

APPROVED
26-2008

Rockville, Maryland
October 27, 2008

The Board of Education of Montgomery County met at the Carver Educational Services Center, Rockville, Maryland, on Monday, October 27, 2008, at 6:10 p.m.

Present: Mrs. Nancy Navarro, President
in the Chair
Ms. Shirley Brandman
Ms. Sharon Cox
Dr. Judy Docca
Ms. Quratul-Ann Malik
Mrs. Patricia O'Neill
Dr. Jerry Weast, Secretary/Treasurer

Absent: Mr. Steve Abrams
Mr. Christopher Barclay

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

RESOLUTION NO. 385-08 Re: **RESOLUTION FOR CLOSED SESSION**

On recommendation of the superintendent and on motion of Ms. Brandman seconded by Mrs. O'Neill, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present:

WHEREAS, The Board of Education of Montgomery County is authorized by the *Education Article* and *State Government Article* of the *Annotated Code of Maryland* to conduct certain meetings or portions of its meetings in closed sessions; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board of Education of Montgomery County conduct a closed session on October 27, 2008, in Room 120 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board of Education of Montgomery County discuss collective bargaining negotiations, as permitted under Section 10-508(a)(9) of the *State Government Article* and Section 4-107(d)(2)(ii) of the *Education Article*; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board of Education of Montgomery County receive legal advice, as permitted under Section 10-508(a)(7) of the *State Government Article*; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board of Education of Montgomery County dedicate part of the closed session on October 27, 2008, to acquit its administrative functions and to adjudicate and review appeals, which is a quasi-judicial function outside the purview of the Open Meetings Act, under Section 10-503(a) of the *State Government Article*; and be it further

Resolved, That the meeting continue in closed session until the completion of business.

Re: **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

RESOLUTION NO. 386-08 Re: **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

On recommendation of the superintendent and on motion of Mrs. O'Neill seconded by Ms. Cox, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present:

Resolved, That the Board of Education approve its agenda for October 27, 2008.

RESOLUTION NO. 387-08 Re: **RECOGNITION OF ERIC KUHN**

On recommendation of the superintendent and on motion of Ms. Brandman seconded by Mrs. O'Neill, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present:

WHEREAS, Montgomery County Public Schools recognizes the outstanding contributions of Mr. Eric Kuhn, special education resource teacher at Lakelands Park Middle School, as an exemplary employee who appreciates the importance of strengthening family and school partnerships; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kuhn, a skilled teacher, ensures success for every student through excellence in teaching and learning by implementing a rigorous and effective instructional program and by championing productive family, school, and community partnerships that support improved student achievement; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kuhn worked diligently with the executive producers of ABC television's *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition* as well as with officials from the Montgomery County Department of Housing and Community Affairs to accomplish the building of a home for the Jackson family, a deserving family in Poolesville, Maryland; and

WHEREAS, The Montgomery County Board of Education recognizes and values Mr. Kuhn's contributions to this school system and the community at large; and

WHEREAS, Families and students with disabilities are supported as a result of Mr. Kuhn's humanitarian efforts; and

WHEREAS, We take time today to celebrate Mr. Kuhn for promoting, supporting, and embracing the families in our community to ensure that students have the knowledge, skills, and attitudes to be successful members of our global society; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Montgomery County Board of Education and superintendent of schools recognize and honor Mr. Eric Kuhn as an outstanding special educator and instructional

leader who fosters and promotes the mission and vision of this school system.

