

APPROVED
22-2001

Rockville, Maryland
July 18, 2001

The Board of Education of Montgomery County met in special session at the Carver Educational Services Center, Rockville, Maryland, on Wednesday, July 18, 2001, at 7:35 p.m.

ROLL CALL Present: Mrs. Nancy J. King, President
 in the Chair
 Mr. Stephen Abrams
 Mr. Kermit V. Burnett
 Ms. Sharon Cox
 Mr. Walter Lange
 Mrs. Patricia B. O'Neill
 Mr. Dustin Jeter, Student Board Member
 Dr. Jerry Weast, Secretary/Treasurer

Absent: Mr. Reginald M. Felton

Re: **PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER SUSPENDING THE
POLICY ON NAMING SCHOOLS AND NAMING QUINCE
ORCHARD MIDDLE SCHOOL #2**

The following people testified before the Board of Education:

1. Sidney Katz, Mayor of Gaithersburg
2. Alan Schwartz, MCCPTA Area Coordinator
3. Ben Fisher, Quince Orchard Cluster
4. Patty Rapp, Northwest Cluster
5. JoAnn Schimke, West Riding Civic Association

Board of Education members asked the following questions:

Mr. Abrams asked why the City of Gaithersburg was putting forward the name for the school. Mr. Katz replied that it was so that the land being sold to the school system would not lose the area name.

Mr. Abrams noted that the boundaries for the new middle school had not been ascertained. Was it safe to say that all the schools that would be included within the boundaries are in the Quince Orchard Cluster, and, if not, who else should have input into the process? Mrs. O'Neill stated that it would be the Northwest and Quince Orchard clusters. Mr. Abrams remarked that those two clusters were represented at this hearing.

Mr. Abrams observed that the Northwest Cluster's testimony asked the Board to wait on naming the school while others testified that there was no objection in proceeding to name the school now.

Also, Mr. Abrams pointed out that there had been assertions that the Board had been breaking the law or not following the process and equating that with law. He did not want to leave that impression, particularly when it was not accurate. Regardless of the outcome of the process, the process was legal and did not violate any law. Similar allegations were made by special education parents when the Special Education Staffing Formula was adopted by the Board, and that plan has since been endorsed orally by the state. He would caution anyone on how they use the representation of illegality because it leaves a belief that is hard to repudiate. Mr. Schwartz responded that he had never alleged that the Board did anything illegal; however, he did allege that the Board did not follow its policy which states that every effort should be made to respect the preference of the community in naming a school.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY

JDW:gr