

NUMBER: 30-1990  
STATUS: APPROVED  
PLACE: ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND  
DATE: JULY 2, 1990  
TEXT:

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Rockville, Maryland  
July 2, 1990

The Board of Education of Montgomery County met in special session at the Carver Educational Services Center, Rockville, Maryland, on Monday, July 2, 1990, at 8:10 p.m.

ROLL CALL Present: Dr. Robert E. Shoenberg, President  
in the Chair  
Dr. James E. Cronin  
Mrs. Sharon DiFonzo  
Mr. Blair G. Ewing  
Mr. Bruce A. Goldensohn  
Mrs. Catherine E. Hobbs  
Mrs. Marilyn J. Praisner  
Ms. Alison Serino

Absent: None

Others Present: Dr. Harry Pitt, Superintendent  
Mr. Thomas S. Fess, Parliamentarian  
Mr. David Chang, Board Member-elect

Re: ANNOUNCEMENT

Dr. Shoenberg noted the presence of David Naimon, Kurt Hirsch, Peter Robertson, Jacquie Duby, John Foubert, Andy Herscowitz and Chan Park, former student Board members, and thanked them for their loyalty. Dr. Shoenberg also recognized Congresswoman Connie Morella and Councilman Michael Subin, chairman of the Education Committee. Congresswoman Morella and Mr. Subin both congratulated Alison Serino on her year as Student Board Member and welcomed David Chang to the Board of Education.

Re: SWEARING IN

Mrs. Betty Skelton, clerk of the court, administered the oath of office to Mr. Chang.

Re: STATEMENT BY MR. CHANG

Mr. Chang made the following statement:

"There are many people I would like to thank tonight. Thanks to my family members for their support and encouragement, Mrs. Diane Ippolito, principal of Churchill High School and Mr. Harley Liebenson, forensics coach at Churchill, Mr. Michaelson and the Special Education Committee for the long hours they put into administering the election, and the past twelve Student Board Members for paving the way for effective student representation. They have made this office worthy of considerable respect. I would also like to thank Andy Herscowitz and Chan Park for their

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diligent work in attaining limited voting rights for the Student Member on the Board.

I would especially like to thank Alison for her excellent work as School Board Member and the tremendous dedication that she put into her job. I know that she will certainly be a tough act to follow.

"I would like to thank the Board of Education for welcoming me to participate at various Board functions, the superintendent and his staff for inviting me to attend the A&S Conference on "The Changing Family." Furthermore, I would like to thank Alison, Tom and Melissa and the rest of the orientation group for making me feel at home. My thanks to Rob Yoon and Jimmy Hung for being very worthy opponents.

"Last, but certainly not least, I would like to thank all the voters who gave me their support and encouragement. As we enter the 1990's, the members of the Board of Education have their work cut out for them. The Montgomery County Public School system, one of the largest in the country, is becoming larger and more socially and economically diverse.

"When I recently attended the Superintendent's A&S Conference entitled "The Changing Family," I began to realize how a multitude of socio-economic, psychological, political, and environmental factors are affecting Montgomery County students. The school system must be on top of these present and future influences since it is currently responsible for the education of hundreds of thousands of students. Among these factors influencing students, worthy of consideration are drug and alcohol abuse, sex education, teenage pregnancy, violence, racial and ethnic tensions, poverty, homelessness, the quality of children's television, and student stress. Hopefully, we will be able to effectively address these problems through an improved cooperation between the school system, the community and businesses.

"I am really looking forward to working with the Board, the superintendent and his staff. My thanks again to everyone who has helped me in the past, and I will try to do my best serving the citizens of Montgomery County."

Re: WELCOME AND FAREWELL COMMENTS

Board members and Dr. Pitt welcomed Mr. Chang to membership on the Board of Education and thanked Ms. Serino for her efforts during the past year. Dr. Shoenberg presented Ms. Serino with a collage and a certificate of appreciation, a canvas MCPS tote bag, a crystal box and a Maryland tee shirt.

Re: STATEMENT BY MS. SERINO

Ms. Serino made the following statement:

"I didn't think I would show up tonight because I feared I would have no speech in hand. Writing this statement was one of my toughest challenges of late because there are so many emotions of excitement, sadness, and gratitude that I want to convey. There are also so many people I want to thank, and I'm afraid I'll miss someone. I apologize to you now...whoever you are.

"As I sat on the stage at Constitution Hall a few weeks ago prepared to graduate, I knew a chapter of my life was coming to an end. Now I feel that same sensation. Now this chapter ends and what a thriller it's been. I have been thrown into the real world for the past year. I have seen the ins and outs of politics, big business, the legal system and many other facets of this amazing school system. All the while I have had unmatched support from many people from all directions.

"These days on the Board have not all been sweet with some very rough debates and tough decisions. It used to upset me that there were so many points of view and we couldn't reach a compromise. Now I have realized that without eight differing opinions we would not have produced such unique, well thought out decisions. I must thank my seven Board member friends for constantly challenging me to fight for my causes while at the same time sharing your thinking.