Re: **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

The following people testified before the Board of Education:

	<u>Person</u>	<u>Topic</u>
1.	Cynthia Strouse	Foreign language
2.	Caius Kim	Foreign language
3.	Gegi Leeger	Foreign language
4.	Joyce Whang	Foreign language
5.	Jeff Carmines	Underutilization of Rockville High School
6.	Stan Thomas	Rockville High School Enrollment
7.	Amy Rick	Rockville High School Enrollment
8.	Ann English	Rockville High School Enrollment
9.	Mignon Davis	Carbon Fees

Re: **BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS**

Ms. Cox commented on translation services for graduations. After speaking with staff, it has been decided that translation equipment will be available for all graduations in the future. Second, she stated that she would be providing information on the Maryland Negotiations Conference which she attended earlier this month. Finally, she attended the Council of Educational Administrative and Supervisory Organizations, and it was impressive to see the leadership from MCPS.

Ms. Malik stated that she attended Community Service Day at Gaithersburg High School. This is an initiative for all students to help needy families in the community.

Mrs. O'Neill commented on attending the 10th anniversary of the founding of Sharp Street Hosts an Academic Resource Program, more commonly called SHARP. The program is designed to help middle and high school students who have been suspended from school. The program was founded by the Rev. George E. Hackey Jr., then pastor of Sharp Street Church, and Leo McDonald, assistant principal at Winston Churchill High School in Potomac. SHARP now includes seven programs and 41 schools. Second, Mrs. O'Neill urged everyone to vote No on Question B, which would require nine out of nine County Council votes to override the levy on taxing real property.

Dr. Docca stated that Winston Churchill High School put on an excellent production of RENT. Further, Dr. Docca visited Montgomery College in the last couple of weeks. The college just received \$29 million from the state for a science building on the Rockville campus. It is important because about 85 - 90 percent their students come from Montgomery County Public Schools. This building will benefit students since MCPS is

concentrating more on math and science. The Incubator Science Genome Program at the Germantown campus received with funds from the federal government and state.

Ms. Navarro stated that there was great feedback from the strategic planning forums. She represented the Board at the 9th Annual Latino Dance competition. Also, she has been working with the Collaboration Council on universal prekindergarten programs.

Dr. Weast noted that the College Board has released the names of students who achieved outstanding performance on the 2008 administration of the Advanced Placement exams, earning distinction as AP Scholars, AP Scholars with Honor, AP Scholars with Distinction, or National AP Scholars. This year in MCPS, 4,152 current students and 2008 graduates were honored in one of these four categories—an increase of 273 students over the previous year. Among these honored students, 280 were named National AP Scholars—the highest award level. These students scored an average grade of 4 or higher (out of a possible 5) on eight or more AP exams. We are proud of our students. Increasing numbers of students are taking AP courses and exams and increasing numbers are scoring at the highest levels.

Second, Karen Mapp, a national expert from Harvard University on involving families in student learning, shared current research and innovative strategies with MCPS staff at a systemwide administrators' meeting on October 23. Dr. Mapp, author of *Beyond the Bake Sale: The Essential Guide to Family–School Partnerships*, also greeted parents at an ASK MCPS drop-in coffee, sponsored by the Office of Communications and Family Outreach. Dr. Weast said, "I think everyone who heard her speak felt the critical importance of a strong family–school partnership in creating an environment for student success. She gave all of us a lot of useful information and a lot to think about."

Third, Laura Weiss is a senior at Rockville High School and 1 of 97 students nationwide selected to perform in the U.S. Army All-American Marching Band. The group will perform at the U.S. Army All-American High School Football Game in San Antonio, Texas, on January 23. Laura, who plays the french horn—among other instruments, was encouraged to audition by Phil Barnes, Music Department chair at Rockville. A video of her playing and executing various marching maneuvers was sent for judging by a panel from the National Association for Music Education. on October 22, a ceremony at Rockville announcing her selection was attended by a number of high-ranking army officers and Laura's mother Ilene Weiss, a school secretary at Cannon Road Elementary School.

Finally, he added his congratulations to the 17 winners of the Board of Education Distinguished Service to Education awards. These organizations and individuals are truly outstanding members of the Montgomery County community and have made a real contribution to MCPS students and families.

