

APPROVED  
4-2002

Rockville, Maryland  
January 16, 2002

The Board of Education of Montgomery County met in special session at the Carver Educational Services Center, Rockville, Maryland, on Wednesday, January 16, 2002, at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL Present:                   Mrs. Patricia B. O'Neill, Vice President  
  in the Chair  
  Mr. Stephen Abrams  
  Ms. Sharon Cox  
  Mrs. Nancy J. King  
  Mr. Walter Lange  
  Dr. Jerry Weast, Secretary/Treasurer

Absent:                   Mr. Kermit V. Burnett  
  Mr. Reginald M. Felton  
  Mr. Dustin Jeter, Student Board Member

**Re:   FY 2003 OPERATING BUDGET HEARING**

The following people testified before the Board of Education:

1.     Nguyen Minh Chau, Councilmember, Town of Garrett Park
2.     Christopher Ziobro, Commission for Children and Youth
3.     Laura Siegel, Churchill Cluster
4.     Gene Thirolf, Richard Montgomery Cluster
5.     Lydia Taghavi, Rockville Cluster
6.     Gigi Godwin, Wootton Cluster
7.     Monica Hayes, Bethesda-Chevy Chase Cluster
8.     Shelley Miller, Walter Johnson Cluster
9.     Andrea Gates, Wheaton Cluster
10.    Shirley Brandman, Whitman Cluster
11.    Joan Sabaka, MCNEEDS
12.    Kay Romero, Parents and Advocates of Special Students (PASS)
13.    Claire Turner and Sara Oler, Montgomery County Speech and Language Division
14.    Jerry Heupel, Stephen Knolls
15.    Kevin Schuyler
16.    Ricki Sabia, Continuance Improvement Team
17.    Kim Khan
18.    Bob Astrove
19.    Diane McHale

20. Larry Froehlich, Action in Montgomery (AIM)
21. Jim Simpson
22. Jill Lyons
23. Deborah Shulman
24. Reda Sheinberg
25. Jay Larson
26. Lori Collins, Learning Disabilities Association of Montgomery County
27. Mary Allman
28. Chi-Kuang Wen, Asian American Parents Advocacy Council
29. Guan Hsu
30. Edward Siguel
31. Tammy O'Rourke, Hearts and Homes for Youth
32. Jim Holmes, Children's Hospital

The Board of Education asked the following questions:

33. Mr. Abrams asked staff to quantify the implementation of the middle years in 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grades with a specific listing of the costs.
34. Ms. Cox requested information on how the goals of the long-range plans at Bells Mill and Seven Locks elementary schools will be addressed without school performance support teams staff.
35. Regarding global technology and the implications of the county executive's capital budget, how does that relate back to the concerns in the operating budget testimony. Are there other areas that will require greater impact in the operating budget as a result?
36. Regarding the testimony of the Whitman Cluster, Ms. Cox asked for information about volunteers installing software, including the guidelines and practices. Are there suggestions for improvements, especially in supporting student service learning hours?
37. Ms. Cox asked for information on the effect on user support by the reduction of the position in the Division of Field Operations.
38. Regarding user support, Mr. Abrams requested information on what the University of Maryland's system does in terms of their user support complex, technology applications, and instruction use. What is the role of user support in corporate American. Is it increasing or decreasing?
39. Mr. Lange requested information about the additional staffing that is provided for on-site modernizations.

40. Mrs. King asked what kind of special education training regular teachers receive.
41. Regarding Ms. McHales' testimony, Mr. Abrams asked for implications on the budget for her request.
42. Ms. Cox requested information from the Office of Instruction and Program Development on the identification and possibility of implementing a reading program that could teach both general education and dyslexic students.
43. Ms. Cox asked for a copy of the special education staffing committee's recommendations and the staff's response to those recommendations.
44. Ms. Cox wanted from the Office of Staff Development how they will address evaluating the effectiveness of training that is provided (not a budget question).
45. Regarding staff development, Mr. Lange requested clarification of the training in place today and plans for the future to meet the awareness of staff for needs of special education and ESOL students.
46. Mrs. O'Neill asked staff to provide the cost to lowering the speech therapy ratio to 50 to 1, and what the cost would be for the ratio at 40 to 1. Mr. Abrams wanted to know where those funds would be taken from in the budget.
47. Ms. Cox asked for information regarding other potential sources of social worker services. There is the Community Kids Initiative of the Collaboration Council. She wanted the big picture in terms of where the county is in providing service.
48. Mr. Lange wanted statistics on the frequency of reassignment of special education students for appropriate placement.
49. Mr. Lange requested information on the costs of the deployment of the Baldrige Quality in Education program cited in Mr. Simpson's testimony.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY

JDW:gr