The Board of Education of Montgomery County met in special session at the Carver Educational Services Center, Rockville, Maryland, on Monday, July 1, 1991, at 8:15 p.m.

ROLL CALL Present:  Mr. Blair G. Ewing, President in the Chair  
Mrs. Frances Brenneman  
Mr. David Chang  
Dr. Alan Cheung  
Mrs. Sharon DiFonzo  
Mrs. Carol Fanconi  
Ms. Ana Sol Gutierrez  
Mrs. Catherine E. Hobbs

Absent: None

Others Present: Dr. Paul L. Vance, Superintendent of Schools  
Mr. Thomas S. Fess, Parliamentarian  
Mr. Shervin Pishevar, Board Member-elect

#indicates student vote does not count. Four votes are needed for adoption.

Re: ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr. Ewing noted the presence of former Board members in the audience: Marilyn Praisner, Bruce Goldensohn, John Foubert, Jon Lipson, Eric Steinberg, Chan Park, Kurt Hirsch, Alison Serino, Pete Robertson, and David Naimon.

Re: SWEARING IN

Ms. JoAnn Niefeld, clerk of the court, administered the oath of office to Mr. Pishevar.

Re: STATEMENT BY MR. PISHEVAR

Mr. Pishevar made the following statement:

"I am very honored, and have many people to thank for having helped me get here today.

"First of course, my parents who have sacrificed so much of themselves so that their children can survive and succeed in this world. Without them I would never have had this opportunity to serve so many people. Thank you, Mom and Dad; especially for putting up with my room that looked more and more like a disaster..."
area during the campaign and the constant phone calls. If I
could have one ounce of the patience and understanding they
showed during the past few months, I think I'll have a chance of
surviving the next year.

"Thank you to my sister, Bita, who drove me to numerous schools
to shake hands and pass out flyers. My brother, Afshin, for
taking time out of his first year of law school to make frequent
long-distance calls from Ohio to motivate me to keep on trying,
and cheering me up when I was down. Thank you to the endless
list of people on my campaign committee who sacrificed their time
and energy just for one person. It's a great weight on all
public officials to think of just how many people have put their
trust, faith, and hope into one individual.

"I also want to thank the Board staff, Mr. Fess. Ms. Bahr, Mrs.
Wood, all the secretaries, and Board members for putting up with
all my questions. For the past few weeks the words 'why, when,
where, and how' have become major parts of my vocabulary. I feel
like a five-year old again asking, 'Why the sky is blue, the
grass green, and why the Board table is shaped like a doughnut.'
Thanks for answering them with patience and kindness; and I know,
as you have told me, it's your job; but it must get annoying at
times. Hopefully, with your wisdom, patience and kindness, I'll
grow up from a nagging five-year old to an adolescent Board
member going through phases; to hopefully a mature young adult
Board member who has given back for all that everyone has given
him.

"Last but not least, I must thank the eternal Mike Michaelson -
who is one of the major reasons for the predominance of quality
student leadership and representation in Montgomery County. Many
peoples' lives have been touched and changed by this one man.

"According to my notes from Mr. Goldensohn's Political Speech
Writing 101, I have now completed the thank you and humor section
of my speech and must now get into the overly serious section of
the political speech.

"Someone great, somewhere, once said that one must always, 'treat
a child as though he already is the person he's capable of
becoming.' This is something that I truly believe. We must
raise our standards, we must raise our expectations for all
children no matter what sex, culture, socioeconomic status, and
mental or physical capability. Stereotypes and ignorance have
absolutely no place in the education of this and future
generations' youth. Every child is born with the potential to
achieve. We must challenge ourselves and the students to
capitalize on the enormous wealth of potential in every single
classroom in Montgomery County. Challenge is the key word;
challenge and raise our expectations, and challenge and raise our
standards in education.
"Now the serious part is over, and as Mr. Goldensohn says, 'never leave your audience down.' I want to thank everyone for coming out here tonight, and to my family: It was nice knowing you, and I'll see you in about a year."

Re: PRESENTATION TO MR. CHANG

On behalf of the members of the Board, Mr. Ewing presented Mr. Chang with a collage and certificate of appreciation for his service on the Board.

Re: STATEMENT BY MR. CHANG

Mr. Chang made the following statement:

"'I've got the power. It's gettin' kind of hectic.' This song epitomizes my term as the thirteenth student member of the Board of Education. Through long and sometimes intense Board meetings, I have matured as a student, as a Board member, and as a human being. It was truly a learning experience -- a one-year crash course in policy-making, socialization, politics, and friendship. This year on the Board of Education has been, to say the least, educational.

"During my campaign last year I was careful not to make too many promises, promises that I couldn't keep. This year on the Board I have strived to attain one of these goals. My number one goal was to expand the voting rights of the student member. I truly appreciate the support of the Board and the student and adult advocates of MC 101 as we took it all the way to Annapolis where it lost in the Senate by a three to four vote. I am hopeful that in the near future the student Board member will be given full voting rights. My number two goal was to make the Board of Education aware of the tremendous stress being placed on students in this day and age, especially on middle and high school students. The Board in its wisdom made the reduction of student stress one of its 12 Action Areas during the winter's enjoyable and immensely productive retreat with senior staff. My number three goal was to address the conflicts within the class ranking system because of questions of unnecessary competition and inequity. The Board has established a committee this spring to examine class rank and alternatives that could be feasible.