On recommendation of the superintendent and on motion of Mrs. O'Neill seconded by Ms. Cox, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present:#

WHEREAS, Funds have been budgeted for the purchase of equipment, supplies, and contractual services; and

WHEREAS, Funds have been budgeted for the lease/purchase of a mobile lift system through Bid No. 08-013; and

WHEREAS, Funds have been budgeted for the lease/purchase of new vehicles and equipment through Bid No. 7507000445 and 9049.1; and

WHEREAS, The acquisition of new vehicles, loaders, and compact truck through lease/purchase has been reviewed by legal counsel; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the mobile lift system in the amount of \$34,029 be lease/purchased for a five-year term, under the Master Lease/Purchase Agreement with First Southwest Leasing Company; and be it further

Resolved, That new vehicles and equipment costing \$379,252 be lease/purchased for a five-year term, under the Master Lease/Purchase Agreement with First Southwest Leasing Company; and be it further

Resolved, That new vehicles and equipment costing \$424,540 be lease/purchased for a six-year term, under the Master Lease/Purchase Agreement with First Southwest Leasing Company; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board president and superintendent of schools be authorized to execute the documents necessary for these transactions; and be it further

Resolved, That having been duly advertised, the following contracts will be awarded to the low bidders meeting specifications as shown below:

08-013	Mobile Lift System		
	<u>Awardee</u>		
	Alan Tye & Associates*	\$	34,029
750700 0445	Off-the-Lot, New Vehicles		
	<u>Awardee</u>		
	Criswell Chevrolet	\$	752,792
1082.3	Professional Services—Extension		

	<u>Awardees</u> (See note)	
	David Barr	
	CadenceQuest, Inc.	
	Ciber, Inc.	
	Lighthouse Management Consulting	
	MicroStrategy, Inc.	
	RCM Technologies	
	RDA	
	Solutions IQ	
	Test Pros, Inc.	
	Milton Wilkerson	
	Total	\$1,700,000
4160.1	Grant Evaluator—Extension	
	<u>Awardee</u>	
	Macro International, Inc.	\$ 70,000
4196.1	Science Lab Furniture and Equipment—Extension	
	<u>Awardee</u>	
	Diversified Educational System	\$ 38,210
7102.3	Automotive Batteries	
	<u>Awardee</u>	
	Best Battery Company, Inc.	\$ 103,085
7117.5	Heavy Equipment, Tractor, and Mower Parts	
	<u>Awardees</u>	
	Lawn and Power Equipment	\$ 57,200
	J. David Mullinix & Sons, Inc.	<u>83,000</u>
	Total	\$ 140,200
9048.1	Loaders, Backhoe, and Compact Truck	
	<u>Awardee</u>	
	Gaithersburg Equipment Company	\$ 51,000
9114.8	Potatoes, Frozen—Extension	
	<u>Awardees</u>	
	Feesers, Inc.	\$ 238,800

JR Simplot Company	<u>450,260</u>
Total	\$ 689,060

TOTAL PROCUREMENT CONTRACTS OVER \$25,000	\$3,578,376
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* Denotes Minority-, Female-, or Disabled-owned Business

Note: Contract amounts will be based on individual requirements.

RESOLUTION NO. 389-08 Re: **TAKOMA PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL—
GRANT OF RIGHT-OF-WAY**

On recommendation of the superintendent and on motion of Mrs. O’Neill seconded by Ms. Cox, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present:#

WHEREAS, The Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission requested a grant of right-of-way at Takoma Park Elementary School, located at 7511 Holly Avenue in Takoma Park; and

WHEREAS, The proposed grant of right-of-way, consisting of 900 square feet, is needed for the installation of a water main and appurtenances as a part of the addition project at the school; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Education will assume responsibility for the expense and liability for damages or injury resulting from the installation as a part of the school construction project; and

WHEREAS, The Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission will assume responsibility for the expense and liability for all future maintenance and repair activities; and

WHEREAS, The proposed right-of-way will not affect any land that could be used for school programming and recreational activities; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the president and secretary of the Board of Education be authorized to execute a permanent grant of right-of-way of 900 square feet to the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission at Takoma Park Elementary School.

