

APPROVED
22-2003

Rockville, Maryland
June 10, 2003

The Board of Education of Montgomery County met in special session at the Carver Educational Services Center, Rockville, Maryland, on June 10, 2003, at 7:15 p.m.

ROLL CALL Present: Mrs. Patricia B. O'Neill, President
 in the Chair
 Mr. Kermit V. Burnett
 Ms. Sharon Cox
 Mr. Reginald M. Felton
 Dr. Charles Haughey
 Mr. Walter Lange
 Mr. Gabe Romero
 Mr. Larry Bowers, Acting Secretary/Treasurer

Absent: Mr. Mihyar Alnifaidy, Student Board Member
 Dr. Jerry Weast

Re: **DOWNCOUNTY CONSORTIUM HEARING**

The following people testified before the Board of Education:

1. Area Vice President: Heidi Coleman
2. Blair Cluster: Sally Taber, Betsy Scroggs, Ole Varmer, Enrique Santos, Jonathan Shurberg and Pete Lafan
3. Einstein Cluster: Barbara Shulman, Alies Muskin, Miriam Ragen, Gail Melson, Andres Mejia, Patrice English and Kelly Giblin
4. Kennedy Cluster: Larry Eiser and Bobby Rencher
5. Northwood: Will Rabinovich and Patrick Herendeen
6. Wheaton Cluster: Nick Farson
7. Cynthia Erville
8. Mike Sauter
9. Andrew Kleine, Indian Spring Citizens Association
10. Camille Huang
11. Joanne Vanderhorst
12. Jervell Vanderhorst
13. Andrew Luck
14. Jim Johnson, Long Branch Neighborhood Initiative
15. Christopher Foreman
16. Chris Barclay
17. Michael Bruch
18. Sean Kirkendall
19. Beverly Dennis

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

1. Mr. Felton asked for clarification on the reference in the Blair Cluster's testimony to an informal agreement about access for middle school students to automatically make them part of the first round for the CAP. Mr. Santos explained that his family was out of the cluster and his daughter was accepted into the program at Eastern Middle School. As part of the presentation, it was made clear that this was not a three-year program, but a six-year program. There were no guarantees for continuation into high school, but the notion was that students who succeed and demonstrate their ability in the middle school humanities' program does, in fact, have a high chance of proceeding into the CAP at Blair.
2. Mr. Burnett wanted information from staff on when parents will receive information on the consortium.
3. Mr. Burnett noted the \$16 million set aside for the renovation of the Northwood facility. Based on the changes needed, he asked if that was the right amount of funding. Mr. Lavorgna replied that there is \$16.5 million in the CIP. There are additional items that have been identified that should be bid as alternates and can be evaluated at the time the bids are prepared and the contract awarded or if a supplemental will be needed.
4. Ms. Cox requested information on the timeline for staffing at Northwood with coordinator and academy programs, and what the timeline is for hiring a full staff complement. Ms. Giblin had mentioned that not just administrative staff, but actual classroom teachers need to be hired. Ms. Cox stated that staffing is done countywide through an allocation process, and she wondered if there was something else Ms. Giblin was referring to. Ms. Giblin stated that she was not referring to the numbers of staff, but that Mr. Johnson would be allowed the opportunity to begin thinking about staffing and what the actual programs would be in order to facilitate hiring staff.
5. Mr. Romero was unclear about the charts presented by Betsy Scroggs. Ms. Scroggs stated that she would provide him with clarification.
6. Mr. Romero noted that Ms. Giblin testified as to the duplication of some programs in the consortium. He asked for a list of any programs that are duplicated.
7. Mrs. O'Neill noted that there was a reference to a pre-IB program under development in a middle school. Is it under development or consideration? Mr. Gibson replied that two principals are reviewing the program.

8. Mrs. O'Neill requested that staff reissue the admission process to CAP providing the number of students from the eighth and ninth grade classes who had applied out of the cluster and how many were accepted.
9. Dr. Haughey referred to the distance from school to school, and he wanted data on the two examples given in testimony – perhaps the distance from high school to high school in the consortium.
10. Dr. Haughey asked for information on the demographic and geographic impact on Kennedy.
11. Dr. Haughey wanted staff's views on the projected Georgia Avenue growth and the impact on the communities that were referenced in the testimony about high density dwellings.
12. Mr. Romero said the testimony stated that there were assurances that the LTI would not be affected. Is that the case?
13. Mr. Romero referred to Mr. Rencher's testimony and his point that less than 50 percent of the residents in that community are attending the community's public high school. Is there verification of that statement?
14. Mr. Lange noted that there were several comments in testimony about the increase in the size of special programs in the high schools. He asked for a table to be developed that would list each high school with the special programs, current size of the programs, what is perceived to be an ideal maximum size for educational benefit, and what the projections are as these programs increase to accommodate all comers.
15. Mr. Lange asked for information on the recruitment and staffing for Northwood for the core program coordinators and when recruitment is expected for the rest of the staff.
16. Mr. Felton remarked about the testimony on Northwood staffing and their desire to provide higher level math courses. Is that part of the plan? If not, what are the options the Board should consider to assure that ability exists?
17. Mr. Felton asked about the Long Branch Revitalization Task Force. Where there specific recommendations from that task force that would have been or are inconsistent with the superintendent's recommendations?
18. Ms. Cox asked Mr. Sauter about the alignment of Thomas Edison High School of Technology programs with all the signature programs in the consortium and about

Edison remaining a countywide school. Mr. Sauter replied that Edison wants to serve the consortium while maintaining services to the rest of the county.

19. Ms. Cox asked for information on how Edison will be included in advertisements for the consortium schools.
20. Ms. Cox asked about the demographic piece on FARMs for the high schools after the recommended change. She thought it was not a reflection of the students who were actually in the high school, but those students in the identified base area. At Montgomery Blair, the magnet brings in children from outside the base area and with choice, the FARMs rate in the background information would not be the FARMs rate of the high school. Mr. Lavorgna replied that data developed for the base area committee excluded magnet students from the elementary service areas that made up the high school base area.
21. Mr. Lange asked for a report on the state of repairs at Silver Spring International Middle School. Mr. Bruch identified a number of concerns.
22. Dr. Haughey thought there are educational impediments when a school is in poor repair.
23. Dr. Haughey asked if students were involved in the development of the base areas and how their views affected decisions.
24. Dr. Haughey asked to what extent the school system involved neighborhood associations in developing the premises on which the study was based.
25. Mrs. O'Neill asked what the roll out was in terms of communicating to middle school students the options of choice.
26. Mrs. O'Neill noted that there has been choice in the Northeast Consortium and asked what the experience has been in students receiving their first or second choice. Could the children in the Indian Spring area attend Blair through choice? Mr. Lang stated that 93 percent of students receive their first choice.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY

JDW:gr