

APPROVED
34-2001

Rockville, Maryland
November 14, 2001

The Board of Education of Montgomery County met in special session at the Carver Educational Services Center, Rockville, Maryland, on Wednesday, November 14, 2001, at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL Present: Mrs. Nancy J. King, President
 in the Chair
 Mr. Steve Abrams
 Ms. Sharon Cox
 Mr. Reginald M. Felton
 Mr. Walter Lange
 Mrs. Patricia B. O'Neill
 Mr. Dustin Jeter, Student Board Member
 Mr. Larry Bowers, Acting Secretary/Treasurer

Absent: Mr. Kermit V. Burnett

or () indicates student vote does not count. Four votes needed for adoption.

Re: **PUBLIC HEARING ON THE CAPITAL BUDGET AND
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM**

The following people testified before the Board of Education:

1. MCCPTA B Michelle Turner, President
2. Sherwood Cluster B Lynn Kuebler
3. Springbrook, Paint Branch, and Blake Clusters B Karen Freeman
4. Northeast Consortium B Nancy Hondros
5. Wootton Cluster B Gigi Godwin
6. Rockville Cluster B Patty Sten
7. Richard Montgomery Cluster B Gene Thirolf
8. Churchill Cluster B Laura Siegel
9. Kennedy Cluster B Heidi Coleman, Area 6 Coordinator
10. Einstein Cluster B Gail Melson
11. Montgomery Blair Cluster B Betsy Scroggs
12. Damascus Cluster B Dale Ryan
13. Mr. Kelly Tilton
14. Jim Keenan
15. The West End Civic Association, Kate Ostell
16. The Horizon Hill Civic Association, Lawrence Center
17. Kim Schifrin

18. King Farm Civic Association, Michael Mogil
19. Montgomery Preservation, Wayne Goldstein
20. The Deerfield-Weathered Oak Civic Association, Cyril Draffin
21. Barbara Eyman
22. Mike Williams

Board of Education members asked the following questions.

23. Mr. Abrams asked staff to research and provide information on the idea of implementing an 8- or 9-period day at middle and high schools. He was interested in budgetary implications of moving in that direction. It has a positive impact on the capital budget and a negative impact on the operating budget. There are also implications for transportation. The question is whether the savings that were identified in Ms. Turner's testimony could be realized.
24. Ms. Cox asked Ms. Turner if that suggestion was one that the MCCPTA delegate assembly had voted to support or one of innovative strategies that we should consider and have public hearings.
25. Mr. Felton asked Ms. Turner if her proposal included such things as an expansion of online courses, distant learning, and other kinds of programs that would, in fact, reduce the number students.
26. Mr. Lange noted that several testimonies spoke about gyms, and he was impressed by the numbers in the testimony about Greenwood Elementary School. It spoke to the all-purpose room having a capacity of 318 people, and the population of the school is currently 600 plus students. It talked about the complexities of moving the cafeteria into a gymnasium mode. He asked staff for the cost of providing a gym with the 6-room addition that is presently scheduled.
27. Regarding Paint Branch High Schools' unventilated bathrooms, Mr. Lange thought it was a code violation and wanted the status of ventilation on those bathrooms.
28. Mr. Abrams asked staff to respond to Mr. Thirolf's testimony regarding the CIP errors relating to Richard Montgomery High School's enrollment projections.
29. Mr. Felton followed up on Mr. Thirolf's testimony on labs. Over the past few years, the Board has had discussions about partial renovations, i.e., labs separate from other construction. Could staff pull together some notes from those discussions and advise the Board whether that is a feasible approach? In other words, could staff plan science labs as separate from the typical construction budgets in order to modernize labs?
30. Mr. Felton suggested that the Churchill Cluster provide comments on the proposed

policy as mentioned in its testimony.

31. Ms. Cox asked for the status of Meadow Hall Elementary School's relocatable classrooms.
32. If the Richard Montgomery High School's modernization does not occur as scheduled, Mrs. O'Neill asked what is the viability of using Fleet Street after the government vacates the building to alleviate the overcrowding at the high school.
33. Ms. Cox responded to Mr. Thirolf's testimony regarding the state funding. She reported that the Board had met with the Montgomery County Delegation and, while the state has a \$900 million reserve, they are anticipating a \$1.7 billion deficit. That is part of the reason why the school system is anticipating the projected funding levels.
34. Mr. Abrams added that the Thornton Commission's recommendations will not be funded.
35. Mrs. King asked Mr. Lavorgna to clarify for the Kennedy Cluster exactly what the \$14 million will accomplish at Northwood.
36. Mrs. King clarified that the Board has not approved a charter school for Montgomery County.
37. Mrs. King asked staff to look into the mold and mildew problem at Oakview Elementary School.
38. Mr. Abrams wanted a response from staff on the issue of a task force on new downcounty housing use patterns.
39. Mrs. O'Neill suggested that someone from Barnsley or Drew meet with the Blair Cluster to give them background on how centers for the highly gifted operate in relation to the home students.
40. Mr. Abrams added that the same thing should happen with Title I programs.
41. Ms. Cox clarified that during the Einstein Cluster's testimony, there was a statement that the CIP proposed to move the 5th graders from Highland Elementary School to Sligo Middle School. Technically, the proposal is to look at the overutilization at Highland, and it could be two grade levels that are moved.

42. Mr. Felton asked staff to provide information on the use of MCPS= labs. How does staff schedule the use of labs in schools, and whether or not there is any flexibility should staff approach it differently for utilization?

The hearing ended at 9:00 p.m.

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY

JDW:gr