

APPROVED
35-1999

Rockville, Maryland
November 9, 1999

The Board of Education of Montgomery County met in regular session at the Carver Educational Services Center, Rockville, Maryland, on Tuesday, November 9, 1999, at 10:20 a.m.

ROLL CALL Present: Mr. Reginald M. Felton, President
 in the Chair
 Mr. Stephen Abrams
 Mr. Kermit V. Burnett
 Mrs. Beatrice B. Gordon
 Mrs. Nancy J. King
 Mrs. Patricia O'Neill
 Ms. Laura Sampedro, Student Board Member
 Ms. Mona M. Signer
 Dr. Jerry Weast, Secretary/Treasurer

Absent: None

or () indicates student vote does not count. Four votes needed for adoption.

RESOLUTION NO. 662-99 Re: **CLOSED SESSION**

On recommendation of the Superintendent and on motion of Ms. Signer seconded by Mrs. O'Neill, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

WHEREAS, The Board of Education of Montgomery County is authorized by the *Education Article* and *State Government Article* of the *Annotated Code of Maryland* to conduct certain meetings or portions of its meetings in closed sessions; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board of Education of Montgomery County conduct portions of its closed sessions on November 9, 1999, in Room 120 from 8:30 to 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 to 1:30 p.m. to discuss the personnel appointments and the monthly report, as permitted under Section 10-508(a)(1) of the *State Government Article*; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board of Education consult with counsel to receive legal advice as permitted under Section 10-508(a)(7) of the *State Government Article*; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board of Education of Montgomery County dedicate part of the closed session on November 9, 1999, to acquit its executive functions and to adjudicate and review appeals, which is a quasi-judicial function outside the purview of the Open Meetings Act under Section 10-503(a) of the *State Government Article*; and be it further

Resolved, That these portions of the meeting continue in closed session until the

completion of business.

RESOLUTION NO. 663-99 Re: APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

On recommendation of the Superintendent and on motion of Ms. Signer seconded by Mrs. O'Neill, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

Resolved, That the Board of Education approve its agenda for November 9, 1999.

RESOLUTION NO. 664-99 Re: VETERANS' DAY

On recommendation of the Mr. Felton and on motion of Ms. Signer seconded by Mrs. Gordon, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

WHEREAS, In 1918, on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day in the eleventh month, the world rejoiced and celebrated the signing of an armistice to end four years of bitter war; and

WHEREAS, In 1938, Congress voted Armistice Day as a legal holiday; and

WHEREAS, In 1953, Congress passed a bill renaming the national holiday to Veterans' Day; and

WHEREAS, On Veterans' Day, Americans continue to celebrate with ceremonies and speeches remembering and honoring those who fought for peace; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Montgomery County Board of Education and the Superintendent of Schools hereby recognize November 11, 1999, as an opportunity to remember and acknowledge the sacrifices of men and women who served our country in the Armed Forces of the United States; and be it further

Resolved, That we urge students, parents, MCPS staff, and the entire community to join us in reflecting, commemorating, honoring, and celebrating the contributions of our veterans.

RESOLUTION NO. 665-99 Re: AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK

On recommendation of the Superintendent and on motion of Mr. Abrams seconded by Ms. Signer, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

WHEREAS, The theme for the observance of American Education Week is "Students Today, Leaders Tomorrow"; and

WHEREAS, America's schools are the backbone of our democracy, providing each new generation with the tools to maintain our nation's precious values of freedom, civility, and

equality; and

WHEREAS, Aside from their families, schools are the primary influence in children's lives; and

WHEREAS, Education employees at all levels of Montgomery County Public Schools work tirelessly to serve our children and communities with dedication, professionalism and compassion; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Montgomery County Board of Education hereby recognizes the period of November 14 through November 19, 1999, as American Education Week; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board of Education and Superintendent of Schools urge all Montgomery County residents to join in recognition of American Education Week and appreciation of the educators who are so vital in maintaining the high quality education offered in our schools; and be it further

Resolved, That all our schools strongly encourage parent and community involvement in the education process especially during American Education Week to enhance the academic and personal success of all our students.

RESOLUTION NO. 666-99 Re: **ITEM OF LEGISLATION**

On recommendation of the Superintendent and on motion of Mr. Abrams seconded by Ms. Signer, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

Resolved, That the Board of Education strongly opposes MC 1-00 – Montgomery County Board of Education – Limitation of Fees for Extracurricular Activities, which would impose a \$20 cap on the extracurricular activities fee that the Board included in annual budgets since FY 1997.

RESOLUTION NO. 667-99 Re: **ITEM OF LEGISLATION**

On recommendation of the Superintendent and on motion of Ms. Signer seconded by Mr. Abrams, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

Resolved, That the Board of Education strongly opposes MC 15-00 – Montgomery County School Board Composition Task Force, which would require the County Executive to establish a 16-member task force to study the authority, size, composition, and responsibilities of the Board of Education.

RESOLUTION NO. 668-99 Re: ITEM OF LEGISLATION

On recommendation of the Superintendent and on motion of Mr. Abrams seconded by Ms. Signer, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

Resolved, That the Board of Education very strongly opposes MC 12-00 – Montgomery County – Board of Education – Public Hearings on Transportation of Students, which would require only the Montgomery County Board of Education to hold a public hearing “whenever it meets to take action relating to the transportation of students.”

RESOLUTION NO. 669-99 Re: ITEM OF LEGISLATION

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

Resolved, That the Board of Education opposes MC 3-00 – Montgomery County – Education – Home and Hospital Teacher Representation which would add Home and Hospital Teachers to the teachers’ bargaining unit in Montgomery County and would exempt them from paying a service or representation fee, if they work on a short-term, day-to-day basis.

Re: BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

Mr. Felton participated in the regional meeting with the State Board of Education on November 8, 1999. He called it a very productive meeting, and he thanked the Maryland Association of Boards of Education and the immediate-past president, Mrs. Gordon, for arranging to have the meeting in Montgomery County.

Dr. Weast noted that Albert Einstein High School pledged to provide the instruction, information, and mentoring necessary for college admission to students who vow to attend and participate in class, do homework, come for extra help when needed, and keep informed about college admission. If the student commitment is met all four years and a student is denied admission to college for academic reasons, the school will assist with remediation. The program seeks to motivate students as well as to spur parents to support their children’s academic career by learning about and discussing with their children the importance of a college education, encouraging students to use the Career Center, monitoring homework and report cards, discussing their children's progress with teachers and counselors, and providing a place for daily homework and study.

Re: MCPS EDUCATIONAL PERFORMANCE PLAN

Dr. Weast invited Dr. Cheryl Wilhoyte, consultant to the superintendent, to lead the presentation. In turn, she invited the following people to the table: Mrs. Linna Barnes, president, Montgomery County Council of PTAs; Ms. Nivea Berrios, parent specialist,

Division of ESOL/Bilingual Programs; Dr. Hiawatha Fountain, associate superintendent, Office of Pupil and Community Services; Mr. Phillip Gainous, principal, Montgomery Blair High School; Mr. Dustin Jeter, president, Montgomery County Region of the Maryland Association of Student Councils; Mr. Gene Kijowski, co-chair, Superintendent's Council on Business and Education; Ms. Janice Mostow, president, Montgomery County Association of Administrative and Supervisory Personnel; Mr. James Robinson, co-chair, Citizens Minority Relations Monitoring Committee; Ms. Lorraine Rogstad, director, Collaboration Council, Division of Children, Youth and Families; Mr. Mark Simon, president, Montgomery County Education Association; and Dr. Kimberly Statham, director, Office of School Performance and Accountability; and Mr. Brad Westpfahl, marketing executive, IBM, co-chair, Superintendent's Council for Business and Education.

Over the last three months, hundreds of people in Montgomery County have worked diligently to amass information about the most critical issues facing the school system and, indeed, every school system in the nation – improving student performance and closing the gap in student achievement by race and ethnicity. These people have collected a body of research and literature, identified examples of best practices, and achieved a high level of collaboration in devising the best strategy for moving the school system ahead quickly. Their work is represented by the document, *Our Call to Action: Raising the Bar and Closing the Gap, Because All Children Matter*. In this brief and concise overview, a "plan to plan" has been developed that outlines the immediate and long-term actions for fulfilling the dream of the Success for Every Student Plan.

The challenge is to remain focused. The Board of Education took the first step by adopting its five Academic Priorities. These priorities are aligned with the vision and goal statements reaffirmed by the Board last spring. All these statements are aligned with the "The Children's Agenda" and the "collaboration principles" of the Montgomery County government, the Montgomery County Public Schools, and the Collaboration Council. The priorities are consistent with the National Standards for Parent/Family Involvement Programs of the National PTA. Every student and parent organization, civic and community advocacy group, and business association that Dr. Weast has encountered has identified the same issues. Many have already endorsed the initiative through collaboration in the development of planning efforts.

