

Strategic Planning Committee Meeting
Minutes
October 28, 2011
11:00 a.m.

The meeting was called to order at 11:02 a.m. with the following Board members and Board staff present: Dr. Judy Docca (chair); Mrs. Patricia O'Neill; Ms. Shirley Brandman; Mr. Ikhide Roland Ikheloa, chief of staff, Office of the Board of Education; and Ms. Laura Steinberg, staff assistant, Office of the Board of Education.

The following Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) staff members were present: Mr. Larry Bowers, chief operating officer; Mr. Erick Lang, associate superintendent for curriculum and instructional programs; Mr. Brian Edwards, chief of staff, Office of the Superintendent of Schools; Ms. Cathy Pevey, acting executive director to the deputy superintendent of schools; Mr. Eric Davis, director, Family and Community Partnerships.

Approval of Agenda and Minutes

The committee unanimously approved the meeting agenda, as well as the minutes for the Strategic Planning Committee meeting of May 25, 2011.

2012 Legislative Platform

Ms. Steinberg opened the review of the draft legislative platform with a discussion of the purpose of the platform. Ms. O'Neill offered that she thinks the platform needs to fulfill two purposes: to convey to the delegation the Board's legislative priorities as well as the Board's position on issues that come before the legislature. The committee agreed that the platform would be modified this year to include a short introductory section highlighting and explaining, in crisp language, the Board's legislative priorities.

Changes to each legislative position were reviewed. The committee agreed that no mention should be made about wealth equalization with regard to a possible shift of the teacher pension to local jurisdictions. They also agreed that the Board should take a broad approach to changes to Maintenance of Effort, for purposes of the platform, rather than focus in on specific modifications to the law.

There was discussion about the merits of keeping items in the platform knowing that they are likely not open to being changed. The committee members agreed that it is important to keep those issues visible as a way to make the legislators aware of any underlying concerns associated with the issue.

The committee agreed that the Board will sign up for testimony at the November 16, 2011 Joint House and Senate Priorities Hearing to present the 2012 platform to the delegation.

Technology Education Credit/Graduation Requirement

Mr. Lang provided background information about the 2007 revisions to the MSDE revised requirements for courses awarding the one-credit technology credit required for graduation. Prior to the revision, 19 courses satisfied the requirement; now, there are

only 3: Foundations of Technology, Introduction to Engineering Design, and Principles of Engineering. Apparently, the change was made, in response to concerns from the business community, as a way to meet the growing workforce demand for engineers.

Montgomery College and MCPS have co-convened the technology education Collaborative Action Board (CAB). CAB is working to encourage the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) to expand the required course content area. As currently defined, substantive areas of technology are being bypassed and large numbers of students not being afforded opportunities to explore other areas of technology that could open up a career pathway.

The committee agreed to bring the issue to the Board as a whole and to recommend writing a letter to the State Superintendent and Board of Education expressing concern about the restricted nature of the course.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:01 p.m.