RESOLUTION NO. 390-08 Re: **POOLESVILLE HIGH SCHOOL—GRANT OF
RIGHT-OF-WAY**

On recommendation of the superintendent and on motion of Mrs. O’Neill seconded by Ms. Cox, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present:#

WHEREAS, Potomac Edison Company (dba Allegheny Power) requested a grant of right-of-way to provide electrical services to Poolesville High School, located at 17501 Willard Road in Poolesville; and

WHEREAS, The proposed grant of right-of-way consists of 5,000 square feet for underground electrical facilities to be installed in a 10-foot-wide strip, for a distance of approximately 500 linear feet from an existing pole to and including a 42 square-foot area for installation of a transformer; and

WHEREAS, This grant of right-of-way will benefit the school and surrounding community by providing the necessary electrical facilities to support the school and will not affect any land that could be used for school programming and recreational activities; and

WHEREAS, All construction and restoration is to be carried out as a part of the addition project at the school; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the president and secretary of the Board of Education be authorized to execute a Right-of-Way Agreement with the Potomac Edison Company (dba Allegheny Power) for right-of-way for electrical facilities consisting of 5,000 square feet for installation of a transformer for Poolesville High School.

Re: **DIALOGUE ON FOREIGN LANGUAGE OFFERINGS**

Dr. Weast invited the following people to the table: Mr. Erick J. Lang, associate superintendent, Office of Curriculum and Instructional Programs; Ms. Judith I. Klimpl, supervisor, Foreign Language; Ms. Betsy Brown, director, Department of Curriculum and Instruction; Mr. David T. Chia, principal, Rock Creek Forest Elementary School; Mr. Daniel J. Vogelmann, principal, Westland Middle School; and Mr. Kevin E. Lowndes, principal, Wheaton High School.

Changes in the global economy in recent years have contributed to ongoing demands nationally and locally for expanded foreign language programs in public schools. The federal government advocates for instruction in Less Commonly Taught Languages (LCTL) such as Arabic and Chinese. Foreign embassies, cultural societies, businesses, universities, and parent organizations advocate for courses in specific languages that meet their interests or anticipated needs. Comparisons to other countries, where foreign languages are taught daily in elementary schools, lead to community appeals for elementary programs offered during the school day.

The greater community of Montgomery County clearly values learning other languages, and our district program has grown to reflect this community value. Currently, Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) spends well over \$32 million to staff a sequence of foreign language courses in Grades 2–6. MCPS aligns rigorous curriculum, delivery of instruction,

and assessment of student achievement in support of Goal 1, *Ensure Success for Every Student*, and Goal 2, *Provide an Effective Instructional Program*, as identified in *Our Call to Action: Pursuit of Excellence*, the strategic plan for Montgomery County Public Schools.

MCPS offers a rich foreign language program that provides instruction for students in 10 different languages. During the 2008–2009 school year, approximately 27,000 high school students (or almost two-thirds of all high school students) and approximately 16,000 middle school students (or more than half of all middle school students) are enrolled in foreign language courses for high school credit are exceeding national figures. Nearly 1,900 students in MCPS participate in elementary and middle school language immersion programs and 35 percent of all MCPS students graduate with four or more high school credits in foreign language. For the current school year, approximately 2,500 students are enrolled in Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB) foreign language courses.

The MCPS foreign language program has grown to such depth and breadth that we now must consider the necessary steps to maintain its effectiveness. As with other challenges we face during a time of financial scarcity, we must review our goals and make deliberate decisions that help us achieve the desired results. We must consider every aspect of the program to find the right balance between expense and benefit. At the Board meeting of January 11, 2005, the members of the Board of Education were presented with a report on the MCPS foreign language program. At that time, Board members considered issues related to articulation patterns, attrition, staffing, teacher certification, professional development, curriculum, assessments, and instructional materials. While we must consider these issues again, we also must review them through the filter of equity as we use limited resources to maximize benefits for all students. This memorandum provides background information, gives an update on actions taken to address the findings of the January 2005 Board report, and provides information on the current foreign language program, challenges encountered, and recommendations for making systematic and systemic decisions to meet our goals.