The intention is for this initiative to form the basis for the development and implementation of the capital budget, the Capital Improvements Program, and the operating budget. Each of these resource initiatives will be aligned with the academic initiatives. Some elements are already moving forward, including the reorganization of the central administration. Others, which are not dependent on future funding, are being initiated under current resources as the school system focuses all its energy on student achievement.

The video, "All Children Matter," was shown.

The presentation lead by Dr. Wilhoyte included the following:

Six Systemwide Trend Benders

1. Developing a system of shared accountability
 - a) Performance Excellence - based on student achievement, growth, equity, and proficiency
 - b) Report Cards - assessment system review and reporting on a regular basis to reform instruction

2. Early success
 - a) Packets for families of newborns
 - b) Birth-to-five literacy support
 - c) One-stop parenting resource centers
 - d) Combined training for parents, caregivers, and teachers
 - e) Rigorous preschool curriculum
 - f) Implement lower student-teacher ratio
 - g) Use best practices

3. Improving workforce excellence
 - a) Provide a new professional growth cycle for teachers
 - b) Institute job-embedded training
 - c) Create a new culture for professional development
 - d) Focus training on specific instructional skills and improve teaching
 - e) Assign staff development specialists to each school
 - f) Implement a plan for "consulting teachers"
 - g) Enhance cross-cultural competencies
 - h) Expand in-school leadership and collaboration
 - i) Provide leadership assessments
 - j) Provide training in instructional leadership
 - k) Redesign staff development

4. Broadening the concept of literacy
 - a) Audit the curriculum to insure alignment
 - b) Improve and align the development of new curriculum
 - c) Expand the early reading initiative
 - d) Expand the writing program
 - e) Help students learn to learn
 - f) Restructure the Algebra 1 initiative
 - g) Use school-based "literacy teams"
 - h) Provide technology tools to students and parents
 - i) Develop levels of proficiency for students at the beginning
 - j) Create accelerated programs in reading
 - k) Provide support for students with little or no prior schooling
 - l) Implement structured tutoring in reading for second graders
 - m) Provide enrichment and recovery in algebra
 - n) Use the power of technology to open new learning opportunities

5. Reorganizing assets for school success
 - a) Place schools first
 - b) Focus resources on teaching and learning
 - c) Improve staff development
 - d) Allow greater flexibility through teamwork
 - e) Conduct action research
 - f) Use Baldrige National Quality Assessment criteria
 - g) Creating family- and community-friendly partnerships
 - h) Establish a systemwide Parent-Community Council
 - i) Support the Collaboration Council's Community Kids
 - j) Assess parent satisfaction and suggestions
 - k) Expand partnerships with the community
 - l) Pilot the Comer Program
 - m) Expand business Involvement
 - n) Improve language translations of information

Academic Milestones

- All students of each racial/ethnic group will read independently on grade level by the end of grade two.
- All students of each racial/ethnic group will achieve or exceed proficiency standards in mathematics, reading, and writing on local and state assessments.
- All students of each racial/ethnic group will successfully complete Algebra 1 by the end of grade nine.
- All schools will increase participation and performance of students of each racial/ethnic group taking the Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT), with an emphasis on under-represented populations.
- All schools will achieve or exceed local and Maryland School Performance Program (MSPP) standards (attendance, promotion, dropouts, functional tests).
- The school system will eliminate the disproportionate representation of African American students in special education programs.

Re: DISCUSSION

Mr. Felton thanked the people who had worked on the plan. He particularly acknowledged people who were not part of the school system. He was overwhelmed with the presentation, especially the expanded community engagement, accountability, target on student achievement, and collaboration. It was important to reiterate that the school system was raising the bar for all students, not just closing the gap.

Ms. Sampedro was impressed with the presentation and the wonderful ideas in the report. She planned to take some time to look over the report and make comments from the students' perspective. She was glad there was collaboration with students in the

development of the plan.

Mr. Abrams noted that when the Board met with the employee groups, each one was interested in meaningful collaboration. He was delighted to see that when those organizations were sitting together, the meaning of collaboration in MCPS seemed clear, and it was in that spirit that he offered his comments. The Board of Education, through the Superintendent selection process and retreat, charged the Superintendent with developing an educational plan in conjunction with all of the groups in the community. Mr. Abrams did not plan to make any changes in the first edition of the plan. In the spirit of the process and the charge to the Superintendent, Mr. Abrams pledged to be a collaborator with the staff and community on this tremendous course and new adventure.

Mrs. King agreed with Mr. Abrams and joined him as a collaborator. The Board was right in giving the Superintendent the charge to develop an educational plan. She was impressed that people came to the Board table and gave their honest opinions - both positive and negative - of the school system. The Board is open to the views of the public. If there ever was a time for collaboration, it is now.

Mrs. Gordon was pleased with the collaboration that had taken place. As the school system moves toward continuous improvement and Baldrige, all stakeholders, including the Board members, staff, and the community, need to be involved on a regular basis.

Mr. Burnett agreed with his colleagues and was impressed with the community, staff, and business community coming together to work on the plan. He thought the greatest of the head, hand, voice, and heart of the plan was heart. In the classrooms, the system should treat children the same, not according to color or race. If a child needs support, the system should use its heart and support the child without resorting to a special education code. If the resources for staff development are lacking, the system should use its heart to assure funding. Malcolm X said, "Education is our passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today." MCPS must prepare its children to carry this passport. If MCPS does not do that, the children will not go far. Mr. Burnett looked to the Call to Action Plan as a passport. He supported the plan because all children matter.

Ms. Signer noted that the Board received the document at 8:00 p.m. on November 8, 1999. Therefore, Board members had not had time to digest its content, although they knew some aspects of the plan. She looked forward to providing her input. The Board appreciated all the time, effort, and expertise the community provided in the plan.

Mrs. O'Neill used an iceberg as an analogy. She said that community members had been sounding alarms for several years regarding the school system. In looking for a new Superintendent, the Board wanted a person who would seize the day, take charge, and turn the tanker away from the iceberg. In doing that, the school system required input from every community member who has seen the warnings. People must come together to focus the school system's energies on raising the bar for all children. This is urgent, since

the clocking is ticking for all children.

Re: LUNCH AND CLOSED SESSION

The Board of Education recessed from 12:25 to 1:50 p.m. for lunch and a closed session.

Re: PUBLIC COMMENTS

The following people testified before the Board of Education.

	<u>Person</u>	<u>Topic</u>
1.	Mayor Kathy Porter	Transportation
2.	Cheryl Silver	Charter Schools
3.	Quentin Furlong	Bus Radio
4.	Bob Mathis	Charter Schools
5.	Jane Jacobs	Bell Times
6.	Claudia Simmons	Charter Schools
7.	Ginny Hillhouse	Educational Plan
8.	Thomas Hylden	Charter Schools
9.	Sylvia Fubini	Charter Schools
10.	Terri Lukas	Bell Times
11.	Zachary Baker	Special Education and Science Class
12.	Charles Sye	Charter Schools
13.	Julie Greenberg	Charter Schools
14.	Susan White Haag	Charter Schools
15.	Susan Payne	Reading Initiative

Mrs. O'Neill asked staff to comment on Mr. Baker's testimony regarding middle school science for special education students.

Re: ALL-DAY KINDERGARTEN STUDY AND EARLY CHILDHOOD INITIATIVE

Dr. Weast invited the following people to the table: Dr. Patricia Flynn, director of academic programs; Ms. Pam Prue, director of early childhood services; Dr. Fran Bridges-Cline, evaluation specialist, Department of Applied Research and Evaluation; Ms. Joanne Busalacchi, principal, New Hampshire Estates and Oak View elementary schools; Ms. Thea Mitchell-Anderson, kindergarten teacher, New Hampshire Estates Elementary School; and Ms. Georgiana Martinez, kindergarten teacher, Rolling Terrace Elementary School.

During the spring and summer of 1999, a work group composed of staff from the departments of Academic Programs; Educational Accountability; Management, Budget, and Planning; and Planning and Capital Programming; and the Office of the Deputy

Superintendent reviewed the research, including a recent survey of MCPS kindergarten teachers, the MCPS kindergarten curriculum, class size issues, and national trends for kindergarten programs. The group also reviewed budgeted facilities implications associated with various program options.

On September 9, 1999, the work group met with the Board of Education's Long-range and Strategic Planning subcommittee to share the significant findings and implications of this review. While the work group was completing its review in response to the Board of Education's resolutions, the Montgomery County Council and state legislature were formulating collaborative plans to address the needs of children and their families.

