The Board of Education of Montgomery County met in special session at the Carver Educational Services Center, Rockville, Maryland, on Wednesday, November 5, 1997, at 7:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL Present: Mr. Reginald M. Felton, President in the Chair
Dr. Alan Cheung
Mr. Blair G. Ewing
Mrs. Beatrice B. Gordon
Ms. Ana Sol Gutiérrez
Mrs. Nancy J. King
Ms. Mona M. Signer
Dr. Paul L. Vance, Secretary/Treasurer

Absent: Ms. Debra Wheat

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

RESOLUTION NO. 692-97 Re: AGENDA

On recommendation of the Superintendent and on motion of Mrs. Gordon seconded by Mrs. King, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

Resolved, That the Board of Education approve its agenda for November 5, 1997.

RESOLUTION NO. 693-97 Re: BOUNDARY ALTERNATIVE (Churchill Cluster)

On motion of Ms. Signer and seconded by Mrs. Gordon, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present:

Resolved, That the Board of Education request an alternative in the Capital Improvements Program (CIP) for FY 1999-2004 to propose Option E that had been recommended by the Boundary Committee.

RESOLUTION NO. 694-97 Re: BOUNDARY ALTERNATIVE (Churchill Cluster)

On motion of Ms. Signer and seconded by Mrs. King, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present:
Resolved, That the Board of Education request an alternative in the Capital Improvements Program (CIP) for FY 1999-2004 to propose the Superintendent’s recommendation, but Zone 11 would remain at Wayside Elementary School.

RESOLUTION NO. 695-97  Re:  BOUNDARY ALTERNATIVE (Churchill Cluster)

On motion of Ms. Signer and seconded by Mrs. Gordon, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present:

Resolved, That the Board of Education request an alternative in the Capital Improvements Program (CIP) for FY 1999-2004 to propose the Superintendent’s recommendation, but grandfathering into the Churchill Cluster the children who are currently enrolled in K-12 and who reside on Sweetwood Avenue in Zone 13.

RESOLUTION NO. 696-97  Re:  BOUNDARY ALTERNATIVE (Churchill Cluster)

On motion of Ms. Signer and seconded by Mrs. Gordon, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present:

Resolved, That the Board of Education request an alternative in the Capital Improvements Program (CIP) for FY 1999-2004 to propose the Superintendent’s recommendation, but reassigning all of Zone 2 to Beverly Farms and reassigning from Potomac Elementary to Seven Locks Elementary Zone P-1.

RESOLUTION NO. 697-97  Re:  BOUNDARY ALTERNATIVE (Churchill Cluster)

On motion of Ms. Signer and seconded by Mrs. Gordon, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present:

Resolved, That the Board of Education request an alternative in the Capital Improvements Program (CIP) for FY 1999-2004 to propose the Superintendent’s recommendation, but reassigning all of Zone 2 to Beverly Farms and reassigning from Potomac Elementary to Seven Locks Elementary the homes in Avenel on Saunders Lane, Holly Leaf, Willow Gate, Autumn Gate, Orchard Gate, Town Gate, and Fox Gate lanes, courts, and terraces.

RESOLUTION NO. 698-97  Re:  BOUNDARY ALTERNATIVE (Churchill Cluster)

On motion of Ms. Signer and seconded by Mrs. Gordon, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present:

Resolved, That the Board of Education request an alternative in the Capital Improvements Program (CIP) for FY 1999-2004 to propose the Superintendent’s recommendation, but
reassigning all of Zone 2 to Seven Locks, retaining Zone 1 at Wayside, and rearticulating the elementary schools so that Seven Locks students attend Hoover Middle School and Potomac Elementary students attend Cabin John Middle School.

For all of the boundary alternatives Ms. Signer requested information on the utilization, the enrollment figures at the elementary school, the effect on the middle school enrollment, and the effect in the CIP for the additions that are scheduled, both permanent and modular, and a map.

Mr. Ewing noted that in the Superintendent’s memorandum dated November 5, 1997, on the Blair Cluster, Footnote 2 was not referenced in the chart. He asked for comparisons on costs per student. Mr. Bowers also offered to provide a square footage cost per student.