While MCPS staff members have addressed many of the specific recommendations of the 2005 foreign language report, work remains to be completed on the district master plan for foreign language. In addition to establishing a formal process for introducing new languages or programs, the district also must take steps to complete the following actions:

1. Monitor course offerings within clusters to prevent gaps in articulation.
2. Establish a process for addressing significant attrition.
3. Investigate distance and online learning to offer a variety of foreign language courses.
4. Develop guidelines for middle school foreign language.
5. Explore models for professional development, support, and curriculum resources.

MCPS is committed to providing a cohesive foreign language program that meets the needs of all students and the interests of our greater community. To offer the most effective program, we must define our goals and make intentional decisions aligned with the desired outcome.

Re: **DISCUSSION**

Ms. Navarro thank the panel for their experiences which adds to the acquisition and understanding of the language and cultural exposure. In the Strategic Planning Committee, the conversation has been about what it means for MCPS to offer foreign language in 2008. The research indicates that the earlier a person learns another language, the better. The master of languages accelerates academic achievement.

Mrs. O'Neill was pleased that this topic was on the agenda, and she appreciated the recommendations. Combination classes have always been a problem. Will the system be able to offer students a continuum of the language they are studying? Staff agreed that there is a need to evaluate what and where languages are taught.

Mrs. O'Neill asked about the recruitment of qualified teachers. Staff expressed their concern for this issue since many do not have teaching credentials.

Mrs. O'Neill inquired about the foreign language credit in American Sign Language (ASL). Staff replied that there are four schools that offer ASL.

Dr. Docca asked staff if there would be a grant to teach the less spoken languages. Staff explained that they are constantly looking for grant opportunities. Dr. Docca was concerned about Arabic and Chinese. Reading in the primary source makes a difference in our relationships with other nations.

Ms. Cox was pleased that Wheaton High School was starting a class in Chinese next year. There is already an excellent engineering program. Earlier there has been testimony about linking the two courses as a follow through from Parkland Middle School.

Regarding elementary immersion programs, Ms. Brandman was curious about the demand and whether the school system has seen over the last few years the demand go up. How well do the offerings of MCPS meet the need or whether there is a lot of unmet demand in the community. Staff will provide information on the wait list for these programs.

Ms. Navarro added that the Strategic Planning Committee discussions were twofold. First, the immersion programs where the committee wanted to look at gaps and the resources. Also, when and why were the programs established, and does that reason still apply today.

Second, the committee was interested in a long-range plan, specifically select languages that could be offered in elementary school with the full continuum. This would entail rethinking priorities without adding resources. Hopefully, that blueprint will come back to the Board in about six months.

Ms. Cox noted the next steps and defining goals which is a huge issue. In reviewing last year's followups, there was nothing about how MCPS decides what is important for foreign language offerings. The immersion programs are providing students with great outcomes; there is limited availability across the county. Staff agreed that there should be a long-term plan, and how the programs will grow over time.

Ms. Cox noted that there was to be the development of a protocol to identify Grade 6 students to participate in foreign language programs. In the paper, it states that the guidelines were developed and communicated to principals, but there is no follow up. Staff replied that there are a number of students taking foreign languages, and there is data available.

Ms. Brandman asked about the existing gaps in articulation and any short-term solutions. Staff is looking at French for high school students through college instruction or online courses.

Ms. Brandman noted that there was concern about the attrition in foreign language classes when transportation is no longer an option; she asked is staff is tracking attrition for a long-range solution and where the students end up.