On March 2, 1999, the County Council unanimously adopted Resolution No.14-62, *County Council Support for the Children First Initiative*, "to make the well being of the children of Montgomery County a top priority over the next four years." The County Council drafted recommendations focusing on the needs of children, held a public forum to secure community input on the draft, and finalized the Children First plan on October 21, 1999. The Council prioritized the following desired outcomes for Montgomery County children as the focus of its three-year plan:

- Young Children Ready for School
- Healthy Children
- Children Safe in Their Home, School, and Community

The Maryland General Assembly Joint Committee on Children, Youth and Families, chaired by Senator Edward Kasemeyer and Delegate Mark Shriver, recently announced plans to focus its efforts on aligning government and non-government actions to have "children entering school ready to learn." Three public forums to secure citizen input related to this early childhood priority will be held during November and December 1999.

Dr. Flynn, Ms. Prue, Dr. Bridges-Cline, Ms. Busalacchi, Ms. Mitchell-Anderson, and Ms. Martinez reported on their experiences with all-day kindergarten and early childhood education.

Re: DISCUSSION

Mr. Felton appreciated the presentation. Early childhood education was important to the Board and a concern to the community. He asked staff to explain the data supporting the statement that there was no difference in the curricula of all-day and half-day kindergarten programs or comment on any differences that exist. Dr. Flynn replied that the survey found that in all-day kindergarten, MCPS had the largest classes and the most multi-risk factors, and these characteristics nullified the benefits of the program. If it wants students to excel, the school system needs to redesign the curriculum for half- and all-day kindergarten. Ms. Signer asked what the redesign of the curriculum meant. Dr. Flynn explained that since the all-day kindergarten program had more than twice as much time for reading and math

than the half-day program, there was a need to differentiate between the two programs.

Mrs. O'Neill remembered that when the subject was discussed with the Long-range and Strategic Planning Subcommittee, the survey of kindergarten teachers revealed that everything was rushed and compacted in the half-day program. Also, there was very little instructional assistant time with very large classes.

Ms. Signer stated that the Board must approve changes to the curriculum. If the Superintendent proposed to expand all-day kindergarten, she thought there was very little time to redesign the curriculum and provide staff training. Dr. Flynn replied that kindergarten teachers were trained in the Reading Initiative from the beginning and they were frustrated by so little time in the half-day program.

Ms. Signer asked when staff would be trained if the curriculum redesign took place in the spring. Ms. Prue said it was urgent for curriculum coordinators to develop two specific curricula for half- and all-day kindergarten. Teachers had the disciplines, but the instruction was not integrated into the curriculum and was therefore left to teachers to put together. Based on practices in some schools, there can be a balanced literacy design for kindergarten.

Mrs. Gordon reported that she participated in a summit on early literacy with U.S. Secretary of Education Richard Riley. New Hampshire Estates Elementary School was a model of the practices discussed in the summit, which emphasized the importance of literacy before kindergarten. It is important for the school system to move forward, but Mrs. Gordon hoped that there was an understanding of the expense. Moreover, the programs should be put where they would target students with the most need. The success of the program would depend on the training and expertise of the professional in the classroom. Mrs. Gordon asked about the Joint Committee on Children, Youth and Families, chaired by Sen. Edward Kasemeyer and Del. Mark Shriver, and if staff had any added information. Ms. Prue replied that she was not sure of the details and that information came through the Collaboration Council.

Mrs. Gordon remarked that on November 8, 1999, the Board met with other local boards. Dr. Nancy Grasmick, state superintendent of education, talked about the initiative and emphasized that it should be a joint effort, not the sole responsibility of public schools. Ms. Busalacchi said she was working to bring services closer to the schoolhouse, including health services, day care, boys or girls clubs, and adult education. Ms. Prue said a countywide meeting with 40 stakeholders and county agencies took place to begin creating early childhood education support in Montgomery County. The next steps will be identified after the input has been reviewed.

Mr. Burnett said he supported all-day kindergarten, which should be in the areas with the greatest needs. Dr. Weast stated that time matters, and how that time is spent matters the most. The investment in early childhood will be cheaper in the long run, because students

would not need remediation later. Class size, curriculum, and teacher training complete the comprehensive approach that will focus on children with needs.

Re: **ALL-DAY KINDERGARTEN STUDY AND EARLY CHILDHOOD INITIATIVE**

On motion of Ms. Signer and seconded by Mrs. Gordon, the following motion was placed on the table:

Resolved, That the Board of Education endorses (1) a redesign of kindergarten curricula to differentiate teaching strategies with children in all-day and half-day kindergarten programs, and (2) further staff development opportunities for all kindergarten teachers; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board supports an expansion of all-day kindergarten programs provided that the curriculum changes and staff development occur prior to implementation of new all-day kindergarten programs.

Re: **DISCUSSION**

Ms. Signer said the reason for the motion was that the Board should authorize any changes in curricula before staff work began. Also, it was important to know whether or not the Board would support an expansion of all-day kindergarten. Based on past discussions, the Board was reluctant to support an expansion of all-day kindergarten because there was no differentiation between all-day and half-day kindergarten.

Mr. Abrams supported the early childhood initiative and expansion of the program. He had always supported a targeted all-day kindergarten with or without curricular changes. He would not make it conditioned on other elements. He thought the question should be divided.

RESOLUTION NO. 670-99 Re: **ALL-DAY KINDERGARTEN CURRICULUM**

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

Resolved, That the Board of Education endorses (1) a redesign of kindergarten curricula to differentiate teaching strategies with children in all-day and half-day kindergarten programs, and (2) further staff development opportunities for all kindergarten teachers.

Re: **ALL-DAY KINDERGARTEN CURRICULUM**

On motion of Ms. Signer and seconded by Mrs. Gordon, the following resolution was placed on the table:

Resolved, That the Board supports a targeted expansion of all-day kindergarten programs provided that the curriculum changes and staff development occur prior to implementation of new all-day kindergarten programs.

Re: **DISCUSSION**

Ms. Signer explained that in the past the Board had gone on record that it did not support all-day kindergarten programs if the curriculum was the same, and there was no real differentiation between all-day and half-day kindergarten.

Re: **AN AMENDMENT TO THE MOTION ON ALL-DAY KINDERGARTEN CURRICULUM**

On motion of Mr. Abrams and seconded by Mrs. King, an amendment was offered to delete the bolded language that follows:

Resolved, That the Board supports a targeted expansion of all-day kindergarten programs **provided that the curriculum changes and staff development occur prior to implementation of new all-day kindergarten programs.**

Re: **DISCUSSION**

Mrs. Gordon would not support the amendment because the Board had heard it is not the amount of time but how that time is spent with kindergarten students that is important. The second part of the original motion was not just the curriculum but staff development. The school system should not establish additional all-day kindergartens until there were professionals who were trained and were able to make a difference in all-day kindergartens.

Mr. Abrams explained that kindergarten teachers had been trained in the Reading Initiative. Therefore, a cadre of teachers with some training existed, and there was no reason to hold up the program while the curriculum was revised. The issue of teacher training would be adequately addressed in the new operating budget. He was concerned about strings attached to limit implementation.

Ms. Sampedro interpreted the clause to mean that the Board should be advised and that the curriculum should be revised before implementing the program.

Ms. Signer had heard staff members say there would be a redesign of the curriculum and additional staff training. Also, she heard staff explain that without a differentiation in the use of time between all-day and half-day kindergarten, very little can be accomplished for the money. Her motion was to make sure that if the Board endorses all-day kindergarten, since it would be very expensive, that the school system has a solid curriculum that can be differentiated and staff training to make this program successful.

Mr. Abrams said the staff presentation indicated that students would benefit from an all-day kindergarten program implemented with the existing curriculum and targeted to a community where there was a need. He did not advocate universal all-day kindergarten, but he believed that the all-day program, irrespective of curriculum, made a difference for students who need additional attention and time in school to increase their achievement throughout their school careers.

RESOLUTION NO. 671-99 Re: **CALL THE QUESTION**

On motion of Mrs. King and seconded by Mrs. O'Neill, the following resolution was adopted with Mr. Abrams, Mr. Burnett, Mr. Felton, Mrs. King, Mrs. O'Neill, Ms. Sampedro, and Ms. Signer voting in the affirmative; Mrs. Gordon voting in the negative:

Resolved, That the Board of Education call the question.

RESOLUTION NO. 672-99 Re: **AN AMENDMENT TO THE MOTION ON ALL-DAY KINDERGARTEN CURRICULUM**

On motion of Mr. Abrams and seconded by Mrs. King, the following resolution to delete the bolded language was adopted with Mr. Abrams, Mr. Burnett, Mr. Felton, Mrs. King, and Mrs. O'Neill voting in the affirmative; Mrs. Gordon, Ms. Sampedro, and Ms. Signer voting in the negative:

Resolved, That the Board supports a targeted expansion of all-day kindergarten programs **provided that the curriculum changes and staff development occur prior to implementation of new all-day kindergarten programs.**

RESOLUTION NO. 673-99 Re: **ALL-DAY KINDERGARTEN CURRICULUM**

On motion of Mr. Abrams and seconded by Mrs. King, the following resolution was adopted with Mr. Abrams, Mr. Burnett, Mr. Felton, Mrs. King, and Mrs. O'Neill voting in the affirmative; Mrs. Gordon and Ms. Sampedro voting in the negative; Ms. Signer abstaining:

Resolved, That the Board supports a targeted expansion of all-day kindergarten programs.

