

APPROVED
2-2009

Rockville, Maryland
January 14, 2009

The Board of Education of Montgomery County met in a hearing at the Carver Educational Services Center, Rockville, Maryland, on Wednesday, January 14, 2009, at 7:05 p.m.

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

Absent: Mr. Christopher Barclay

Re: FY 2010 OPERATING BUDGET HEARING

The following people testified before the Board of Education:

1. Kay Romero, President of MCCPTA
2. Sarah Crews, student, Montgomery Village Middle School PTSA
3. Jacob Hurwitz, student
4. Rosanne Hurwitz, Individual
5. Susan Burkinshaw Northwest Cluster
6. Sarah Defnet, Poolesville Cluster
7. Paul Morrison, Quince Orchard Cluster
8. Kevin David, Seneca Valley Cluster
9. Dawn Dolan, Blake Cluster
10. Patti Twigg, Paint Branch Cluster
11. Pamela Johnson, Springbrook Cluster
12. Fran Simons, Sherwood Cluster
13. Jaimie Jacobson, Clarksburg
14. Susan Young, Watkins Mill Cluster
15. Annie Foster Ahmed, Magruder Cluster
16. Valerie Rivers, Gaithersburg Cluster
17. Gail Kaltman, Reading Specialist
18. Sharon Friedman, Mental Health Association
19. Lisa Kehayias-Farhi, STD Teachers
20. Ellen Widoff, CAPP Program
21. Ricki Sabia, Individual
22. Jennifer O'Halloran, Montgomery County Educational Media Specialists Association
23. Chris Biamonte, Individual
24. Tashaun Pierre, Individual

25. Lyda Astrove, Individual
26. Kelly Gruitt, Montgomery County School Psychologists
27. Kathy Reger, Montgomery County School Psychologists
28. Judy Lei-Hernandez, Individual
29. Eric Carter, PPW Association of MCPS
30. Dr. Ana Maria Arevalo, ESOL Bilingual Advisory Committee
31. Sharon Wilson, Individual
32. Danetta Fofanah, Individual
33. Eduardo Gerlein, Individual
34. Kimberly Lourenco, CAPP Private School/Public School Partnership
35. Eric Luedtke, Individual
36. Joe Hamblin, Parkland Middle School PTA

The Board of Education asked the following questions:

1. Ms. Brandman asked Mr. Bowers to comment on the Seneca Valley Cluster testimony regarding the inventory of school needs. Mr. Bowers replied that the inventory includes HVAC systems and funding is being requested.
2. Ms. Navarro said she appreciated the testimony from Ms. Twigg and Ms. Johnson regarding the challenge, focus, and priorities faced by the Board and staff. Last year, the Middle School Reform initiative was a priority for the Board, since the higher level of staffing is critical. Everyone wants to sustain the progress that has been made to date.
3. Ms. Berthiaume asked for clarification in Ms. Twigg's testimony reference to reports from Learning Center Transition Evaluation Advisory Group and Secondary Learning Center Transition Project Management Team. She asked if the Staffing Plan incorporated any of these reports sent to the Board prior to the work sessions. Mr. Kauffman asked about the status of those reports, and he asked staff to give Ms. Twigg a copy of both.
4. Mrs. O'Neill thanked those who testified and indicated that she was pleased with the tone of that testimony.
5. Dr. Docca said she was pleased that the community understood the sacrifice of staff in eliminating the COLAs, and everyone should recognize the extraordinary spirit and work of staff.
6. Ms. Malik requested information on the cost for opening an already-stable IB program at Watkins Mill High School to the county.
7. Mr. Kauffman wanted to know how many students are enrolled in the Watkins Mill IB program, what is the capacity, what would it cost to split the Richard Montgomery program to create two catchment areas, and what would be the process to start a mid-year program in the Watkins Mill Cluster.
8. Ms. Berthiaume asked Ms. Young (Watkins Mill Cluster) to supplement her testimony about transitioning to magnet status. She said she would like to see the analysis and how it plays out, since there is great concern about transportation costs.

9. Ms. Brandman said she wanted an update on the Title I status of Rosemont Elementary School. Also, she asked if Board members could get a list of the elementary schools with the smallest enrollments, especially the 11 main ones and those very close to that number. Mr. Bowers stated that the superintendent will forward information on Rosemont as soon as it is reviewed.
10. Mr. Kauffman referenced the change in the home/school model, in which MCPS is replacing teachers with paraeducators. He said he wanted to know the scope of what special education teachers do in the home/school model and how those same services will be supported by paraeducators?
11. Ms. Brandman said she wanted information for the work sessions. Do we anticipate an impact on the universal design for learning (UDL) in the budget? What is the impact on the Collaborative Autism Preschool Program?
12. Ms. Berthiaume noted that staff has been asked for comparative data on Middle School Magnet Consortium versus Middle School Reform and specific results. She said she was hopeful that the data would be available for the work sessions.
13. Ms. Navarro requested that staff provide information on how Department of Student Services would save money, especially in light of the realignment and closing of the field offices.
14. Ms. Navarro said she wanted to know about the testimony from ESOL and the monetary implications of removing the METS students from the count. Mr. Bowers said he thought it was important to know what is happening in the system.
15. Mr. Kauffman said there needs to be a discussion on how much time it takes for a teacher to be a successful teacher.
16. Ms. Brandman asked for information on the corrective action in discipline mentioned in the school psychologists' testimony. She also asked for clarification of their statement.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY

JDW:gr