The Board of Education of Montgomery County met in special session at the Carver Educational Services Center, Rockville, Maryland, on Tuesday, March 5, 1985, at 8:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL  Present:  Dr. Robert E. Shoenberg, President in the Chair  
Dr. James E. Cronin  
Mrs. Sharon DiFonzo  
Miss Jacquie Duby  
Mr. Blair G. Ewing  
Dr. Jeremiah Floyd  
Mrs. Marilyn J. Praisner  
Mrs. Mary Margaret Slye

Absent:  None

Others Present:  Dr. Wilmer S. Cody, Superintendent of Schools  
Dr. Harry Pitt, Deputy Superintendent  
Mr. Thomas S. Fess, Parliamentarian

Re:  A Motion by Mr. Ewing on Takoma Park Junior High School (FAILED)

A motion by Mr. Ewing that the Board of Education adopt the Board-requested alternative for Takoma Park Junior High School which retains Takoma Park Junior students at Takoma Park for the ninth grade with the exception of students who qualify for entry into the Blair magnet at grade nine failed for lack of a second.

Re:  Springbrook/White Oak/Key Junior H.S.

There was no motion on this alternative.

Re:  Attendance Area Changes for Cannon Road, Stonegate, and Westover Elementary Schools

Mrs. Praisner moved and Dr. Cronin seconded the following:

WHEREAS, The Policy on Long-range Educational Facilities Planning establishes goals, principles, and a process for addressing changing enrollment; and

WHEREAS, If new data suggest the need to take an action not among those already approved, a proposal and the rationale for it will be presented to the Board and affected communities; and

WHEREAS, The community involvement process portion of the policy has been implemented; and
WHEREAS, Public Hearings were held on February 26 and 28, 1985, by the Board of Education on the Update; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Cannon Road, Stonegate, and Westover Elementary areas on and after July 1, 1985, consist of the areas served during the 1984–85 school year with the following modification:

~ Send to Cannon Road from Westover Elementary all students in the new subdivisions of Oak Spring and Fairland Ridge, beginning with grades K-5 in September 1985.

~ Send to Stonegate from Westover Elementary School all students from the future Bonifant Woods development; send Area 1 Level 4 programs and students from Westover to Stonegate in September 1985; and combine the Westover Head Start program with the program at Stonegate in September 1985,

and be it further

Resolved, That the state superintendent of schools, the State Interagency Committee, the County Council and the county executive be made aware of these actions.

Resolution No. 151-85 Re: An Amendment to the Proposed Resolution on Cannon Road, Stonegate, and Westover

On motion of Mr. Ewing seconded by Mrs. Slye, the following resolution was adopted with Dr. Cronin, Mr. Ewing, Dr. Floyd, Mrs. Praisner, Dr. Shoenberg, and Mrs. Slye voting in the affirmative; Mrs. DiFonzo abstaining (Miss Duby voting in the affirmative):

Resolved, That the proposed resolution on Cannon Road, Stonegate, and Westover be amended by the addition of the following:

Resolved, That the Board of Education will make every effort to avoid moving Oak Spring and Fairland Ridge when further adjustments become necessary in FY 1988; and be it further

Resolution No. 153-85 Re: Attendance Area Changes for Cannon Road, Stonegate, and Westover Elementary Schools

On recommendation of the superintendent and on motion of Mrs. Praisner seconded by Dr. Cronin, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

WHEREAS, The Policy on Long-range Educational Facilities Planning establishes goals, principles, and a process for addressing changing enrollment; and

WHEREAS, If new data suggest the need to take an action not among those already approved, a proposal and the rationale for it will be
presented to the Board and affected communities; and

WHEREAS, The community involvement process portion of the policy has been implemented; and

WHEREAS, Public Hearings were held on February 26 and 28, 1985, by the Board of Education on the Update; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Cannon Road, Stonegate, and Westover Elementary areas on and after July 1, 1985, consist of the areas served during the 1984-85 school year with the following modification:

~ Send to Cannon Road from Westover Elementary all students in the new subdivisions of Oak Spring and Fairland Ridge, beginning with grades K-5 in September 1985.

~ Send to Stonegate from Westover Elementary School all students from the future Bonifant Woods development; send Area 1 Level 4 programs and students from Westover to Stonegate in September 1985; and combine the Westover Head Start program with the program at Stonegate in September 1985,

and be it further

Resolved, That the Board of Education will make every effort to avoid moving Oak Spring and Fairland Ridge when further adjustments become necessary in FY 1988; and be it further

Resolved, That the state superintendent of schools, the State Interagency Committee, the County Council and the county executive be made aware of these actions.