FOR THE RECORD: Ms. Signer stated that "my abstention is not that I oppose a targeted expansion of the program. I abstain because I believe that unless we make the requisite changes that the staff has proposed prior to expansion, it will be a fruitless expansion."

Re: **EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM INITIATIVE**

On recommendation of the Superintendent and on motion of Mrs. O'Neill seconded by Mr. Abrams, the following resolution was placed on the table:

WHEREAS, On September 23, 1999, the Board of Education adopted five academic priorities for Montgomery County Public Schools as a four-year commitment to further the *Success for Every Student* strategic plan; and

WHEREAS, One of the academic priorities is "Develop, expand, and coordinate a literacy-based birth to kindergarten initiative;" and

WHEREAS, The Capital Improvement Program budget includes a request that will allow the school system to begin planning for an early childhood initiative in response to this academic priority; and

WHEREAS, The Board anticipates that the FY 2001 operating budget will include requests for funds in support of this initiative; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board of Education endorses the Early Childhood Initiative, *Early Success*, and directs the superintendent to continue collaboration with all stakeholders in the development and refinement of the final plan.

Re: **DISCUSSION**

Mrs. Gordon commented that even though the kindergarten issue had been discussed, the early childhood program initiative was expanded to serve ages birth to six. She asked how many of the existing measures – including observation records, running records, portfolios, and systematic observations of teachers – were in place. Ms. Prue explained that the initiative was being implemented in all kindergarten classrooms as part of the early identification program, and the early childhood assessment was targeted for second grade and implemented in the Reading Initiative schools.

Mrs. Gordon asked about running records and portfolios. Ms. Prue responded that running records were a part of the balanced literacy assessment of the Reading Initiative. Mrs. Gordon thought portfolios were valuable for assessing students, but were time consuming. Also, it required a great deal of staff development to be able to work with students and families in gathering data on which to make decisions about the student's education. Dr. Flynn replied that portfolios were a very viable way to gather information about student progress over time. MCPS had expertise in this area. Portfolios enforced the collaboration with teachers and students as part of a school climate and encouraged the student to be a self-directed learner.

Ms. Signer noted that the academic priority was to have the Superintendent coordinate an early childhood initiative. She hoped it was understood that the school system did not need to provide facilities. There are a number of ongoing programs in the community through the Collaboration Council and others with whom the school system ought to be working. This was particularly an issue in that the all-day kindergarten data showed there was not enough space in county schools to expand the program. Dr. Weast noted that 40 partners were

coming to a meeting to discuss this topic. Collaborative programs already exist, as do instructional models if there is no space in the school building. The issue is finding ways to help children that have proved effective in other places.

RESOLUTION NO. 674-99 Re: CONTRACTS FOR MORE THAN \$25,000

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

WHEREAS, Funds have been budgeted for the purchase of equipment, supplies, and contractual services; now therefore be it

Resolved, That having been duly advertised the following contracts be awarded to the low bidders meeting specifications as shown for the bids as follows:

772100 Athletic Awards, Trophies, Awards, Plaques and Engraving –
0040BD Extension

Awardees

Lamb Awards and Engraving	\$ 23,801
Allogram, Inc.	<u>2,000</u>
Total	\$ 25,801

4002.1 After-market Automotive Parts – Extension

Awardees

American Bus Sales and Services, Inc.
Arlington Armature, Inc.
Associated Truck Parts
Best Battery Company, Inc.
D & L Truck and Bus Parts, Inc.*
Delcoline, Inc.
District International Trucks, Inc.
Fitzgerald Auto Mall, Inc.
Furniture Renaissance*
General Fleet Service Company*
Jasper Engines and Transmissions
Johnson and Towers, Inc.
K & M Supply, Inc.
Northern Virginia Supply, Inc.
Ourisman Rockmont Chevrolet
Pep Boys
R & S Auto and Truck Spring Work
Rockville Radiator Shop, Inc.*

	Rosedale Auto Electric and Parts Vehicle Maintenance Program* Wareheim Air Brakes, Inc. Total	\$1,809,000
4009.1	Voice Processing System – Extension	
	<u>Awardee</u> Micro Delta Corporation	\$ 125,000
4053.1	Scanner Forms and Scanning Machines – Extension	
	<u>Awardee</u> National Computer Systems, Inc.	\$ 102,944
4082.1	Science Equipment	
	<u>Awardees</u>	
	Amzco Health Supply	\$ 408
	Benz Microscope Optics Center*	4,902
	Brinkmann Instruments	9,536
	Carolina Biological Supply Company	2,026
	Edmund Scientific Company	1,037
	Edvotek, Inc.	5,722
	Fisher Science Education	48,111
	Frey Scientific/Div of School Specialty	3,909
	Glakad Science LLC	3,279
	Interboro Packaging Corporation	126
	Intrade	171
	Macalaster Bicknell Company of New Jersey*	1,442
	McDonald Safety Equipment, Inc.	257
	Nasco	548
	Para Scientific Company	14,167
	Pasco Scientific	27,729
	Pitsco, Inc.	1,785
	Science Kit, Inc.	395
	Synergy Scientific	4,575
	VWR Scientific Products/Sargent Welch	<u>16,017</u>
	Total	\$ 146,142

4084.1	Classroom Furniture <u>Awardees</u>	
	ATD American Company	\$ 2,737
	Douron, Inc.*	938,143
	Jakanna Woodworks, Inc.	<u>2,475</u>
	Total	\$ 943,355
7006.2	Hand-Held Calculators and CBL Data Collection Systems	
	<u>Awardees</u>	
	D & H Distributing Company	\$ 518,770
	Pasco Scientific	<u>63,190</u>
	Total	\$ 581,960
9014.1	Industrial and Technical Education Automotive Equipment	
	<u>Awardees</u>	
	Kasco Fuel Maintenance Corporation*	\$ 1,100
	Midwest Tech Products and Service	9,633
	Snap-On-Tools Corporation	2,147
	Transportation Supplies, Inc.	<u>13,970</u>
	Total	\$ 26,850
9115.1	Frozen Potatoes	
	<u>Awardee</u>	
	Cavendish Farms, Inc.	\$ 295,313
9179.1	New Rooftop Units for Day Care at Thurgood Marshall Elementary School	
	<u>Awardee</u>	
	Interstate Service*	\$ 38,318
9203.1	Custom Science Kits	
	<u>Awardees</u>	
	Nasco	\$ 54,991
	Sempco, Inc.*	<u>457,467</u>
	Total	\$ 512,458

9204.1 Elementary Mathematics Supplies

Awardees

Eric Armin, Inc.	\$ 1,033
Delta Education, Inc.	1,035
Educational Teaching Aids*	8,816
Educator's Outlet, Inc.	693
Nasco	9,989
School Specialty	130
SchoolMart	132
Summit Learning, Inc.	<u>7,068</u>
Total	\$ 28,896

9205.1 Broadcast Video Tapes

Awardee

Target Distributing Company	\$ 47,670
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MORE THAN \$25,000

\$4,683,707

*Denotes MFD vendor

RESOLUTION NO. 675-99Re: CHANGE ORDER MORE THAN \$25,000

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

WHEREAS, The Department of Facilities Management has received a change order proposal from NAA, Inc., the contractor installing air-conditioning systems at the Northwood Center, that exceeds \$25,000; and

WHEREAS, Staff and the project engineer have reviewed this change order and found it to be reasonable; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board of Education approve the following change order for the amount indicated:

Project: Air-conditioning System at Northwood Center

Description: Upgrading of the existing electrical service for the Northwood Center is needed to provide sufficient power for the new air-conditioning systems.

Contractor: NAA, Inc.
Amount: \$68,850

RESOLUTION NO. 676-99 Re: **UTILIZATION OF FY 2000 FUTURE SUPPORTED PROJECT FUNDS FOR THE STUDENT SERVICE LEARNING TRAINING PROGRAM**

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

Resolved, That the superintendent of schools be authorized to receive and expend within the FY 2000 Provision for Future Supported Projects two grant awards totaling \$12,742 from the U.S. Department of Education through the Maryland State Department of Education (\$8,242) and Maryland Student Service Alliance (\$4,500) for the Student Service Learning Training Program, in the following categories:

<u>Category</u>	<u>Amount</u>
3 Instructional Salaries	\$ 5,065
4 Textbooks and Instructional Supplies	2,650
5 Other Instructional Costs	4,625
12 Fixed Charges	<u>402</u>
 Total	 <u>\$12,742</u>

and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be sent to the County Executive and County Council.

