

APPROVED
3-2006

Rockville, Maryland
January 19, 2006

The Board of Education of Montgomery County met in special session at the Carver Educational Services Center, Rockville, Maryland, on Thursday, January 19, 2006, at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Dr. Charles Haughey, President
 in the Chair
 Mr. Steve Abrams
 Ms. Sharon W. Cox
 Ms. Valerie Ervin
 Mrs. Nancy Navarro
 Mrs. Patricia O'Neill
 Mr. Gabriel Romero
 Dr. Jerry Weast, Secretary/Treasurer

Absent: Mr. Sebastian Johnson, Student Board Member

Re: FY 2007 OPERATING BUDGET HEARING

The following people testified before the Board of Education:

1. Doug Prouty – Montgomery County Education Association
2. Dan Shea – Montgomery County Association of Administrative
 and Supervisory Personnel
3. Merle Cuttitta – SEIU Local 500
4. Mark Adelman – Montgomery County Civic Federation
5. Bob Monsheimer – Montgomery County Taxpayers League
6. Deborah DeMille-Wagman – Whitman Cluster
7. Oam Moomau – Walter Johnson Cluster
8. Deborah Missal – Bethesda-Chevy Chase Cluster
9. Deanne Marino – Wheaton Cluster
10. Pam Megna – Northwood Cluster
11. Ricky Ford – Kennedy Cluster
12. Kelly Gilbin – Einstein Cluster
13. Peter Lafen – Blair Cluster
14. Juan Johnson – Seneca Valley Cluster
15. Jim Keenan – Quince Orchard Cluster
16. John Leach – Poolesville Cluster
17. Lauren Haven – Northwest Cluster
18. Adam Susser – Commission on Children and Youth
19. Mary Jane Stufft – Montgomery County Art Educators Association
20. Leslie Brents – Special Education Advisory Committee

21. Jerry Heupel
22. Lyda Astrove – Mcneeds
23. Liz Roth – Montgomery County American Society for Autism
24. Joan Karasik – Transition Work Group
25. Julie Lees – Gifted and Talented Association
26. Haydee De Paula – The Arc of Montgomery County Education Committee
27. Jay Larson
28. Sara Pullen – SHARP Suspension Programs
29. Terry Seamens – Community Action Board
30. Walt Sonnevillle – Sierra Club of Montgomery County
31. Hans Riemer
32. Matt Oppenheim
33. Douglas Meinecke
34. David Lechner
35. Barbara Pape – Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic
36. Ross Capon
37. Peter Calhoun
38. Evie Frankl – Montgomery County Education Forum

The Board of Education asked the following questions:

1. Ms. Ervin asked about literacy in high schools and how the \$2.6 million will be used to address literacy.
2. Mrs. O'Neill commented on Mr. Monsheimer's testimony on the financial information system and reiterated that the system is critical to the operation of MCPS.
3. Mr. Romero inquired about class-size reduction and a comparison with other counties mentioned in MCEA's testimony, and he asked for the ratio for those counties. What is the average class size in high schools?
4. Mr. Romero noted that Mr. Monsheimer commented on projections for enrollment. What happened to the funds received that were not expended based on under enrollment?
5. Mr. Abrams asked staff to provide a comparison of Board office staffing with other counties in Maryland, District of Columbia, and Fairfax.
6. Mrs. Navarro requested the cost to meet the staffing goal of one guidance counselor for 250 students as suggested by the Whitman Cluster.
7. Mrs. Navarro asked for information on the Translation Unit with school-based services for students with English as a second language mentioned in the testimony of the Walter Johnson Cluster.

8. Mr. Romero noted the Walter Johnson Cluster's testimony on the Division of Maintenance. He asked for a brief description of the functions of the Renovation Unit's functions and what the rationale is for disposing of the positions at this time.
9. Ms. Cox noted that in the Walter Johnson Cluster's testimony the budget is below the Spending Affordability Guidelines (SAG). Since there have been some changes, she asked for the current status of the budget and SAG.
10. Mrs. O'Neill asked for the cost of reducing the ratio of one guidance counselor to 250 students. What is the ratio at the high schools?
11. Ms. Cox asked if there is a statistical difference in the rate of persistent vacancies between the Downcounty Consortium (DCC) schools and all other MCPS schools.
12. Regarding translation services and parent/community outreach, Mrs. O'Neill asked for the efficiencies/cost of translating materials based on the needs of the school, and if there are bilingual staff members within the building, especially for the DCC. How is the availability of bilingual staff communicated? How does MCPS recruit bilingual staff?
13. Mr. Romero asked for the cost of adding 30 seats to the middle school magnet in the DCC or what the cost of a seat is in those programs.
14. Mr. Romero asked for the cost of a full-time parent/community coordinator or someone identified in a school to implement those duties.
15. Mr. Romero asked what the challenges are in hiring highly qualified and certified teachers.
16. Regarding the Wheaton Cluster's testimony, Ms. Ervin asked what the current expansion for the gifted and talented program looked like, and who it is reaching. How has it been expanded and to which schools?
17. Regarding the testimony of the Northwood Cluster, Ms. Ervin thought MCPS needs to expend more funds to reach non-English speaking students and their parents.
18. Mr. Romero asked for the cost of Conquista Tus Sueños at the high school level. What is the support from MCPS staff? What is the capacity required of a school to expand the program?
19. Mrs. O'Neill asked for the job description of a pupil personnel worker (PPW).
20. Ms. Ervin asked for the cost of each PPW.

21. Ms. Cox requested information about high schools with the similar demographic profiles that are performing better with the same level of resources.
22. Dr. Haughey asked for information on staffing for full-inclusion model noted in the testimony of the Northwood Cluster. What changes are being implemented?
23. Dr. Haughey asked for the definition of “magnet.”
24. Dr. Haughey wanted to know how many teachers are being produced by MCPS partnerships.
25. Mrs. Navarro wanted feedback regarding the issue of pedestrian safety from the Quince Orchard Cluster’s testimony.
26. Mr. Romero wanted a more systemic look at pedestrian safety.
27. Mr. Romero asked if the staffing levels at Poolesville will be maintained.
28. Ms. Ervin asked for a description of the three units in the Department of Shared Accountability, and the ability to assess and evaluate all programs.
29. Dr. Haughey noted that testimony indicated there was \$5 million surplus in special education, and he wanted a report to the Board.
30. Dr. Haughey wanted to know the cost implications and feasibility of adding special education paraeducator internships.
31. Ms. Cox asked for an update on the current status of the Grafton closing.
32. Ms. Cox requested a response to the survey done by the Art Educators Association on the effect of all-day kindergarten and reduced class-size initiatives on class time and sizes in arts education in the elementary school. With the staff addition, what is the impact on addressing oversized classes?
33. Ms. Ervin asked about the \$500,000 for special education that the state provides, referred to in Ms. Astrove’s testimony.
34. Ms. Navarro wanted to know what agency funds the SHARP Suspension Program.
35. Mr. Romero wanted information on the performance measures and data points for the hours-based model for special education. How is the pilot progressing?

36. Regarding Mr. Susser's testimony, Mr. Romero asked for the enrollment projection for the METS program. Is there an increase in the budget?

The meeting adjourned at 10:35 p.m.

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY

JDW:gr