Re: Reassignment of the Area 3 Gifted and Program to Gaithersburg from Lakewood Elementary School (FAILED)

The following resolution failed to be adopted with Dr. Cronin, Mrs. DiFonzo, Mr. Ewing, Dr. Floyd, Mrs. Praisner, Dr. Shoenberg, and Mrs. Slye voting in the negative (Miss Duby voting in the negative):

WHEREAS, The Policy on Long-range Educational Facilities Planning establishes goals, principles, and a process for addressing changing enrollment; and

WHEREAS, If new data suggest the need to take an action not among those already approved, a proposal and the rationale for it will be presented to the Board and affected communities; and

WHEREAS, The community involvement process portion of the policy has been implemented; and

WHEREAS, Alternative proposals have been received and considered by the Board; and
WHEREAS, Public hearings were held on February 26 and 28, 1985, by
the Board of Education on the update; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the areawide gifted and talented program will be
relocated from Lakewood to Gaithersburg Elementary beginning with
the assignment of grade 4 students in September 1985, grades 4-5
students in 1986, and grades 4-6 in September September 1987; and be
it further

Resolved, That the state superintendent of schools, the State
Interagency Committee, the County Council, and the county executive
be made aware of these actions.

Mrs. DiFonzo temporarily left the meeting at this point.

Resolution No. 154-85        Re:  Establishing Boundaries of the
Flower Hill Elementary School
Service Area with Boundary Changes
for Gaithersburg and Washington
Grove Elementary Schools

On recommendation of the superintendent and on motion of Dr. Cronin
seconded by Dr. Floyd, the following resolution was adopted
unanimously:

WHEREAS, The Policy on Long-range Educational Facilities Planning
establishes goals, principles, and process for addressing changing
enrollment; and

WHEREAS, If new data suggest the need to take an action not among
those already approved, a proposal and the rationale for it will be
presented to the Board and affected communities; and

WHEREAS, The new Flower Hill Elementary School will be ready for
occupancy in September 1985; and

WHEREAS, The community involvement process portion of the policy has
been implemented; and

WHEREAS, Alternative proposals have been received and considered by
the Board; and

WHEREAS, Public Hearings were held on February 26 and 28, 1985, by
the Board of Education on the Update; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the new Flower Hill Elementary School service area is
to be defined by boundary changes made to existing schools and is to
include the following student assignments:

~ Assign to Flower Hill from Gaithersburg Elementary the
students living in the Flower Hill, South Ridges of Flower
Hill, Meadowvale, Washington Square, Quail Valley, and Emory
Grove II developments, along with students living on Emory

Assign to Flower Hill from Washington Grove Elementary the students living in the Towne Crest development and on Woodward Store Road, and students living in the Hamlet North and Hamlet Station townhouses, beginning with Grades K-5 in September 1985;

and be it further

Resolved, That the state superintendent of schools, the State Interagency Committee, the County Council, and the county executive be made aware of these actions.

Resolution No. 155-85 Re: Attendance Area Changes for Students in the Washington Grove-Gaithersburg Junior-Gaithersburg High School Articulation Pattern to the Mill Creek Towne-Redland Middle-Magruder High School Articulation Pattern

On recommendation of the superintendent and on motion of Dr. Cronin seconded by Mrs. Praisner, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

WHEREAS, The Policy on Long-range Educational Facilities Planning establishes goals, principles, and a process for addressing changing enrollment; and

WHEREAS, If new data suggest the need to take an action not among those already approved, a proposal and the rationale for it will be presented to the Board and affected communities; and

WHEREAS, The community involvement process portion of the policy has been implemented; and

WHEREAS, Public hearings were held on February 26 and 28, 1985, by the Board of Education on the update; now therefore be it

Resolved, That students in the Washington Grove Elementary-Gaithersburg Junior/ Senior High School attendance pattern living on the block of Epsilon Drive between Amity Drive and Epsilon Court be assigned to Mill Creek Towne Elementary, Redland Middle, and Magruder High Schools beginning in September 1985; and be it further

Resolved, That the state superintendent of schools, the State Interagency Committee, the County Council, and the county executive be made aware of these actions.