RESOLUTION NO. 677-99 Re: **UTILIZATION OF FY 2000 FUTURE SUPPORTED PROJECT FUNDS FOR THE MARYLAND VIRTUAL HIGH SCHOOL CORE MODELS PROJECT**

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

Resolved, That the superintendent of schools be authorized to receive and expend within the FY 2000 provision for future supported projects a grant award of \$326,164 in federal funds from the National Science Foundation, under the research in education policy and practice for the Maryland Virtual High School Core Models Project, in the following categories:

<u>Category</u>	<u>Positions*</u>	<u>Amount</u>
1 Administration		\$ 7,924
2 Mid-level Administration	1.5	113,000
3 Instructional Salaries		8,000
4 Textbooks and Instructional Supplies		14,000
5 Other Instructional Costs		143,240
12 Fixed Charges		<u>40,000</u>
Total	<u>1.5</u>	<u>\$ 326,164</u>

- * 0.5 project specialist, 12-month
 0.5 instructional specialist, 12-month
 0.5 fiscal assistant, 12-month

and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be sent to the County Executive and County Council.

RESOLUTION NO. 678-99

Re: **UTILIZATION OF FY 2000 FUTURE SUPPORTED PROJECT FUNDS FOR THE LITERACY WORKS**

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

Resolved, That the superintendent of schools be authorized to receive and expend within the FY 2000 Provision for Future Supported Projects a grant award of \$15,114 from the Maryland State Department of Education for the Literacy Works program, in the following categories:

<u>Category</u>	<u>Amount</u>
3 Instructional Salaries	\$ 13,994
12 Fixed Charges	<u>1,120</u>
Total	<u>\$ 15,114</u>

and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be sent to the County Executive and County Council.

RESOLUTION NO. 679-99

Re: **UTILIZATION OF FY 2000 FUTURE SUPPORTED
PROJECT FUNDS FOR PROJECT ANCHOR**

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

Resolved, That the superintendent of schools be authorized to receive and expend within the FY 2000 Provision of Future Supported Projects a grant award of \$60,971 from the U.S. Department of Education through the Academy for Educational Development for the third and final year of Project Anchor, in the following categories:

<u>Category</u>	<u>Amount</u>
1 Administration	\$ 1,476
6 Special Education	55,498
12 Fixed Charges	<u>3,997</u>
Total	<u>\$ 60,971</u>

and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be sent to the County Executive and County Council.

RESOLUTION NO. 680-99

Re: **UTILIZATION OF FY 2000 FUTURE SUPPORTED
PROJECT FUNDS FOR THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY
TRANSITION INITIATIVE PROJECT**

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

Resolved, That the superintendent of schools be authorized to receive and expend within the FY 2000 Provision for Future Supported Projects a grant award of \$10,000 from the Maryland State Department of Education, Division of Rehabilitation Services, for the third and final year of the Montgomery County Transition Initiative Project in the following categories:

<u>Category</u>	<u>Amount</u>
6 Special Education	\$ 9,600
12 Fixed Charges	<u>400</u>
Total	<u>\$ 10,000</u>

and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be sent to the County Executive and County Council.

RESOLUTION NO. 681-99 Re: **UTILIZATION OF FY 2000 FUTURE SUPPORTED PROJECT FUNDS FOR THE EMERGENCY IMMIGRANT PROGRAM**

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

Resolved, That the superintendent of schools be authorized to receive and expend within the FY 2000 Provision for Future Supported Projects a grant award of \$513,025 in federal funds through the Maryland State Department of Education, under the Emergency Immigrant Education Act, to provide supplementary educational services to immigrant students in Grades K-12, in the following categories:

<u>Category</u>	<u>Positions*</u>	<u>Amount</u>
1 Administration		\$ 915
3 Instructional Salaries	0.4	76,884
4 Textbooks and Instructional Supplies		269,760
5 Other Instructional Costs		160,183
12 Fixed Charges		<u>5,283</u>
Total	<u>0.4</u>	<u>\$ 513,025</u>

* 0.4 Secretary, 12-month

and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be sent to the County Executive and County Council.

RESOLUTION NO. 682-99 Re: **RECOMMENDED FY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION FOR ADDITIONAL TITLE I FUNDING**

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

Resolved, That the superintendent of schools be authorized to receive and expend, subject to County Council approval, an FY 2000 Supplemental Appropriation of \$446,928 from the U.S. Department of Education under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (Title

l) through the Maryland State Department of Education for additional Title I funding, in the following categories:

<u>Category</u>	<u>Positions*</u>	<u>Amount</u>
3 Instructional Salaries	5.5	\$148,194
4 Textbooks and Instructional Supplies		269,095
12 Fixed Charges	—	<u>29,639</u>
Total	<u>5.5</u>	<u>\$446,928</u>

* 3.0 instructional specialists, 12-month;
2.5 Reading Recovery teachers, 12-month

and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be sent to the County Executive and County Council; and be it further

Resolved, That the County Executive be requested to recommend approval of this supplemental appropriation to the County Council.

RESOLUTION NO. 683-99

Re: **RECOMMENDED FY SUPPLEMENTAL
APPROPRIATION FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDING FROM
THE INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION
ACT**

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

Resolved, That the superintendent of schools be authorized, subject to County Council approval, to receive and expend an FY 2000 supplemental appropriation of \$942,392 in federal funds provided under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act via the Maryland State Department of Education for special education programs in the following categories:

<u>Category</u>	<u>Positions*</u>	<u>Amount</u>
6 Special Education	16.0	\$ 841,425
12 Fixed Charges	—	<u>100,967</u>
Total	<u>16.0</u>	<u>\$ 942,392</u>

* 16.0 special education instructional assistants, 10-month

and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be sent to the county executive and County Council; and be it further

Resolved, That the county executive be requested to recommend approval of this supplemental appropriation to the County Council.

** Mrs. King and Mrs. O'Neill temporarily left the meeting.

RESOLUTION NO. 684-99 Re: **HUMAN RESOURCES MONTHLY REPORT**

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

Resolved, That the Board of Education approve the Human Resources Monthly Report dated November 9, 1999.

RESOLUTION NO. 685-99 Re: **DEATH OF MR. RANDALL C. EHLMAN, MAINTENANCE CARPENTER I AT THE DIVISION OF MAINTENANCE**

On recommendation of the Superintendent and on motion of Mr. Felton seconded by Ms. Signer, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present:

WHEREAS, The death on October 24, 1999 of Mr. Randall C. Ehlman, Maintenance Carpenter I at the Bethesda Maintenance Depot, has deeply saddened the staff, students, and members of the Board of Education; and

WHEREAS, In the short time that Mr. Ehlman worked for Montgomery County Public Schools, he demonstrated competence as a Maintenance Carpenter I; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ehlman's eagerness to learn and dependability made him a valuable employee; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the members of the Board of Education express their sorrow at the death of Mr. Randall C. Ehlman and extend deepest sympathy to his family; and be it further

Resolved, That this resolution be made a part of the minutes of this meeting and a copy be forwarded to Mr. Ehlman's family.

RESOLUTION NO. 686-99

Re: **DEATH OF MS. MALINDA M. LLOYD, CLASSROOM TEACHER ON LONG-TERM PERSONAL ILLNESS LEAVE FROM SHERWOOD HIGH SCHOOL**

On recommendation of the Superintendent and on motion of Mr. Abrams seconded by Ms. Signer, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present:

WHEREAS, The death on September 26, 1999 of Ms. Malinda M. Lloyd, classroom teacher on long-term personal illness leave from Sherwood High School, has deeply saddened the staff, students, and members of the Board of Education; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Lloyd was a conscientious, dedicated professional who constantly provided high quality educational experiences for her students; and

WHEREAS, In more than fifteen years with Montgomery County Public Schools, Ms. Lloyd was committed to students and sensitive to the needs of all people, making her an asset to the school system and community; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the members of the Board of Education express their sorrow at the death of Ms. Malinda Lloyd and extend deepest sympathy to her family; and be it further

Resolved, That this resolution be made a part of the minutes of this meeting and a copy be forwarded to Ms. Lloyd's family.

** Mrs. King and Mrs. O'Neill rejoined the meeting.

RESOLUTION NO. 687-99

Re: **PERSONNEL APPOINTMENT**

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

Resolved, That the following personnel appointment be approved effective November 10, 1999:

<u>Appointment</u>	<u>Present Position</u>	<u>As</u>
Joseph I. Headman, Jr.	Director, Office of School Performance and Accountability	Community Superintendent, Office of School Performance and Accountability

RESOLUTION NO. 688-99

Re: **PERSONNEL APPOINTMENT**

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

Resolved, That the following personnel appointment be approved effective November 10, 1999:

<u>Appointment</u>	<u>Present Position</u>	<u>As</u>
Donald H. Kress	Director, Office of School Performance and Accountability	Community Superintendent, Office of School Performance and Accountability

RESOLUTION NO. 689-99 Re: **PERSONNEL APPOINTMENT**

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

Resolved, That the following personnel appointment be approved effective November 10, 1999:

<u>Appointment</u>	<u>Present Position</u>	<u>As</u>
Kimberly A. Statham	Director, Office of School Performance and Accountability	Community Superintendent, Office of School Performance and Accountability

RESOLUTION NO. 690-99 Re: **PERSONNEL APPOINTMENT**

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

Resolved, That the following personnel appointment be approved effective November 10, 1999:

<u>Appointment</u>	<u>Present Position</u>	<u>As</u>
William P. Wilhoyte	Director, Office of School Performance and Accountability	Community Superintendent, Office of School Performance and Accountability

Re: **MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT**

The report reflected the projected financial condition through September 30, 1999, based on program requirements and estimates made by primary and secondary account managers. At this time, there is a projected surplus in revenues of \$24,654 and a projected expenditure surplus of \$100,000.

