The Board of Education of Montgomery County met in special session at the Carver Educational Services Center, Rockville, Maryland, on Thursday, February 1, 2001, at 7:40 p.m.

ROLL CALL Present: Mrs. Nancy J. King, President in the Chair
Mr. Stephen Abrams
Mr. Kermit V. Burnett
Ms. Sharon W. Cox
Mr. Reginald M. Felton
Mr. Walter N. Lange
Mrs. Patricia B. O’Neill
Mr. Christopher Lloyd, Student Board Member
Dr. Jerry Weast, Secretary/Treasurer

Absent: None

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

RESOLUTION NO. 39-01 Re: APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

Resolved, That the Board of Education approve its agenda for February 1, 2001.

RESOLUTION NO. 40-01 Re: AMENDMENT TO THE PROPOSED FY 2002 OPERATING BUDGET

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

Resolved, That on the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools the FY 2002 Operating Budget be amended as follows:

Add $618,612 – diesel fuel for student transportation
Add $147,183 – media assistant reclassification

Re: ADOPTION OF PROPOSED FY 2002 OPERATING BUDGET

On recommendation of the Superintendent and on motion of Mr. Abrams seconded by Mr. Felton, the following resolution was placed on the table:
Resolved, That the Board of Education adopt the amended Recommended FY 2002 Operating Budget of $1,296,020,652, including grants and enterprise funds.

Re: DISCUSSION

Mr. Lange stated that he would like to provide amendments, but the superintendent had clearly identified a budget that is supported by the community. Based on the times that the county is facing, he would not recommend any amendments.

RESOLUTION NO. 41-01 Re: AMENDMENT TO THE PROPOSED FY 2002 OPERATING BUDGET

On motion of Mr. Abrams and seconded by Mrs. O’Neill, the following amendment was adopted with Mr. Abrams, Mr. Burnett, Ms. Cox, Mrs. King, Mr. Lange, (Mr. Lloyd), and Mrs. O’Neill voting in the affirmative; Mr. Felton voting in the negative:

Resolved, That the Board of Education amend the Proposed FY 2002 Operating Budget by adding $48,904 for the creation of an upcounty French Immersion program.

Re: DISCUSSION

Mrs. O’Neill said there were many things she would like to add to the operating budget, but there was strong support in the community for the budget. There will be a uphill struggle to get the budget funded through the County Council. Since she wanted to support the budget and be cautious, she would not offer any amendments.

Mr. Burnett agreed with Mrs. O’Neill, and he was cautious about adding items to this budget. He supported the budget as it was drafted.

Ms. Cox asked if there was sufficient money in the budget for Montgomery Blair High School to re-enroll the ninth and tenth graders. Mr. Bowers replied that funds had been added to last year’s budget and could be reallocated for this purpose. Ms. Cox had no amendments.

Re: AMENDMENT TO THE PROPOSED FY 2002 OPERATING BUDGET

On motion of Mr. Felton and seconded by Mr. Lloyd, the following amendment was placed on the table:

Resolved, That the Board of Education amend the Proposed FY 2002 Operating Budget by adding $120,290 to fund the fourth day of Outdoor Education.
Mr. Felton introduced the amendment because he was concerned about the inequity of the three- and four-day outdoor education programs.

Mrs. O’Neill was concerned about the equity issue, but she believed the school system could not afford the full four-day program in all schools. She would like to see a plan for equitable implementation of the program using existing funds.

Mr. Abrams would not support the amendment; however, he would like to see an alternate approach to solve the equity issue. He would like staff to explore a fee-supported alternative that would expand the program.

Mr. Lloyd noted that there was overwhelming support for outdoor education from the community. It would give them a sense of input if the Board passed this resolution.

Mr. Lange supported the amendment because of the powerful testimony from the community and the equity of a four-day program.

Mr. Burnett supported the amendment based on the equity issue.

Ms. Cox supported the amendment for the same reasons, and she would like staff to explore innovative ways of achieving equity, if the funding was not obtained.

Mrs. King would not support the amendment because it will be difficult to defend a budget that is already over the spending affordability guidelines. Most principals would like the extra time, but students can accomplish the objectives in three days.

RESOLUTION NO. 42-01 Re: AMENDMENT TO THE PROPOSED FY 2002 OPERATING BUDGET

On motion of Mr. Felton and seconded by Mr. Lloyd, the following amendment was adopted with Mr. Burnett, Ms. Cox, Mr. Felton, Mr. Lange, and (Mr. Lloyd) voting in the affirmative; Mr. Abrams, Mrs. King, and Mrs. O’Neill voting in the negative:

Resolved, That the Board of Education amend the Proposed FY 2002 Operating Budget by adding $120,290 to add the fourth day of Outdoor Education.

Mrs. King asked for clarification on the planning process for an upcounty International Baccalaureate (IB) program. Dr. Spatz stated that the money was in the budget for the IB initiative and it included the Middle Years IB program, planning for the elementary IB program, and an upcounty IB program.
Mr. Abrams asked about the Poolesville High School request for the Global Ecology program. Dr. Spatz said funds were available for special programs.

RESOLUTION NO. 43-01  Re:  ADOPTION OF PROPOSED FY 2002 OPERATING BUDGET

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

Resolved, That the Board of Education adopt the amended Recommended FY 2002 Operating Budget of $1,296,189,846, including grants and enterprise funds.

RESOLUTION NO. 44-01  Re:  CLOSED SESSION

On recommendation of the Superintendent and on motion of Mrs. O'Neill seconded by Mr. Burnett, 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 a closed session on February 1, 2001, in Room 120 from 8:05 to 9:00 p.m. to discuss matters that relate to collective bargaining negotiations, as permitted under Section 10-508(a)(9) of the State Government Article and Section 4-107(d) of the Education Article; and be it further

Resolved, That this meeting continue in closed session until the completion of business.

RESOLUTION NO. 45-01  Re:  ADJOURNMENT

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

Resolved, That the Board of Education adjourn its meeting of February 1, 2001, at 8:00 p.m.