"I could never have asked for a better experience. I would never have anticipated some of the decisions we had to make. I have felt privileged to be the first student Board member to have the right to vote. I made every effort to treat this power with the utmost respect, and I believe this year has proven that the student vote is an essential aspect of this Board. Thank you legislators, county residents, students, and of course Board members for supporting this cause and providing the right to vote. Of course I firmly believe that this issue is not resolved yet. Someday, I hope the student's vote will count on all issues. Thank you, Board members, for allowing me leeway in situations where the law was unclear and respecting the vote that I had this year.

"I've got to thank people before the night wears on. I'll start with the people who have been my most constant source of strength--Mom, Dad, and Amy. I'm moving back home now for at least a couple of months. Thank you for not renting out my room and for all your love, support and sincere interest throughout this eventful year. I couldn't ask for more from you. I love you.

"Next, Dr. Pitt. Thank you for showing me that a person with such enormous responsibility and so many people to please (namely the great eight) can be down to earth and real. You have an amazing school system here, and I've been proud to represent it. I have the utmost respect for you. You have been a role model and a friend, and I am truly grateful. To you I leave a new doodle, brief comments, a square dance, and of course, Grover.

"Thank you also to Dr. Vance, who is not here tonight. He is an incredible example I hope to one day be able to follow. You have taught me the art of determining the appropriate time to speak and then making the essential comment. To you I leave clear glasses.

"Thank you to all Associate Superintendents. Now I know why that word "super" is included in your title because you are truly super men and women. Dr. Smith, Dr. Lewis, Dr. Brown, Dr. Fountain, Mrs. Gemberling, Ms. Meyer, Dr. Rohr, Dr. Shekletski and Dr. Villani. The items I leave to you are too many to list but range from graduations to building inspections to airplane rides to talks about my future. You have inspired me as professionals and friends.

"Here's the category of other because it's a wide mix of people and here is where I will undoubtedly leave someone out. In no particular order, thank you to Larry Bowers, Bob Cooney, Brian Porter, Ken Muir, Lois Stoner, Jim Shinn, Charles Stine, Robin Confino, Bill Wilder, Dick Hawes, Joy Frechtling, Patricia Newby, Pam Splaine, Bev Sangston, Ann Briggs, Ed Masood, Judy Bresler, Roger Titus, and Carol Hylton. You have provided me with information and laughter that I will treasure always.

"To the people who have had a tremendous effect on my life over these past thirteen years. To all of my teachers, counselors, administrators, coaches and sponsors at Cannon Road, White Oak and Springbrook, I say thank you. I owe you more than words can express.

"To the terrible twosome in the Student Affairs Office, Mike Michaelson and Carol Campbell, I thank you. Mike, they told me that everyone thanks you and it's trite, but guess what? You deserve the thanks and you deserve Grover back, too. Thanks for being the dad of student affairs.

"Speaking of Dads. To my Board of Education dad, Tom Fess, I leave you gratitude stretching from here to Kansas and then on to New Orleans. Thank you for sharing your expertise and advice and for treating me as all other Board members.

"Mel, Mary Lou, Nancy, Lillian, Ann and Charlease -- you are the heart of this Board and although always behind the scenes you are always making things happen. I can't thank you enough for your

memo writing and problem-solving skills and for the wonderful talks we've had.

"Next there are those who have known me all of my life and have stood by me whether in spirit or in person. To all of my relatives, I thank you for your continued support of me and all of my endeavors.

"Thank you to all of my friends who have stood by me for as long as thirteen years. You have kept me going, kept me sane and kept me having fun to balance out this crazy life. I couldn't ask for more supportive, caring friends. I love you all.

"To the past eleven Student Board Members, seven of who are in the audience, thank you for helping to form this position into what it is today. You have been a great inspiration to me over this last year. The school system, students and I owe you a lot of thanks.

"To all of the student leaders out there, David included, I wish you the best of luck in your years to come. I have full confidence that this county has capable student leaders coming up in the ranks. Take advantage of the wonderful opportunities you have to voice your opinions. Thank you for all your support. I look forward to seeing you continue to accomplish amazing things.

"Lastly, I must thank my seven other family members--the Board. Collectively, I say thank you for the guidance, support and knowledge you have given me. Thank you also for your unmatched commitment to the students, staff and community members of this county. You are truly incredible people, and I wish you the best of luck in all of your endeavors.

"On the lighter side...I leave my Board of Education will. I hereby bequeath to Mrs. Catherine Hobbs, my tablemate, whispers at the table; to Mrs. Sharon DiFonzo, uncrackable knuckles, doodles, a reasonable tip, and bubbles; to Mr. Blair Ewing, the Audit Committee; to Mr. Bruce Goldensohn, the Odyssey of the County Council, BRUCE, and long lecture in Kansas; to Mrs. Marilyn Praisner, plane rides, snowy rides, beignets we never found, Commander's Palace and a successful election; to Dr. James Cronin, thanks for a wonderful presidency, a recommendation to any college, Chinatown; and to Dr. Robert Shoenberg, thanks for another wonderful presidency, a bus ride in Kansas, free time to relax.

"To all of you, I leave an open invitation to Brown University. By the way, it's in Providence. And I promise to trek back down to the wonderful CESC next year to check up on this fantastic family. Thank you all. You will be missed a great deal."

Re: ADJOURNMENT

The president adjourned the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

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PRESIDENT

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SECRETARY

HP:nwd