Re: **SCHOOL CALENDAR 2000-2001 WITH STAFF TRAINING DAYS**

On recommendation of the Superintendent and on motion of Mr. Abrams seconded by Mrs. O'Neill, the following resolution was placed on the table:

WHEREAS, The establishment of school terms by the County Board of Education is required by state law; and

WHEREAS, Montgomery County parents, community, and staff should be informed of the Board-adopted school calendar each year and the subsequent contingency plan identifying days that will be used to make up lost instructional time due to emergency closings; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the proposed school calendars and contingency plans for the school years 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 be adopted.

Re: **DISCUSSION**

Mrs. Gordon was concerned about adopting a two-year calendar. If the Board adopted the 2001-2002 school calendar, it would not allow the Superintendent the flexibility to adjust the calendar to allow for staff development. She suggested that the Board not adopt the 2001-2002 school calendar.

Mrs. O'Neill agreed and encouraged the Superintendent to bring the Board at a later date a comprehensive plan for added staff development days.

RESOLUTION NO. 691-99 Re: **SCHOOL CALENDAR 2000-2001 WITH STAFF TRAINING DAYS**

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

Resolved, That the Board of Education amend the resolution by deleting the 2000-2001 school calendar.

RESOLUTION NO. 692-99 Re: **SCHOOL CALENDAR 2000-2001 WITH STAFF TRAINING DAYS**

On recommendation of the Superintendent and on motion of Mr. Abrams seconded by Mrs. O'Neill, the following resolution, as amended, was adopted unanimously:

WHEREAS, The establishment of school terms by the County Board of Education is required by state law; and

WHEREAS, Montgomery County parents, community, and staff should be informed of the Board-adopted school calendar each year and the subsequent contingency plan identifying days that will be used to make up lost instructional time due to emergency closings; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the proposed school calendar and contingency plan for 2000-2001 be adopted.

Re: **CHARTER SCHOOL APPLICATION**

At the table to facilitate this item are Dr. Steven G. Seleznow, deputy superintendent for education; Mr. Larry A. Bowers, chief operating officer; Dr. William P. Wilhoyte, director of school performance and accountability; Dr. Patricia Flynn, director of academic programs; Dr. Marshall C. Spatz, director of management, budget, and planning, and members of the review panel.

The Board of Education received for approval its first public charter school application on September 13, 1999. In accordance with Policy CFB, *Public Charter Schools*, the proposal has been evaluated through procedures described in the *Public Charter School Application Guidelines*. The guidelines establish a panel to review the proposal and make recommendations to the Superintendent of Schools, who makes a recommendation to the Board of Education.

After reviewing the panel's report, Dr. Weast concurred with the recommendation that the Jaime Escalante Charter School application not be approved. One of the major concerns was the lack of a facility, but the report also contained other concerns.

The diligence and commitment of the applicants are clear. Dr. Weast realized the difficulty facing any applicant interested in opening a charter school because MCPS was facing some of the same issues of inadequate space and too little money. However, he encouraged the applicants to apply again in the future.

The report from the review panel was attached to the paper presented to the Board of Education. It included a copy of the application, the Board's policy, the application guidelines, the review panel composition, the panel's questions, the applicants' answers, and the transcription of the interview.

Re: DISCUSSION

Mrs. O'Neill was concerned that the review panel was composed of MCPS staff, and she hoped that future panels could have business partners and parents. She was dismayed that the proposed facility had been rated as "great" in 1997.

Mrs. Gordon noted that she was the Board member who introduced the policy on charter schools. She hoped that MCPS gave applicants a fair and honest review and helped them through the process. The Maryland State Board of Education planned to use the MCPS policy as a model; therefore, it was vital for the school system to demonstrate its commitment to charter schools or the authority for issuing charters could be removed from local control. She was concerned about the review panel and its ability to assess the applicant's ability to improve student achievement. After the discussion, she hoped the Board would conclude that staff should work with the charter school applicants to afford them an understanding of what the requirements were, what staff was looking for, and how they could improve the application.

Mr. Felton thought the issue of public school charters and choice was growing. He understood the recommendation of the panel, but it was groundbreaking for MCPS and the applicant. However, over the coming weeks, he hoped there would be an open dialogue about priorities since the Board supported public charters. The Board wanted to increase the interest and enthusiasm of community members in a collaboration to ascertain what is more likely to be supported and to create interest in charter schools.

Mr. Joseph Hawkins, co-chair of the steering committee, gave his impressions of the process. The steering committee agreed that the challenge was finding an appropriate and safe facility to house the charter school. Charter applicants deserve better facility-related guidelines and information. In complying with the charter school guidelines, the applicant was outside the CIP process; therefore, the guidelines' deadline should be amended to incorporate the CIP process. Also, the Board should provide guidelines on what is an acceptable facility, such as a church basement, storefront, college campus, collocation with an MCPS school, partnering with other applicants, or office building. The steering committee thinks there should be a clear, two-stage review process: (1) education program and (2) operational stage.

Mr. Frank Mancino, co-chair of the steering committee, made a statement regarding excellence, risk-taking programs, and cooperation with the public schools.

Mr. Felton asked staff if they could develop additional guidelines and recommendations regarding the process. The Board wanted to make clear to the community the intent, process, and time frame. Dr. Seleznow thought the recommendations put forward were excellent, and it made sense to add business and community leaders to the review panel. Also, Mr. Hawkins' suggestions were sound, and there could be a separation of the educational program and facilities management. The timeline for applications could be

adjusted to be in synch with facility decisions. Dr. Wilhoyte said the application should dovetail with the CIP process. The process could be modified for information to be shared with applicants to allow them to prepare and submit the most complete application possible.

Mrs. King thought the whole proposal was exciting. She had questions about the location of the charter school. She had toured Montgomery Hills and found the place depressing. It had been leased for a long time without a great deal of maintenance. Staff thought it would take a great deal to bring it up to code and ADA compliance. She liked the idea of being creative and looking for other innovative locations. Mr. Hawkins asked again what was an acceptable facility.

Mr. Abrams supported the charter school application; especially, the model of a Middle Years Program with an open enrollment had virtue and met the criteria for a unique niche to satisfy the policy. The student selection process was unclear to him. Based on the success of the International Baccalaureate program, he asked if rigor would work for students who were not preselected. If that was the intent, what would be the admission process? His preference would be a lottery. Also, he would like to see more creativity on the facility, and he had questions of the scope and scale of the program.

Ms. Signer thought it was fortunate that the application had found shortcomings in the MCPS process, such as timelines, support from staff, and facility issues. However, she was concerned about the fate of the present proposal since she supported the vision.

Re: FOLLOWUP ON CHARTER SCHOOL APPLICATION

On motion of Ms. Signer and seconded by Mrs. Gordon, the following resolution was placed on the table:

Resolved, That the Board of Education demonstrates an interest in the Jaime Escalante Charter School proposal; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board asks the Superintendent and his staff to work with the applicants to refine their proposal for future consideration by the Board of Education.

Re: DISCUSSION

Mr. Felton stated that the motion spoke specifically to the charter school, and the Board had decided to take no action on the charter school. He thought the comments illustrated the concerns of both groups about the what the process needed, how the school system could be more supportive, and how to develop an appropriate time cycle.

Ms. Signer replied that was part of the issue, but she was concerned about the fate of this application. She heard several Board members say they liked the application, but it needed refinement to address issues raised by the review panel and the Board. She hoped that

would occur and that the Board would have another opportunity to consider the application in its refined form.

Mr. Burnett thought the motion was tied to the process of a single school. Other applicants might be limited by this process. Ms. Signer stated that she had heard staff say they would work on the process, and her motion asked staff to work with these particular applicants to refine their proposal. Mr. Burnett thought that if the process was refined, staff would work with any applicant.

Mrs. Gordon said staff had indicated that they do not have the resources to work with applicants. In fact, when Ms. Signer asked about Extended Year Employment (EYE) time for staff to work with applicants, Dr. Vance responded that the school system could not put money into applications. That was why she was not convinced that the questions that the review panel raised were all of the questions or all of the concerns, and she was not clear that this had been communicated to the applicants.