Resolution No. 156-85 Re: Establishing Boundaries of the
On recommendation of the superintendent and on motion of Dr. Cronin seconded by Mr. Ewing, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

WHEREAS, The Policy on Long-range Educational Facilities Planning establishes goals, principles, and a process for addressing changing enrollment; and

WHEREAS, If new data suggest the need to take an action not among those already approved, a proposal and the rationale for it will be presented to the Board and affected communities; and

WHEREAS, The new Lake Seneca Elementary School will be ready for occupancy in September 1985; and

WHEREAS, The community involvement process portion of the policy has been implemented; and

WHEREAS, Alternative proposals have been received and considered by the Board; and

WHEREAS, Public hearings were held on February 26 and 28, 1985, by the Board of Education on the update; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the new Lake Seneca Elementary School service area is to be defined by boundary changes made to existing schools and is to include the following student assignments:

- Assign to Lake Seneca from Fox Chapel Elementary School all students living west of I-270 except those living east of Gunners Branch, beginning with K-6 students in September 1985.

- Assign to Lake Seneca from Germantown Elementary Schools all students living north and east of Churchill Town Sector Development beginning with K-5 students in September 1985; and be it further

Resolved, That the state superintendent of schools, the State Interagency Committee, the County Council, and the county executive be made aware of these actions.

Mrs. DiFonzo rejoined the meeting at this point.

Re: Bridge School

Dr. Shoenberg asked whether it was possible to move the senior high portion of the Bridge School to Churchill at the same time as the junior high school portion was moved to Hoover. Dr. Cody replied
that they did not have the classroom space at Churchill next year, and they did not think using relocatable classrooms would be appropriate. Dr. Robert Shekletski, associate superintendent, added that they would like to have as positive an experience as possible; therefore, they needed time to work through the placement of the program at Churchill.

Mr. Ewing recalled that parents had objections to the split in the programs because of the distance the specialists would be traveling from the junior high to the senior high program. Dr. Pitt asked whether they could work out a plan where staff would not move back and forth on a daily basis, and Dr. Stan Sirotkin agreed that staff could look into this.

Mrs. DiFonzo reported that she had spoken with Dr. Fountain and the director of the Bridge School. They felt that the problem could be solved through the use of additional part-time help for the year the programs were split. Although this did not eliminate all of her concerns, she did not see any way around this and would support the move.

Dr. Cronin indicated that he would like to hear from the professionals who had to do the traveling. Mr. Ewing was not sure what needed to be done for a whole year to get people to understand what the program was about and to accept it. He had confidence that the staff would make that happen if the Board were to place the program in the school now although he was not advocating that. He suggested that the Board know how the program was going to work and how the needs were going to be met specifically. If part-time help was needed, the Board should know this so that it could allocate resources. He could not cast his vote without this information.

Dr. Shoenberg was not sure the Board had anything to vote on, and Mr. Ewing pointed out that this move was listed in the facilities plan.

Mrs. Praisner recalled that the special education assignments in the facilities plan were to take place at the time of the comprehensive discussion on special education. It seemed to her there was time to get the clarification requested by the Board. Dr. Shoenberg agreed that this issue could come back during the special education discussion or they could schedule agenda time for this. Mr. Ewing asked where this left them with the facilities plan because there were a number of other recommendations regarding special education in the plan. Dr. Shoenberg thought these could be taken up in the context of the special education discussion on March 25. Mr. Ewing suggested that they needed to take a final action on the superintendent's facilities plan.

Dr. Floyd asked for additional information on what the overcrowding would be if the Bridge School were assigned to Churchill in September 1985. Dr. Shoenberg said the Board had now dealt with update matters in the facilities plan except for the special education program, and they would deal with that on March 25. The
Board could then take final action on the facilities plan as a whole.

In regard to the capital improvements plan, Mrs. Praisner said the revision would have to include a request for portables. She requested a list of the portables requested by communities to allow Board members to discuss the quantity and placement of the portables. She noted that they would be having a first-time experience in reopening a closed school. She thought they needed a Board request to reclaim Cloverly, and she would like to know the process for reopening including the selection of the principal and any modifications to the building. She was also anticipating that they would be relooking at the Paint Branch cluster elementary schools, and she would like to know what process the superintendent had for this and how the community would be involved. Dr. Cody replied that in the next few months he would be sharing a description of the procedure.

Mr. Ewing pointed out that the county executive had recommended the Board build larger elementary schools, and he wondered when the Board would address this issue. Dr. Shoenberg asked staff to be prepared to deal with that issue on March 12.

Re: Adjournment

The president adjourned the meeting at 10:05 p.m.

President

Secretary

WSC:mlw