

APPROVED  
4-2000

Rockville, Maryland  
January 19, 2000

The Board of Education of Montgomery County met in special session at the Carver Educational Services Center, Rockville, Maryland, on Wednesday, January 19, 2000, at 7:15 p.m.

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

Absent:                   Ms. Laura Sampedro, Student Board Member

Re:    **FY 2001 OPERATING BUDGET HEARING**

The following people testified before the Board of Education:

1.    Nguyen Minh Chau, Councilmember of Garrett Park
2.    Gloria Larravide, Community Action Board
3.    Laura Siegel, Churchill Cluster
4.    Jerry Loux, Richard Montgomery Cluster
5.    Kevin Byrne, Rockville Cluster
6.    Gigi Godwin, Wootton Cluster
7.    Sharon Strauss and Simon Steinhardt, Bethesda-Chevy Chase Cluster
8.    Shelley Miller, Walter Johnson Cluster
9.    Nick Farson, Wheaton Cluster
10.   Lafe Solomon, Whitman Cluster
11.   Sandy Walker and Robin Weaver, ESAA
12.   Janice Mostow, MCAASP
13.   Karen Rabin, SSAA
14.   Stephen Poor, President, MCCSSE
15.   Latoya Peterson, Commission on Children and Youth
16.   Elizabeth Roth, Superintendent's Special Education Advisory Committee
17.   Michele Fain, Gifted Learning Disabled Educational Network, Inc.
18.   Lisa Rager
19.   Joan Karasik, The ARC of MC
20.   Ricki Sabia, Parents of Children with Downs Syndrome (PODS)
21.   Mary Ann Dawedeit

22. Lauri Rodich
23. Patrica Morgan
24. Kevin Morgan
25. Gene Kijowski & Ed Trumbull, MC Chamber Workforce Corporation
26. Denise Fredericks
27. Charles Haughey
28. Wai-Yee Chan, Organization of Chinese Americans
29. Dr. Yan Yan, Hope Chinese School
30. Beth Wong

The Board members made the following comments or asked the following questions:

1. Regarding the testimony of the Churchill Cluster, Ms. Signer referred to the issue of PTAs supplementing materials for the reading initiative. She asked for the amount in budget this year, the increase over last year, and how those funds are allocated among schools.
2. Regarding the William and Mary Language/Arts Program, Ms. Signer asked if \$100,000 were sufficient funds to implement the program systemwide.
3. Regarding the Hands on Equations program, Ms. Signer wanted to know if the money in the budget was only for training and not for program materials. She asked if that were true and if schools need to take money from the textbook accounts.
4. Regarding Rockville Cluster's testimony, Mrs. Gordon asked about Matter and Energy in Science. To what extent do schools allow students to take 9<sup>th</sup> grade biology in place of that course? How widespread is this and is it available to all 9<sup>th</sup> graders at all schools?
5. In the testimony of Bethesda-Chevy Chase Cluster, Mrs. Gordon noted the issue of counselors. She asked when the last review of the roles and responsibilities of counselors was done. What additional training are counselors receiving or need to receive for them to accommodate the changing student population? She asked for the extent of conflict resolution and peer mediation programs at all the middle and high schools.
6. Mrs. Gordon asked what opportunities have been made to provide Wheaton High School with additional resources for SAT preparation for students.
7. Mrs. Gordon hoped that the Superintendent would work with Wheaton Cluster to look at the possibility of piloting an all-day kindergarten center. She knew that early childhood centers were not recommended for at least another year, but there was

merit in placing such a program in the Wheaton Cluster.

8. Mr. Abrams asked for a cost analysis of the athletic transportation issue and the economic impact of adding buses and drivers to meet the current structure.
9. Mrs. O'Neill encouraged community members to contact their legislators regarding the bill that would prohibit MCPS from charging an activity fee. There will be severe implications on athletic programs if the funds distributed to middle and high schools were eliminated.
10. Mrs. Gordon asked for information on the extent to which transportation is provided for all sports teams.
11. Mrs. O'Neill asked for information on issues related to away practices that are not at MCPS high schools. What are the cost implications and implications to replace student drivers to athletic competitions?
12. Mrs. O'Neill asked how many buses have two-way radios, and what would be the cost to install two-way radios in the remaining buses.
13. Mr. Felton wanted to know if there were alternatives, such as cell phones, and what would be the cost implications.
14. Mrs. Gordon noted that speakers had referred to changes in COMAR special education regulations. She wanted to know where MCPS was in establishing its plans and what were the budget allocations. When would the Board receive a copy for approval to send to the state?
15. Mrs. Gordon noted that there had been several speakers commenting on the standards set at the state regarding ESOL and special education. She asked if the Superintendent's Special Education Advisory Committee and the ESOL Council had been involved with the high school assessment recommendations at the local and state level?
16. Referring to Dr. Yan's testimony, Ms. Signer asked for composition of staff in the ESOL office and what efforts have been made to address the issue of more Asian-American staff.
17. Mr. Felton noted the MEL Program and other programs that help students understand disabilities. What programs exist within the system and how much is spent for those programs?

18. Mr. Burnett wanted to know the growth and number of students taking honors and advanced placement classes for the last three years, the growth for gifted and talented at the elementary level, and compare that to the increased number of students that move into the programs at the middle and high school level. Is MCPS opening or expanding those programs to accommodate the growing number of students?

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 p.m.

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PRESIDENT

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SECRETARY

JDW:gr