Mrs. O'Neill asked about the status of advanced placement for Italian instruction. Staff stated that it will continue with outside resources. There will also be literature in French and Latin advanced placement.

RESOLUTION NO. 391-08

Re: **CLOSED SESSION RESOLUTION**

On recommendation of the superintendent and on motion of Ms. Brandman seconded by Ms. Cox, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present:

WHEREAS, The Board of Education of Montgomery County is authorized by the *Education Article* and *State Government Article* of the *Annotated Code of Maryland* to conduct certain meetings or portions of its meetings in closed sessions; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board of Education of Montgomery County conduct a closed session on Tuesday, November 11, 2008, in Room 120 of the Carver Educational Services Center to meet from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. to discuss personnel matters, as permitted under Section 10-508(a)(1) of the *State Government Article*; consult with counsel to obtain legal advice, as permitted by Section 10-508(a)(7) of the *State Government Article*; review and adjudicate appeals in its quasi-judicial capacity; and to

discuss matters of an executive function outside the purview of the Open Meetings Act (Section 10-503(a) of the *State Government Article*); and be it further

Resolved, That such meeting shall continue in closed session until the completion of business.

RESOLUTION NO. 392-08 Re: **REPORT OF CLOSED SESSION**

On recommendation of the superintendent and on motion of Ms. Brandman seconded by Ms. Cox, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present:

On October 14, 2008, by unanimous vote, the Board of Education voted to conduct closed sessions as permitted under the *Education Article* § 4-107 and *State Government Article* § 10-501, *et seq.*, of the *Annotated Code of Maryland*.

The Montgomery County Board of Education met in a closed session on October 14, 2008, from 9:00 to 9:15 a.m. in Room 120 of the Carver Educational Services Center, Rockville, Maryland, and

1. Reviewed and considered Appeal T-2008-61 in its quasi-judicial capacity outside the purview of the Open Meetings Act as permitted by Section 10-503(a) of the *State Government Article* with a subsequent vote in open session.
2. Discussed the Human Resources Monthly Report with a subsequent vote in open session, as permitted under Section 10-508(a)(1) of the *State Government Article*.
3. Discussed matters of an administrative function outside the purview of the Open Meetings Act (Section 10-503(a) of the *State Government Article*).

In attendance at the closed sessions were Steve Abrams, Christopher Barclay, Larry Bowers, Shirley Brandman, Sharon Cox, Judy Docca, Brian Edwards, Roland Ikheloa, Suzann King, Kristen Koger, Frieda Lacey, Quratul-Ann Malik, Nancy Navarro, Patricia O'Neill, Glenda Rose, and Laura Steinberg.

RESOLUTION NO. 393-08 Re: **APPEAL**

On recommendation of the superintendent and on motion of Ms. Brandman seconded by Ms. Cox, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present:

WHEREAS, The Board of Education has met in closed session and deliberated on an appeal brought before its members acting in its quasi-judicial capacity under Section 10-503(a) of the *State Government Article* of the *Annotated Code of Maryland*; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board of Education hereby decides the following appeal reflective of the Board members' votes in closed session, the disposition of which will be recorded in the minutes of today's meeting:

<u>Appeal Number</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Disposition</u>
T-2008-62	Student Transfer	Affirmed

Re: **STUDENT TRANSFERS**
(Deferred to November 11, 2008)

Resolved, That the Board of Education amend Policy JEE, *Student Transfers*, to include an alternative to the hardship requirement when the transfer is supported by the school that a student wishes to transfer into and believes that the transfer would aid that school.

Re: **NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business.

RESOLUTION NO. 394-08 Re: **ADJOURNMENT**

On recommendation of the Superintendent and on motion of Ms. Cox seconded by Dr. Docca, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

Resolved, That the Board of Education adjourn its meeting of October 27, 2008, at 8:35 p.m.

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY

JDW:gr

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
SUMMARY SHEET**

October 27, 2008

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