

Strategic Planning Committee Meeting  
October 7, 2008  
Minutes

The meeting of the Strategic Planning Committee was called to order at 3:02 p.m. with the following committee members and staff present: Dr. Judy Docca (Chair), Mr. Christopher Barclay, Ms. Nancy Navarro, Ms. Laura Steinberg (Staff Assistant for Legislative and Inter-Governmental Relations), and Ms. Kathy Yorro (Recorder).

The following Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) staff members were present: Ms. Aggie Alvez, director, Department of Communications; Mr. Larry Bowers, chief operating officer; Mr. Brian Edwards, chief of staff, Office of the Superintendent of Schools; Ms. Stephanie Williams, director, Department of Reporting and Regulatory Accountability;

Others present: Ms. Carol Walsh, chief, Planning, Policy, and Programs, Montgomery County Collaboration Council

Agenda Items:

1. **Welcome and Introductions.** Dr. Docca welcomed everyone for coming and asked for introductions.
2. **Approval of Minutes.** The committee reviewed and unanimously approved the minutes from the Strategic Planning Committee meeting of July 22, 2008.
3. **EXCEL Beyond the Bell—Analysis of After School Programs Available in Three Communities.** Ms. Carol Walsh, chief, Planning, Policy, and Programs, Montgomery County Collaboration Council, provided a PowerPoint presentation on the analysis of after school programs available in three communities (Germantown's Gunner's Lake-Waring Station community, Silver Spring's Long Branch community, and Wheaton's Hewitt Avenue-Bel Pre Corridor community). She thanked the Board for their interest in and support of this program.

Ms. Walsh provided the committee with a copy of the Collaboration Council's recently completed report: *Out of School Time in Montgomery County Maryland, Analysis of After School Programs Available in Three Communities*. She shared that the purpose of the report was to identify existing after school activities in three communities, study the impact of after school activities on youth and to develop a decision-making protocol. A major thrust of the study was to inventory the three communities to identify the types of programs available. The study identified 428 programs and in general found that most programs are provided by MCPS, most are likely to be held at a school site, and that career and workforce preparation programs are rare. Further findings included that middle school programs are likely to meet once a week whereas high school programs are more likely to meet several days a week. Additionally, the study highlighted that approximately 33% of the middle school programs require academic eligibility as

compared to 75% of the high school programs. However, in the Long Branch community, nearly only 40% of the programs require academic eligibility.

Committee members noted the difference in the programs at Long Branch and wondered whether the recreation facility had anything to do with that. They reiterated their concern that students need supervision between 3:00 and 6:00 and that the sharing of resources and information among agencies, similar to the Kennedy Cluster project, will benefit all students.

**4. MCPS Policy AEB, Strategic Planning for Continuous Improvement.** Ms. Stephanie Williams explained that at the direction of the Policy Committee, her office was charged with taking a look at making sure site-based participatory management is incorporated into Policy AEB. Three meetings were held to recommend policy changes. Policy committee reviewed the policy, adding language regarding staff, students, parents, and stakeholders, as well as language in the position statement. She explained that they were also looking at Policy DBA's language to ensure alignment. Policy AEB will be taken back to the Policy Committee and brought to the BOE in November.

Committee discussion included concern about the including Baldrige criteria terminology in the policy and asked if there should be alternative language that is more generic and less binding to a specific process. Staff responded that the goal is to see this as guiding principle and a methodology for continuous improvement. The committee also commented on the need to expand the opportunity for student input, noting that there are only a few meetings with student government in comparison to other stakeholder organizations.

#### **Follow-up/Action**

Committee chair will send memo to Communications Committee to work on the issue of including students in the strategic planning, operating budget, and capital budget process.

**5. Legislative Platform.** Ms. Laura Steinberg, staff assistant, reviewed the draft Legislative Platform. Board members identified several items that should be either strengthened or included, such as teacher pension, RICA funding, and Early Childhood Education.

#### **Follow-up/Action:**

Committee agreed that Ms. Steinberg should proceed with the Legislative Platform with suggested additions in language.

**6. November 18 Delegation Meeting.** Ms. Steinberg introduced discussion with the committee regarding the Board's meeting with the Maryland Delegation. Board members suggested that members of the Montgomery County Council Education Committee be invited to Delegation Meeting. Additionally, the committee suggested that there be an introductory video and a strong emphasis on demographics.

**Follow-up/Action**

1. Department of Communications to develop video presentation for Delegation meeting.
2. Montgomery County Council Education Committee to be invited to Delegation meeting.
3. PowerPoint presentation to be prepared regarding demographics for Delegation meeting.
4. Ms. Steinberg to develop structure for meeting.

Future Business Items:

Propose that Task Force on Suspensions Report back every 60 days.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:29 p.m.