The Board of Education of Montgomery County met in special session at the Carver Educational Services Center, Rockville, Maryland, on Tuesday, May 19, 1987, at 8:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL  Present:  Mrs. Marilyn J. Praisner, President in the Chair
Dr. James E. Cronin
Mrs. Sharon DiFonzo
Mr. Blair G. Ewing
Mr. Bruce A. Goldensohn
Dr. Robert E. Shoenberg
Mrs. Mary Margaret Slye
Mr. Eric Steinberg

Absent:  None

Others Present:  Dr. Wilmer S. Cody, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Harry Pitt, Deputy Superintendent
Mr. Thomas S. Fess, Parliamentarian
Mr. Andrew Herscowitz, Board Member-elect

Re:  REVIEW OF FY 1988 OPERATING BUDGET

Mrs. Praisner announced that the purpose of the meeting was to review the operating budget to make a $20 million reduction in the budget as a result of County Council action. She said that at May 12 meeting the Board had adopted a resolution which committed the Board to fund all three negotiated agreements, although it was the view of the Board that the County Council did not fund these agreements. Dr. Pitt made a presentation on the tentative cuts he and Dr. Cody were considering. He explained they had developed their tentative cuts using the following assumptions: (1) funding the negotiated agreements, (2) staying within budget categories, (3) maintaining the Board priorities, (4) focusing on teacher training and curriculum support in their use of EYE days, (5) continuing support for magnet schools and special programs and (6) retaining the ability to continue to do some planning in the office of the superintendent.

After Dr. Pitt's presentation, Mrs. Praisner asked if Board members had questions or requests for additional information. At the request of Dr. Cronin, Dr. Pitt agreed to provide the Board with a list of the persons being surplused and the possible placement of these individuals. Mr. Ewing asked that this list include impact statements on how these cuts would impact policy implementation. Mrs. Praisner suggested that the list include whether functions were going to be eliminated or assumed by another position.

Dr. Shoenberg asked staff to consider the implications of making a tradeoff between increasing class size and improving the teacher hiring level. Dr. Cronin requested a break-out of costs and programs in adult education and summer school, and Dr. Pitt agreed to provide a break-out of courses funded by the county and from other
Mrs. Praisner asked for information on enrollment in the student aide program which required bus transportation at midday from secondary to elementary schools. Mrs. Slye requested information about bus routing software alternatives and what would happen if this project were delayed. She wanted to know whether there was a more economic way to automate the system. In regard to the Ride-on transportation, Mrs. Slye asked for some indication of where MCPS would not have afterschool activity bus transportation. Dr. Cody requested that staff keep records on student participation in afterschool activities and compare this year with next year when they would have reduced bus transportation. Board members asked for information on the county's plans to provide Ride-on bus service.

Dr. Cronin requested a paper describing what would happen if the walking distance were increased by a quarter of a mile and asked that the paper include information on safety factors. Mrs. Praisner asked staff to give the Board some idea of what had happened when the walking distance had been increased previously. Mr. Ewing asked for a paper on the impact of the reduction in field trips on an average elementary school, J/I/M school and high school.

Mrs. Praisner asked for a listing of funds associated with EYE days or substitute teachers which were used in conjunction with county government activities such as SAS day. Dr. Cronin requested staff to look into contractual requirements for the intergenerational project with the county government.

Mrs. Praisner announced that the Board would take final action on the operating budget at the May 26 meeting.

Re: ADJOURNMENT

The president adjourned the meeting at 10:40 p.m.

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PRESIDENT

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SECRETARY

WSC:mlw