

APPROVED
3-2005

Rockville, Maryland
January 20, 2005

The Board of Education of Montgomery County met in special session at the Carver Educational Services Center, Rockville, Maryland, on Thursday, January 20, 2005, at 7:05 p.m.

Present: Mrs. Patricia B. O'Neill, President
 in the Chair
 Ms. Valerie Ervin
 Mrs. Nancy Navarro
 Mr. Gabriel Romero
 Dr. Jerry Weast, Secretary/Treasurer

Absent: Mr. Steve Abrams
 Ms. Sharon W. Cox
 Dr. Charles Haughey
 Mr. Sagar Sanghvi, Student Board Member

Re: FY 2006 OPERATING BUDGET HEARING

The following people testified before the Board of Education:

1. Jerry Klobukowski, Commissioners of Poolesville
2. Bonnie Cullison, Montgomery County Education Association
3. Becky Newman, Montgomery County Association of Administrative and Supervisory Personnel
4. Merle Cuttitta, SEIU Local 500
5. Lauren Haven, Northwest Cluster
6. Liz Smith, Poolesville Cluster
7. Jim Keenan, Quince Orchard Cluster
8. Juan Johnson, Seneca Valley Cluster
9. Chris Barclay, Blair Cluster
10. Kelly Giblin, Einstein Cluster
11. Penny Lee, Kennedy Cluster
12. Patrick Herendeen, Northwood Cluster
13. Nick Farson, Wheaton Cluster
14. Deborah Missal, Bethesda-Chevy Chase Cluster
15. Pam Moomau, Walter Johnson Cluster
16. Carley Lee, Whitman Cluster
17. Rich Edelman, Wootton Cluster
18. Janice Miller, Montgomery County Speech Pathologists Association
19. Reda Sheinberg
20. Michael Williams, Commission on Children and Youth

21. Julie Lees, Gifted and Talented Association
22. Jerry Heupel
23. Ricki Sabia and Cheryl Kravitz, Special Education Continuous Improvement Advisory Committee
24. Jill Lyons
25. Liz Roth, Autism Society of America, Montgomery County Chapter
26. Mark Adelman, Montgomery County Civic Federation
27. Bob Astrove
28. Lon Hamann, Montgomery Village Foundation
29. Debbie Van Brunt
30. Eric Brenner

The Board of Education asked the following questions:

1. Mr. Romero asked if MCPS is using a weighted class-size formula for special education and ESOL classes.
2. Ms. Ervin inquired if there were budget funds for the removal of graffiti.
3. Ms. Ervin thought the paradigm shift on the language mentioned in Mr. Barclay's testimony was good. She wanted to add the term "underperforming" students as well.
4. Mrs. Navarro noted that there were countywide themes in the clusters' testimonies.
5. Mr. Romero asked for clarification or a definition (Einstein testimony) of small learning communities.
6. Mr. Romero wanted to know the cost for textbooks at Northwood High School after the elimination of the 4 x 4 scheduling.
7. Mr. Romero noted that Whitman's testimony referred to the stresses of teachers with special education students and class ratio. What initiatives does MCPS have to address that situation?
8. Mrs. O'Neill wanted to know how many elementary schools do not have a full-time guidance counselor. She also wanted a breakdown by high school of the counselor-to-student ratios for each high school.
9. Regarding Walter Johnson's testimony, Mr. Romero noted that the students were used as a statistical control in class-size reduction and wanted a clarification on what causes a school to be a statistical control point.

10. Mr. Romero noted that there had been testimony on special education services. He suggested that the testimony be referred to the Board's ad hoc Special Education Committee for review. Mrs. O'Neill suggested that the committee could look at autism programs and the continuum based on the increased diagnosis within the county.
11. Mrs. O'Neill asked for a brief description on how transition services work with the county's adult services.
12. Ms. Ervin noted Mr. Astrove's suggestion about choice for special education. She acknowledged that it was an idea that needs further investigation.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY

JDW:gr