Mr. Abrams supported the motion because it was important to encourage these applicants. He wanted to see the motion expanded based on the Board's discussion. In addition to refining the process to be more user friendly, some of the constraints on applicants contained in the policy might need to be reviewed. He would like the Board both to (1) encourage this applicant and (2) attempt to resolve all issues under policy guidelines. Mr. Felton wanted staff to come back to the Board with a process that was more "applicant friendly," based on the Board's discussion.

Ms. Signer stated that the motion did not approve the application. It simply stated that the Board was interested in the application and wanted to see a refined application that the Board might approve. Mr. Felton thought it was appropriate for staff to return to the Board with a recommendation, since the Board had been asked to defer its decision. Therefore, the Board was not rejecting or approving the charter school application.

Mrs. Gordon asked the review panel and applicants if they felt there was an understanding of what needs to be done to refine the application. Dr. Seleznow replied that staff knew what questions to ask to assure a viable school. Mr. Mathias replied no, and that the MCPS guidelines were not logical or clear. Based on those responses, Mrs. Gordon thought the Board should vote on the motion since the parties did not agree.

Re: **AMENDMENT TO THE FOLLOWUP ON CHARTER SCHOOL APPLICATION**

On motion of Mrs. Gordon and seconded by Ms. Signer, the following amendment (bold) was offered:

Resolved, That the Board of Education demonstrate an interest in the Jaime Escalante Charter School proposal **and other charter school proposals**; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board ask the Superintendent and his staff to work with the applicants to refine their proposal for future consideration by the Board of Education.

Re: **DISCUSSION**

Mr. Burnett thought there had to be a process or a checklist for all charter school applicants. Dr. Wilhoyte commented on the review panel's work as it understood the gravity of the first charter school application with the panel's position, the process, and position of the Board. During all meetings and communications, notes were taken regarding the feedback to the steering committee about the application and questions raised by staff.

Mrs. O'Neill noted that both parties had devoted a great deal of time to the process. However, the issue of a facility would always exist. Many of the educational and operational issues can be resolved, but questions remained regarding the housing and financing of the program.

Re: **AMENDMENT TO THE FOLLOWUP ON CHARTER SCHOOL APPLICATION**

On motion of Mrs. Gordon and seconded by Ms. Signer, the following resolution failed with Mr. Abrams, Mrs. Gordon, Ms. Sampedro, and Ms. Signer voting in the affirmative; Mr. Burnett, Mr. Felton, Mrs. King, and Mrs. O'Neill voting in the negative:

Resolved, That the Board of Education demonstrates an interest in the Jaime Escalante Charter School proposal and other charter school proposals; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board asks the Superintendent and his staff to work with the applicants to refine their proposal for future consideration by the Board of Education.

Re: **BELL TIMES – ANALYSIS OF ADDITIONAL OPTIONS**

The Board had requested an additional review of options to change high school bell times to permit high schools to start later. The review was to include an option to eliminate high school buses and an option to use public transit (in addition to, or in lieu of, school buses). The Board also requested staff to reexamine all previously developed options, specifically those with minimal budgetary impact.

The report, *Bell Times: Analysis of Additional Options*, was developed in consultation with staff members who worked on each of the previous reports and following discussions with representatives from the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) and Ride-On. The report presents eight options, including the two specifically requested. Each option was analyzed for its impact using the following criteria: budget, safety, conformity to sleep research, before/after school child care, before/after school activities for both

students and staff, athletics, and time changes for middle and elementary schools. Each option was shown to have strengths and weaknesses as represented in the tables and narrative.

The analysis showed that the option of eliminating high school transportation may be possible but is not viable. The option to use public transit is severely limited by the lack of available resources in WMATA and Ride-On, even at schools currently served by its bus routes. The least expensive option for starting high school later is to move all school starting times 35 minutes later but retain the order of school openings. If the Board of Education wanted to avoid having elementary school students dismissed after 4:00 p.m., other options would include reversing the starting times of high schools and middle schools and starting all schools 15 or 30 minutes later (with their attendant cost estimates of \$1.9 million). The option of using a separate fleet, whether owned and operated by a contractor or by MCPS, represents a net additional cost exceeding \$11 million. Given other high priority instructional needs, Dr. Weast could not support such an expenditure.

Based on a review of the options available at this time and the lack of evidence that changing high school bell times will result in improved student performance, Dr. Weast could not support the increased costs of some options and the resultant disruption to schools, students, families, and the community associated with cost-neutral options. Therefore, he recommended that the Board of Education reject further consideration of changing high school bell times at this time.

Re: **DISCUSSION**

Ms. Signer was disappointed by the Superintendent's recommendation. She was particularly disappointed given the substantial research in support of later start times for high school students. Furthermore, there was a surplus in both the state's and county's budgets. If not now, when?

RESOLUTION NO. 693-99 Re: **BELL TIMES**

On recommendation of the Superintendent and on motion of Mr. Abrams seconded by Mrs. King, the following resolution was adopted with Mr. Abrams, Mr. Burnett, Mr. Felton, Mrs. Gordon, Mrs. King, Mrs. O'Neill, and Ms. Sampedro voting in the affirmative; Ms. Signer voting in the negative:

Resolved, That the Board of Education adopt the Superintendent's recommendation that the Board of Education reject further consideration of changing high school bell times at this time.

Re: **CIP UPDATE**

The Requested FY 2001-2006 Capital Improvements Program (CIP) identifies projects and

funding appropriations necessary for FY 2001 and FY 2002 to comply with the biennial CIP process mandated by the County Charter. The recommendations included in the six-year CIP reflect what is required to provide the facility needs for MCPS students in growing communities, for the modernization of older facilities, and for new program initiatives to improve student performance. The expenditure request is \$143.2 million for FY 2001 and totals \$665.9 million for the six-year period. These figures are significantly larger than those projected in the Adopted FY 1999-2004 CIP, representing the growing and diverse needs of county schools and the significant increases in construction costs. This request asks for what is needed and is affordable given this county's commitment to education.

To accommodate the growth in enrollment, the Requested FY 2001-2006 CIP includes additions to 32 schools and the opening of three new schools. Of the new schools and additions, 11 currently have funding approved in the adopted FY 1999-2004 CIP. The remaining 24 schools have been added in the Requested FY 2001-2006 CIP, nine for funding and 15 for facility planning.

The Requested FY 2001-2006 CIP document has been previously submitted to the Board. No boundary decisions will need to be made by the Board this November, and no boundary alternatives need to be acted on by the Board at this meeting. This meeting is intended to provide the Board with the opportunity to ask staff members questions about the recommendations in preparation for the Board's November 18, 1999, meeting to adopt the Board of Education Requested FY 2001-2006 CIP.

On November 10 and 11, 1999, the Board will hold its public hearing to receive testimony on the school system's Requested FY 2001-2006 CIP. This testimony will provide the opportunity for the public to address the Board and for the Board to begin to formulate any alternatives (additions, changes, or deletions) to the recommendations for the capital budget and the six-year CIP.

Re: DISCUSSION

Mrs. King asked about a request from the Mayor of Kensington and residents of a small group of streets with 11 school-aged children. They would like these streets included in the Walter Johnson Cluster. She asked if this would be a boundary study or an alternative. Mr. Lavorgna replied that a boundary study would look at the issue. Mr. Bowers explained that there are only alternatives to boundary studies.

Mrs. O'Neill commented on the issue of elementary school gymnasium equity and an accelerated rate through the six years for all schools to have gymnasiums. Mr. Bowers replied that the resolution could be introduced next Thursday.

RESOLUTION NO. 694-99

Re: **CLOSED SESSION RESOLUTION**

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

WHEREAS, The Board of Education of Montgomery County is authorized by the *Education Article* and *State Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland* to conduct certain meetings or portions of its meetings in closed sessions; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board of Education of Montgomery County conduct portions of its meeting on Tuesday, December 14, 1999, in Room 120 of the Carver Educational Services Center from 8:30 to 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 to 1:30 p.m. to discuss personnel matters, as permitted under Section 10-508(a)(1) of the *State Government Article*, consult with counsel to obtain legal advice, as permitted by Section 10-508(a)(7) of the *State Government Article*; and review and adjudicate appeals in its quasi-judicial capacity and to discuss matters of an executive function outside the purview of the Open Meetings Act (Section 10-503(a) of the *State Government Article*); and be it further

Resolved, That such meetings shall continue in closed session until the completion of business.

Re: **REPORT OF CLOSED SESSIONS**

On October 25, 1999, by unanimous vote, the Board of Education voted to conduct a closed session as permitted under the *Education Article* § 4-107 and *State Government Article* § 10-501, *et seq.*, of the *Annotated Code of Maryland*.

The Montgomery County Board of Education met in closed session on October 25, 1999, from 7:30 to 8:10 p.m. in Room 120, Carver Educational Services Center, Rockville, Maryland, and reviewed and adjudicated the following appeals: 1999-39, T-1999-101, T-1999-104, T-1999-105, and T-1999-106.

