in the affirmative; Mr. Abrams voting in the negative#:

WHEREAS, In November, 1992 the Board of Education adopted the FY94-99 Capital Improvements Program that included the Board-

adopted comprehensive plan for secondary space needs in the eastern part of the county; and

WHEREAS, The plan included construction of a new northeast school to relieve Paint Branch, Sherwood, and Springbrook high schools, a replacement school for Montgomery Blair High School on the Kay tract, and additions as required at the remaining eastern high schools; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Education and the superintendent continue to support the comprehensive plan for the eastern area as adopted and do not recommend any other options; and

WHEREAS, The County Council in a letter from the Council president, dated December 8, 1992, requested that the Board present a "workable alternative" to the Board's recommended option "that does not use the Kay tract"; and

WHEREAS, On December 14 the Board adopted a timeline for consideration of the Council's request that directed the superintendent to present alternatives for the eastern area on or about February 1, 1993; and

WHEREAS, The Board seeks comments, reactions, and advice from potentially affected schools and communities about aspects of all options; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the options contained in the February 11, 1993, paper, Comprehensive Eastern Area Solution Options, be subject to public testimony at the Board of Education March 1, 1993, hearing; and be it further

Resolved, That school communities be informed of this action.

Re: FACILITIES MODERNIZATION ASSESSMENT
PROCESS

Ms. Ann Briggs, director of the Department of Educational Facilities Planning and Capital Programming, reported that in FY 1990-91 the County Council urged MCPS to consider if schools should be modernized or renovated. The Board responded by adopting its Modernization/Renovation policy on October 8, 1991.

The policy described a continuum of activities including maintenance/preventive and routine repairs, renovation, and modernization. The policy also described an assessment process that would be used to determine the ranking of schools on the modernization schedule. Board members viewed a video describing the process used to rank the Takoma Park Intermediate School and Westland Middle School facilities.

Ms. Robin King, facilities data analyst, described how the educational standards portion of the modernization assessment

process was developed. The educational portion was given equal weight with the FACT process which was a detailed assessment of the physical condition of buildings and sites. The educational portion was developed after a series of six meetings with MCPS principals and PTA presidents.

Ms. Briggs stated that there were several unresolved issues to consider. The first was what to do about maintenance for schools listed for modernization in the outyears, and staff was looking at this issue. There might be a proposal to amend the Board's policy to cover this issue. There was also the issue about an annual reassessment. At present they were talking about re-ranking only as they moved out beyond the current three-year process and not adding new schools until they completed a full six-year cycle of the capital budget.

It seemed to Mr. Ewing that the system for ranking appeared to be filled with judgments which had been given numerical scores. The facility scores did not appear to be based on a firm scientific condition, and he would question the judgments being made in terms of the educational standards. This was not an infallible process, and he was not happy with it. He agreed that both Takoma Park and Westland were in terrible shape and both should be modernized. However, it appeared to him that they were using the ranking to say that Takoma Park was in better shape than Westland, and this would not get his vote. Both schools were in bad shape. While he believed the approach used by staff was reasonable, it was not a road to absolute certainty.

Ms. Gutierrez agreed that they should not make these decisions strictly on a numerical score because there were human factors and environmental factors to consider. She thought they had to look at whether they should be doing full modernizations because if they kept on this way they would be modernizing fewer and fewer schools. Ms. Briggs reported that the county executive had recommend a reduction of \$30 million in modernizations and that a task force be formed to look at cost reductions for modernizations. She thought this was a good idea which might lead to a better understanding of exactly what MCPS and other jurisdictions were doing when they modernized a building.

Mr. Ewing reported that there were some people in the B-CC cluster who were suggesting it would be wise to explore an alternative involving a land swap of the Westland property for the acreage adjacent to North Chevy Chase Elementary School. This would give them a 25-acre site and a new middle school more centrally located than Westland. The proposal was for North Chevy Chase to occupy the former Larchmont facility. Ms. Briggs commented that this would be extremely complicated. The North Chevy Chase project was heading for construction, and they did not know whether a land swap would be possible because the law required school sites to be returned to the county when they were

no longer needed for educational purposes. They did not know whether the 20 acres near North Chevy Chase was buildable land. Having said that, she indicated that if the Board wanted to pursue this it would take several months to gather information which would not permit them to keep North Chevy Chase on schedule.

It seemed to Dr. Cheung that the current modernization assessment process was a big improvement over what had occurred in the past.

He understood that the corporate partnership was looking into facilities issues, and he thought that they might be able to provide some guidance to staff.

RESOLUTION NO. 151-93 Re: FACILITIES ALTERNATIVE - SHERWOOD CLUSTER

On motion of Mrs. Brenneman seconded by Mrs. Fanconi, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present#:

Resolved, That the Board adopt a facilities alternative for the Sherwood community which would permit that community to address the idea of a 21-room addition to that school in FY 1996.

RESOLUTION NO. 152-93 Re: BOARD OF EDUCATION TESTIMONY ON THE ANNUAL GROWTH POLICY

On motion of Ms. Gutierrez seconded by Mr. Ewing, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present:

Resolved, That the Board of Education present testimony on the Annual Growth Policy to the County Council on February 18, 1993; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board's testimony incorporate the following points:

The schools should continue as an important element of the Annual Growth Policy

Portions of the county will be closed to development if the Board's requested secondary school projects are not funded

The Paint Branch cluster should be closed to additional residential growth in FY 1994

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RESOLUTION NO. 153-93 Re: ADJOURNMENT

On recommendation of the superintendent and on motion of Mrs. Fanconi seconded by Mr. Abrams, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present:

Resolved, That the Board of Education adjourn its meeting at 11:45 p.m.

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY

PLV:mlw