Mrs. Gordon requested a review of the capacity and consideration of a permanent addition that would relieve overcrowding at Burnt Mills Elementary School. This information should include how much it would cost, how many rooms, what would be the impact, and enrollment projections.

Regarding the addition to the Northeast Area High School, Ms. Signer stated, when boundaries were approved for the Northeast Consortium high schools, the Superintendent said that the overutilization of the Northeast High School would be accommodated with portables until the addition came on line in 2001. The addition has now been moved up to 2000. She wanted to know what the impact would be of having portables until 2001, and the impact of moving that addition up on the other projects in the CIP. Mrs. Gordon asked for information on the Board’s original request for the Northeast High School, including size and what happened at the County Council as well as why it is a smaller size (history of the project).

Regarding the French immersion program at Maryvale Elementary School, Mr. Ewing suggested that, in the text of the CIP, there should be an explanation of splitting the class, space available at Maryvale, and how the French immersion program enrollment at Maryvale will rebound.

Mrs. King brought up the fact that Parkland Middle School would move up on the schedule so as to be modernized before Montgomery Village Middle School. After a lengthy discussion, Mr. Lavorgna stated that staff will come back with a revised schedule and impact on the budget to modernize Parkland and Montgomery Village concurrently. Ms. Signer asked what the $500,000 will provide to convert Parkland to a holding school.

Ms. Signer asked for confirmation that the tenants at Whittier Woods have been notified that Walt Whitman High School will make use of an additional three rooms.
Ms. Signer asked if there was enough space for portables at Lakewood Elementary School. She also asked staff to examine the safe access issues in terms of cars turning around in the parking lot.

Mr. Ewing wanted to know for this capital budget specifics about the physical condition of Stephen Knolls School, and what problems or issues there are from a staff viewpoint as well as the community’s point of view.

Ms. Signer asked for a copy of the list that ranks air conditioning for schools that are not on the modernization schedule. Is there any reason why this list cannot be made public?

Ms. Signer asked if the Northwood holding school is currently being wired for Global Access. Have all the other high schools been wired, and how does this affect the plan to wire the middle schools and elementary schools?

Mrs. Gordon asked for copies of the Superintendent’s April 1997 memo with the list of the F.A.C.T. assessments done in 1992, 1996, and the list that remains to be done.

Regarding elementary school gyms, Mr. Ewing asked for the financial and management feasibility of accelerating the schedule to two gyms a year versus three gyms a year and the related costs.

In Supplement B, Mrs. Gordon pointed out that one of the recommendations is the development of a university supported teacher education site for graduate level training and laboratory experience at Wayne Avenue. Is that also going to be a systemwide staff development site or only for this specific program? If it is not a systemwide staff development center, she asked for information about which facility might be able to accommodate a staff development center.

Mr. Ewing wanted a comparison for several sets of numbers. In Chapter I of the CIP book there are principles adopted last year by the Board. The principles contain a statement that the Board should seek to obtain the full amount requested in the FY 1998-2000 CIP of $73 million; yet, the Superintendent is asking for only $40 million. In a paper that was sent recently to the Council laying out the needs for state funding, there was a number substantially above $40 million. Mr. Ewing would like to know the specific numbers in the various documents, and why the Superintendent is proposing $40 million rather than some higher number.

In the set of principles, the Board wanted to provide funds to move to a 30-year modernization cycle, and accelerate the schedule to liquidate the existing backlog by 2009. Mr. Ewing does not think the Superintendent’s plan does that; therefore, he would
like to know what it would take to achieve that pace of modernization in terms of dollars and holding schools.

Mr. Ewing requested that the Superintendent provide information on what the impact of the “Pay and Go” policy adopted by the Council might have on the capital budget.

RESOLUTION NO. 699-97 Re: ADJOURNMENT

Resolved, That the Board of Education adjourn its meeting of November 5, 1997, at 9:20 p.m.

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PRESIDENT

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SECRETARY

PLV:gr