In attendance at the closed session were: Larry Bowers, Fran Brenneman, Kermit Burnett, Reginald Felton, Beatrice Gordon, Richard Hawes, Roland Ikheloa, Nancy King, George Margolies, Patricia O'Neill, Brian Porter, Glenda Rose, Laura Sampedro, Steven Seleznow, Mona Signer, and Jerry Weast.

On November 1, 1999, by unanimous vote, the Board of Education voted to conduct a closed session as permitted under the *Education Article* § 4-107 and *State Government Article* § 10-501, *et seq.*, of the *Annotated Code of Maryland*.

The Montgomery County Board of Education met in closed session on November 1, 1999, from 7:30 to 8:25 p.m. in Room 120, Carver Educational Services Center, Rockville, Maryland, and consulted with counsel to receive legal advice as permitted under Section 10-508(a)(7) of the *State Government Article*.

In attendance at the closed session were: Steve Abrams, Larry Bowers, Fran Brenneman, Kermit Burnett, Reginald Felton, Beatrice Gordon, Roland Ikheloa, Nancy King, Frieda Lacey, George Margolies, Patricia O'Neill, Brian Porter, Glenda Rose, Laura Sampedro, Steven Seleznow, Mona Signer, and Jerry Weast.

On November 3, 1999, by unanimous vote, the Board of Education voted to conduct a closed session as permitted under the *Education Article* § 4-107 and *State Government Article* § 10-501, *et seq.*, of the *Annotated Code of Maryland*.

The Montgomery County Board of Education met in closed session on November 3, 1999, from 6:50 to 8:30 p.m. in Room 120, Carver Educational Services Center, Rockville, Maryland, and discussed collective bargaining negotiations, as permitted under Section 10-508(a)(9) of the *State Government Article* and Section 4-107(d)(2)(ii) of the *Education Article*.

In attendance at the closed session were: Steve Abrams, Larry Bowers, Reginald Felton, Ed Frantz, Nancy King, Don Kopp, Frieda Lacey, George Margolies, Patricia O'Neill, Glenda Rose, Laura Sampedro, Mona Signer, and Jerry Weast.

RESOLUTION NO. 695-99 Re: MINUTES OF AUGUST 24, 1999, BOARD MEETING

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

Resolved, That the Board of Education approve its minutes for the August 24, 1999, meeting.

RESOLUTION NO. 696-99 Re: MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 17 AND 18, 1999, BOARD RETREAT

On motion of Mrs. O'Neill and seconded by Mr. Abrams, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

Resolved, That the Board of Education approve its minutes for the September 17 and 18, 1999, retreat.

RESOLUTION NO. 697-99 Re: BOARD APPEAL NO. T-1999-101

On motion of Mrs. O'Neill and seconded by Mrs. Gordon, the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That the Board of Education adopts its Order in Appeal NEC-1999-110, a student placement matter, reflective of the following vote: Mr. Abrams, Mr. Burnett,

Mr. Felton, Mrs. Gordon, Mrs. King, Mrs. O'Neill, Ms. Sampedro, and Ms. Signer voting to affirm.

RESOLUTION NO. 698-99 Re: **BOARD APPEAL NO. 1999-9**

On motion of Mrs. O'Neill and seconded by Mrs. Gordon, the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That the Board of Education adopts its Order in Appeal 1999-9, a student expulsion, reflective of the following vote: Mr. Abrams, Mr. Burnett, Mr. Felton Mrs. Gordon, Mrs. King, Mrs. O'Neill, Ms. Sampedro, and Ms. Signer voting to affirm.

Re: **OPEN LUNCH POLICY**

Mrs. O'Neill moved and Mr. Burnett seconded the following:

WHEREAS, The recent car accident at Seneca Valley High School in which a student lost his life and two others were seriously injured has deeply saddened our community and further heightened concerns about the safety of students leaving campus for lunch under the Board of Education's Open Lunch Policy, JEF; and

WHEREAS, Policy JEF and Regulation JEF-RA establish policies and procedures for allowing senior high school students to leave school during their lunch period; and

WHEREAS, Policy JEF was established by resolution on November 27, 1978, and has not been revised substantively since its adoption; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board of Education request the Superintendent to undertake a comprehensive review of Policy JEF and Regulation JEF-RA given the stated safety concerns that have been raised by the community; and be it further

Resolved, That the review involve input from each high school principal on what his or her school's current policy is on open lunch, the capacity of their school's cafeteria, ease of enforcing the policy, program implications for not offering an open lunch policy, and potential liabilities, if any, for schools that have an open lunch policy; and be it further

Resolved, That the superintendent also seek input from key MCPS stakeholders, such as student groups, parents, and the business community; and be it further

Resolved, That this review and analysis be completed in time for the beginning of the school year 2000-2001.

Re: **DISCUSSION**

Mrs. Gordon stated that there was a policy on Policysetting that outlines how policies will be reviewed. She could support this motion if it stopped at the first *resolved*.

Mrs. King was concerned about the ambitious agenda the Board had for the Superintendent and staff. The Board must attend to its priorities for this year. The policy gives this decision to the local school.

Ms. Signer agreed with Mrs. King. Open lunch is a matter of local determination by each school.

Re: **OPEN LUNCH POLICY**

On motion of Mrs. O'Neill and seconded by Mr. Burnett, the following resolution failed with Mr. Abrams and Mrs. O'Neill voting in the affirmative; Mr. Burnett, Mr. Felton, Mrs. Gordon, Mrs. King, Ms. Sampedro, and Ms. Signer voting in the negative:

WHEREAS, The recent car accident at Seneca Valley High School in which a student lost his life and two others were seriously injured has deeply saddened our community and further heightened concerns about the safety of students leaving campus for lunch under the Board of Education's Open Lunch Policy, JEF; and

WHEREAS, Policy JEF and Regulation JEF-RA establish policies and procedures for allowing senior high school students to leave school during their lunch period; and

WHEREAS, Policy JEF was established by resolution on November 27, 1978, and has not been revised substantively since its adoption; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board of Education request the Superintendent to undertake a comprehensive review of Policy JEF and Regulation JEF-RA given the stated safety concerns that have been raised by the community; and be it further

Resolved, That the review involve input from each high school principal on what his or her school's current policy is on open lunch, the capacity of their school's cafeteria, ease of enforcing the policy, program implications for not offering an open lunch policy, and potential liabilities, if any, for schools that have an open lunch policy; and be it further

Resolved, That the superintendent also seek input from key MCPS stakeholders, such as student groups, parents, and the business community; and be it further

Resolved, That this review and analysis be completed in time for the beginning of the school year 2000-2001.

RESOLUTION NO. 699-99 Re: **OPEN LUNCH**

On motion of Mrs. O'Neill and seconded by Mr. Abrams, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

Resolved, That the Board of Education directs the Superintendent to send Policy JEF and Regulation JEF-RA, *Open Lunch*, to high school principals for their review.

Re: **NEW BUSINESS**

Mrs. O'Neill moved and Mrs. King seconded the following:

WHEREAS, On July 13, 1999, The Board of Education affirmed its commitment to identifying and ensuring participation of all eligible students in Montgomery County Public Schools' (MCPS) Honors and Advanced Placement courses by endorsing the recommendations of Honors and Advanced Placement Work Group; and

WHEREAS, On September 23, 1999, The Board of Education approved five academic priorities for ensuring that MCPS is committed to rigor and excellence in academic teaching and learning for all students; and

WHEREAS, On October 26, 1999, the Honors/Advanced Placement Work Group met with the Board of Education and Superintendent to review the recommendations of the Work Group Report, relate the recommendations to the Board's academic priorities, and discuss effective strategies to ensure equity of opportunity and access to Honors and Advanced Placement courses; and

WHEREAS, On November 9, 1999, the Superintendent of Schools unveiled a "Call To Action" plan designed to raise student academic achievement and close the gap in student performance by race and ethnicity; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Education and MCPS expect all employees of Montgomery County Public Schools to be fully committed to rigorous academic instruction and learning of all our students; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board of Education and MCPS commit themselves to providing adequate resources to address the gap in honors participation among the racial, cultural and ethnic groups, especially by focusing on under-served and under-represented students.

Re: **ITEMS OF INFORMATION**

The following items were available for information:

1. Items in Process
2. Legal Fees Report
3. Preparation for Electricity Deregulation
4. Construction Progress Report
5. Minority-, Female-, or Disabled-owned Business Procurement Report for the First Quarter of Fiscal Year 2000

RESOLUTION NO. 700-99

Re: **ADJOURNMENT**

Resolved, That the Board of Education adjourn its meeting of November 9, 1999, at 5:30 p.m.

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY

JDW:gr

3rd Annual Distinguished Service to Education Awards (Auditorium)

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November 9, 1999

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