The Board of Education of Montgomery County met in special session at the Carver Educational Services Center, Rockville, Maryland, on Wednesday, November 13, 2002, at 7:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present:
Mr. Reginald M. Felton, President in the Chair
Mr. Kermit V. Burnett
Ms. Sharon Cox
Mrs. Nancy J. King
Mr. Walter Lange
Mrs. Patricia B. O’Neill
Dr. Charles Haughey, Board Member-Elect
Mr. Gabe Romero, Board Member-Elect
Mr. Larry Bowers, Acting Secretary/Treasurer

Absent:
Mr. Stephen Abrams
Mr. Mihyar Alnifaidy, Student Board Member

Re: PUBLIC HEARING ON THE CAPITAL BUDGET AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM

The following people testified before the Board of Education:

1. Mayor Larry Giammo, City of Rockville
2. Mayor Sidney Katz, City of Gaithersburg
3. Tyler Allard, SGA, Richard Montgomery High School
4. Lon Hamann, Montgomery Village Foundation
5. Peter DeMeo, King Farm Civic Association
6. Liz Brennan, Parkwood Residents Association
7. Margaret Ritsch, Action in Montgomery
8. Michelle Yu, President, MCCPTA
9. Sally Taber, Montgomery Blair Cluster
10. Gail Melson, Einstein Cluster
11. Mark Rother, Kennedy Cluster
12. Teresa Taylor, Wheaton Cluster
13. Janis Sartucci, Churchill Cluster
15. Pattie Sten and Lydia Taghavi, Rockville Cluster
16. Rosanne Hurwitz, Wootton Cluster
17. Nancy Van Meter, Bethesda-Chevy Chase Cluster
18. Pamela Moomau, Walter Johnson Cluster
19. Ellen Berick, Whitman Cluster
20. Randy Gibson

The Board of Education asked the following questions

1. Mrs. O’Neill requested information about how the King Farm area was assigned school boundaries, and when and why that area is split between the Gaithersburg and Richard Montgomery clusters.

2. Mrs. O’Neill asked for the actual number of students currently from King Farm at each level, and what the projected enrollment is for the next six years.

3. Mrs. O’Neill requested information on the impact if King Farm were assigned entirely to Richard Montgomery or Gaithersburg.

4. Mrs. O’Neill noted that there is a proposed development near the Shady Grove Metro Station that would yield 4,500 dwelling units. Is that area currently split between three different clusters? What would be the projected student yield? Would there be a need for additional schools? What is the timeline, and what would be the impact at each level if that area were combined with the King Farm area?

5. Mr. Felton wanted information on the timeline, costs and impact of a comprehensive boundary review. That study should include Park and Planning and all municipalities that have planning and zoning authority.

6. Ms. Cox noted in the capital budget that overcrowding at Richard Montgomery will be handled with portable classrooms, as needed. Does that answer the request for five additional portables? Is the eight-period day recommendation a solution to facility overcrowding or is it an academic proposal?

7. Mr. Lange asked staff to provide information on the build-out of the Georgetown Prep property and other developments mentioned in Ms. Brennan’s testimony.

8. Mrs. O’Neill asked how many schools have four or more portables and are not included in the six-year capital budget plan.

9. Ms. Cox noted that there is funding for the Northwood renovation. What is included in the plan? What is the design of the facility to meet program needs and make the facility comparable to other high schools? Mr. Burnett asked that the information be done by year to show what will be done in each phase of the facility renovation.

10. Mr. Felton wanted clarification on the traffic circulation at Northwood.

11. Mr. Felton asked for options that are available for parking at Albert Einstein High School and Newport Mill Middle School.
12. Mr. Felton asked how staff computes multi-family or multi-occupancy in single-family housing in the projections.

13. Ms. Cox asked if the requested $950,000 will cover the fire code violations referenced in the testimony from the Richard Montgomery Cluster. Mr. Burnett wanted a schedule for those fire code corrections.

14. Mr. Felton requested that the Department of Communications write a release in lay language that addresses the MCPS facilities issue, including the issue of high bond rating, low interest rates, and construction costs.

15. Ms Cox wanted information on the municipalities’ role, if any, in funding. What is the influence of those tax dollars and does it affect the distribution of funds through the County Council and to schools?

16. Mr. Lange asked for an estimate on the cost and time to complete the F.A.C.T. assessment for all schools that have not been done.

17. Ms. Cox wanted a summary of the considerations reviewed by staff when making recommendations for additions in regard to enrollment, facility program delivery, and students served.

18. Mr. Romero requested the construction costs (square foot) for schools for the last three years and a brief description of the work that was done.

19. Regarding Mr. Gibson’s testimony (East Silver Spring – Takoma Park – Piney Branch), Mr. Felton requested feedback on what would be involved in a study and what would be the impact.

20. Dr. Haughey thought that further discussions should identify facility deficits and whether or not those deficits have an impact on the performance of students.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

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PRESIDENT

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SECRETARY