

APPROVED
41-1997

Rockville, Maryland
November 12, 1997

The Board of Education of Montgomery County met in special session at the Carver Educational Services Center, Rockville, Maryland, on Wednesday, November 12, 1997.

ROLL CALL Present: Mr. Reginald M. Felton, President
 in the Chair
 Dr. Alan Cheung
 Mr. Blair G. Ewing
 Mrs. Beatrice B. Gordon
 Ms. Ana Sol Gutiérrez
 Mrs. Nancy J. King
 Ms. Mona M. Signer
 Dr. Paul L. Vance, Secretary/Treasurer

Absent: Ms. Debra Wheat

Re: **PUBLIC HEARING ON THE REQUESTED FY 1999
CAPITAL BUDGET AND THE FY 1999 TO FY 2004
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM**

The public hearing was called to order at 7:35 p.m.

The following individuals appeared before the Board of Education:

1. Sharon Cox, President, MCCPTA
2. Robert Abrams, Wheaton Citizens Coalition
3. Gloria Atlas, Orchard Ridge Civic Association
4. Andrea Marmon, Falls Ridge Homeowners Association
5. Lisa Lurie Raker, Potomac Woods Homeowners Association
6. Larry Center, Horizon Hills Civic Association
7. Peg Brenner, Community Revitalization of Silver Spring, Inc.
8. Councilmember Marc Elrich, City of Takoma Park
9. Richard Ceccone, Ashton Pond Community Association
10. Richard Helgeson, and Timothy Hauser, Springbrook Cluster
11. Gail West and B.J. Mills, Sherwood Cluster
12. Don Spence and Debbie Camp, Paint branch Cluster
13. Kevin Byrne and Sharon Knopik, Rockville Cluster
14. Jerry Loux, Richard Montgomery Cluster
15. Terry Schott, Magruder Cluster
16. Sara Pullen, Kennedy Cluster
17. John Whitler and Leslie Fried, Walter Johnson Cluster
18. Michelle Turner, Einstein Cluster

19. Mary Ann Hess and Marilyn Shoenfield, Blair Cluster
20. Carole Brand, Bethesda-Chevy Chase Cluster
21. Joe Haggerty
22. Christina Lau
23. Vaikumth Gupta
24. Julie Reiner
25. Scott Lupin
26. Vijay Kheparpal
27. Soroor Mohammad
28. Pat Engel
29. Susan Karp
30. Diane Marcus
31. Carolyn Kolban
32. Kelly Eskin
33. Nancy Frohman
34. Marsha Simon
35. Stacy Gorin
36. Richard and Deborah Hildreth

The Board of Education members requested information on the following issues:

Mr. Ewing asked the superintendent what the options are for lowering enrollment at Burnt Mills Elementary School from the 700 current enrollment to 600 or an amount roughly equal to the school's capacity.

Mr. Ewing asked if there were to be a boundary study of Burnt Mills Elementary School, what would be the schedule for such a study and when would the results be available?

Ms. Signer referred to Mr. Helgeson's testimony and asked for a newly prioritized list of schools for air conditioning based on the revised modernization schedule to eliminate the backlog.

Ms. Signer asked the superintendent to address the cluster's concerns about the fence at Dr. Charles R. Drew Elementary School and the repairs needed at Broad Acres Elementary School.

Ms. Signer requested the superintendent's response to the request for an additional relocatable at Rosa Parks Middle School for this year. She also wanted to know the status of replacing the other 1/3 of the windows at Sherwood Elementary School.

Regarding Rosa Parks Middle School, in addition to the portable question, Mr. Ewing wanted the superintendent to address other issues of overcrowding, including eight teachers without classrooms, and what the solution to that is.

With respect to Greenwood Elementary School, Mr. Ewing asked the superintendent to assess that situation and give the Board his views about where the school system is and where it is going with 50 more students than projected and more special ed classes. What is the plan for dealing with this problem in the short term as well as the long term?

Mrs. Gordon asked about the testimony on Paint Branch High School and the significant equipment (computer and technology) requests, and what the plans are for addressing those and when they will be in place.