"My number four goal was to improve student participation in the curriculum, group dynamics, and demonstrate in the classroom an 'application to real life' so that students would see their education as practical and crucial to becoming an educated member of society. The Board during the January retreat adopted these suggestions in the Action 1 Area dealing with curriculum. My fifth and final goal was to alleviate ethnic and racial tensions through cultural awareness programs, expansion of the SAS day, and improved multicultural curriculum. Although SAS at this
point in time has not been expanded, the Board has encouraged the
development of a more multicultural curriculum, and the
superintendent is working to implement the Board's
recommendations to improve the achievement of minority students.
Thus I credit an idealistic and cooperative Board and community,
an outstanding superintendent and senior staff and being at the
right place at the right time to being able to address campaign
promises and student concerns.

"I have also realized a couple of issues this year. One being
the importance of role models in education, and I do think that
is necessary for us to realize as the entertainment industry is
very powerful and often it gives negative images which students
will look at and do not succeed from.

"Now it is thank you time. I must first thank my family for
putting up with my busy schedule. Board meetings past midnight,
Saturday meetings and worksessions, and of course the infamous
danger zone -- my bedroom. Next I would like to thank my friends
at Churchill and around the county who have given me much needed
support during my term and my campaign. Through several close
friends, I have come to understand the meaning of friendship,
stress management, time management, ego management, and
sacrifice. I would like to thank my teachers and administrators
at Winston Churchill High School, particularly Mr. Zarchin, one
of the assistant principals, who has been a great role model for
me. I would like to thank David Naimon for his support of MC 101
and also being a mentor. He has exposed me to the in's and out's
of partisan politics, school board politics, and everyday
politics.

"I would like to thank former Board members who I have served
with from July to December 1990 -- Dr. Shoenberg, Mrs. Praisner,
Dr. Cronin, and Mr. Goldensohn. They have really aided me in my
development as a Board member. I really appreciated working with
such a fine group of people. I would also like to thank the
Board staff composed of Tom Fess, Mary Lou, Melissa, Nancy,
Lillian, Ann, and Gail, for their expertise, friendship, and hard
work over the past year. They work very, very hard and are the
best staff anyone could ever ask for.

"I would like to thank the MCR Delegation and the student leaders
I have worked with over the year who during the May MCR General
Assembly honored me with a standing ovation. However, it is the
employees of the Montgomery County Public Schools and my fellow
Board members who really deserve a standing ovation. Also, I
would like to thank Dr. Pitt for his years of service to the
Montgomery County Public Schools, not only as superintendent but
also in his former roles. I would like to wish good luck to Dr.
Vance because I know he will do a truly outstanding job like his
predecessor. After all they shared the same executive staff and
employees of the Montgomery County Public Schools.
"Now I must thank my fellow Board members for their friendship, good counsel, and their dedication to Montgomery County Public Schools. They have sacrificed a lot of their time and energy to serve the Montgomery County community. The Board as a whole as well as the Montgomery County school system deserve a tremendous amount of praise and recognition. It seems quite ironic that there is not enough support and recognition from the entire community at large when across the system we are praised and recognized as the finest, if not the finest, school system in the entire country."

My fellow Board members have been a source of inspiration for me. This year it has been extremely tough especially during the budget crisis. The recession this year reared up its ugly head, and I think Board members realized it is not over until it is over. It is not over until Robert Denny stops complaining about the 'fat' in the school system. Individually, however, each Board member left a distinct impression upon me.

"Mr. Ewing, I remember your incredible endurance. Fourteen years translate into four words, 'ultimate School board junky.' Your energy to write up memos and endure long meetings is epitomized by one quote you once said a little bit after you became president, 'I like meetings. I'll meet with anyone who wants to meet with me.' Mrs. Fanconi, I will remember your dedication to kids, your caring nature, your feisty lobbying for the budget, and your willingness to adjust your personal schedule for that of the Board's. I appreciate your coming here tonight. I know you had other commitments to attend to. Ms. Gutierrez, I remember the passion with which you chaired the Board's minority education subcommittee, and our frequent conversations and that you love to drink espresso. Dr. Cheung, I will remember your statistical analysis, charts, and our talks about management of Montgomery County Public Schools and management in general. Mrs. Brenneman, Fran, I will remember your incredible energy level, your representation of the Board of Education at almost every social function and your ever present grin upon your face. Mrs. DiFonzo, I will remember your excellent use of the English language, your crisp style, integrity, and ability to rise to the occasion especially during times of personal hardship. Mrs. Hobbs I will remember your sensitivity, integrity, compassion, and friendship.

"Collectively as a Board I would like to thank you all for your friendship, civility, professionalism, and dedication to serve the Montgomery County Public Schools. With the adversity this year that we faced, I think that it was a sense of humor that really enabled us to keep our cool and get us through the school year. I would wish you all really good luck next year in convincing the Montgomery County community at large of the importance that education has in this county and formulating
July 1, 1991

educational policy that will enable kids to achieve amidst high expectations and high parental involvement.

"Finally I would like to say congratulations to Shervin Pishevar on your election and good luck as the fourteenth student member of the Board of Education. I know that you will live up to the expectations and the nickname, 'The Great One,' bestowed upon you by several student leaders. I firmly believe that your term will be a knockout one indeed. In general, community and my fellow Board members, thank you for an awesome year, and if you are ever in Philly, please feel free to drop by.

Re: COMMENTS BY BOARD MEMBERS AND SUPERINTENDENT

Board members and Dr. Vance welcomed Mr. Pishevar and praised Mr. Chang's efforts as the thirteenth student Board member.

Re: ADJOURNMENT

The president adjourned the meeting at 8:55 p.m. to a reception for Mr. Chang and Mr. Pishevar.

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PRESIDENT

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SECRETARY

PLV:mlw