Mr. Ewing noted that Mr. Elrich's testimony raised questions of a similar kind, as well as additional one, relating to resources being planned for the middle and elementary schools on Wayne Avenue. He would appreciate the superintendent adding answers to those questions as well.

Ms. Gutiérrez asked for answers regarding Ms. Brenner's testimony on the revitalization of Silver Spring, especially the third floor at the Wayne Avenue site.

After Rockville Cluster's testimony, Mr. Felton asked about the labeling in Braille at schools. He asked for clarification on the requirement and to what extent this has that been done. Are there other schools that are affected?

Ms. Signer asked for the superintendent's response about the leaky roof and plumbing problems at Candlewood Elementary School, and the need for a security fence at Flower Hill Elementary School.

Mrs. Gordon asked about the acceleration of schools on the modernization schedule and what effect this will have on maintenance items like roof repair and those types of issues. During tonight's testimony, the Board heard from three schools that have issues regarding fencing. The school system needs to look at how it makes the decisions about fencing and if that remains an appropriate decision-making process given current safety and security issues of today's society.

After Richard Montgomery Cluster's testimony, Mrs. King requested the superintendent to review and comment on the issues raised by Mr. Loux. She also asked the superintendent to keep the Board informed as it progresses through the special education issues within the cluster.

Previously, Mrs. Gordon had asked a series of questions regarding projections and placement of special education programs and how that fits into utilization of buildings.

Ms. Signer referred to a memo she had written to the superintendent about the problems with locating the SED program in the tech ed room at Julius West Middle School, which she thought had been taken care of. She asked for the status of that matter.

Ms. Signer expressed her concern and asked if it were correct that every school in the Richard Montgomery Cluster is scheduled to have Intensity 4 or 5 special education programs while only one elementary school in each of Wootton and Churchill clusters have those programs.

Mrs. Gordon asked for information on how many other clusters have Intensity 4 or 5 programs at every school.

Mr. Ewing asked what the criteria were for basing decisions to place special education programs in schools. The Board needs to be informed about those criteria or, if there are no criteria, whether such criteria are under development. He stated that it must be clear to the public and Board, as well as the schools involved, how these decisions are to be made and why.

Ms. Signer asked how much it would cost to install a canopy at Glenallan Elementary School?

Ms. Signer reiterated her question to staff about the life expectancy and durability of terrazzo flooring compared to tile.

After Blair Cluster's testimony, Mrs. Gordon asked for information about the estimate of the costs to MCPS for the unification of Takoma Park which was compiled previously to submit to the county executive and County Council for submission to the state. She asked that the information be shared with the cluster and reiterated with the County Executive.

Mr. Ewing noted that he had asked previously for the superintendent to provide a clear statement about what elements had been left out of the Wayne Avenue site plan and that there be a comparison of the plan for the new schools at Wayne Avenue with the expenditures per student as well as the level and quality of program space of other new or modernized schools around the county.

Mr. Ewing requested that the superintendent respond to the questions posed in the Blair Cluster's testimony.

In looking at the larger use of the Wayne Avenue site, Ms. Gutiérrez asked about the adult learning community and making the facility suitable for that use.

Ms. Signer stated that it was her understanding that the reopening of the school at Wayne Avenue was not to be construed as a modernization. She asked that the superintendent, when providing comparative figures, include comparisons to schools that are reopened as well as to new and modernized schools.

After Einstein Cluster's testimony, Mr. Ewing asked the superintendent to what extent plans now foresee inclusion of space for the extended day program.

Mrs. King asked the superintendent what shape the Northwood facility is in, and what the school system is doing about the wiring of Northwood.

Mr. Ewing asked about the Radnor facility and the status of wiring and, if there are no plans to wire the school, why not?

Ms. Gutiérrez requested information about status of funding for air conditioning at Northwood.

Mr. Felton asked for clarification on art work in school buildings and how the school system approaches the transfer of art work when a school is modernized. Are there any programs in the county where the school system invites artists or groups to provide that kind of support?

Mr. Felton asked to what extent the school system has used grandfathering when making boundary changes, what have been the conditions, what have been some of the terms, and what have been the results?

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 p.m.

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY

PLV:gr