

APPROVED  
12-2006

Rockville, Maryland  
May 1, 2006

The Board of Education of Montgomery County met in special session at the Carver Educational Services Center, Rockville, Maryland, on May 1, 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  
                              Mr. Larry Bowers, Acting Secretary/Treasurer

Absent:                Mr. Sebastian Johnson

Re:    **PUBLIC HEARING ON THE SEVEN LOCKS  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL RECOMMENDATION**

The following people testified before the Board of Education:

1.     Richard Rosenthal – Bells Mill Elementary School PTA
2.     Janette Gilman – Beverly Farms Elementary School PTA
3.     Bert Klein – Potomac Elementary School PTA
4.     Allie Giles – Seven Locks Elementary School PTA
5.     Joy Stein – Wayside Elementary School PTA
6.     Janis Sartucci
7.     Sandy Max
8.     Linda Ackerman
9.     Julie Karner
10.    Laurie Halverson
11.    Cyril Draffin
12.    Yolanda Faerber
13.    Merry Eisner
14.    Ralph Miller
15.    Cindy Gibson
16.    Laura Siegel
17.    Karen Schupak
18.    Lisa Bleier
19.    Caroline Satchell
20.    Mark Adelman
21.    Bing Cai
22.    Scott Langerman
23.    David Tiktinsky

24. Neil McMullen
25. Laura Tyson
26. Patricia Powell
27. Tim Burch
28. Dionne Fine
29. Sandy Vogelgesang
30. Karen Williams
31. Geoffrey Wolfe
32. Carl Koenig
33. Wayne Goldstein
34. Christine Berg
35. Lisa Caplan
36. Greer Dellafiora
37. Eve Shiff
38. Kim Abod
39. Suzanne Weiss
40. Heidi Dubin
41. Marsha Baris
42. Barbara Needle
43. Jeffrey Williams
44. Diana Conway
45. Susan Cantilli
46. Frances Maane
47. Liza Durant
48. Laura Kervitsky
49. Nancy Fitzgerald
50. Jeff Leventhal
51. Tamyla Abraham
52. Katherine Lunceford
53. Sheri Heller
54. Nicholas Margas
55. Elizabeth Peacock
56. Ari Storch
57. Eric Hyman
58. Allen Harrington
59. Michael Oblon
60. Gregory Scott Rogers
61. Ellen Duncan
62. Roland Rust
63. Carl Gunther
64. Tom Brinkman

Board members asked the following questions:

1. Mr. Abrams noted that all five PTAs were opposed to the option of four 740-core elementary schools in the Churchill Cluster. Since the testimony centered on the lack of options, he asked the PTA presidents if they wanted to offer any options.
2. Ms. Cox asked about an opinion from the Attorney General. Mr. Bowers responded that a letter had been sent requesting the extent of the Inspector General's authority, such as financial audit.
3. Mrs. O'Neill pointed out that there were 719 portables throughout the school system. Over the summer, two portables will be replaced at Bells Mill Elementary School. She asked if there were other portables that are in the same condition within the county.
4. In testimony from the community that the work group was to look at overcrowding in the cluster, Mr. Romero noted that the community thought there were not enough options for Bells Mill. Mr. Hawes commented that the options were publicized and discussed at the County Council. There was no specific direction to look at overcrowding at Bell Mills, but overcrowding throughout the cluster.
5. Ms. Cox knew that the Council met and gave direction to the work group. She inquired about whether or not the Board of Education had met and gave direction to the work group for options in the Churchill Cluster. Mr. Hawes replied that the Board had no input.
6. Mrs. Navarro remarked that the work group had MCPS representatives. Was there a discussion to improve the situation at Bells Mill Elementary School? Staff replied that options looked at overcrowding in the cluster, and Bells Mill is scheduled for modernization in the Capital Improvements Program.
7. Mr. Romero inquired about the architectural fees and cost estimates. Mr. Hawes explained that the costs were covered in all options.
8. Mr. Romero observed that the site improvements for the Seven Locks facility included the demolition of the building, lead abatement, removal of debris, and compliance with stormwater management. All of these elements do not exist at the Kendale site.
9. Mrs. O'Neill pointed out that civic associations have held different positions on this issue at different times.
10. Based on testimony, Mr. Romero observed that Option 2A is more costly than another using unity costs. Mr. Hawes explained that a major reason unit costs are higher is because that option had to be built on a truncated schedule. The estimates were based on builders' quotes based on that schedule.

11. Mr. Romero noted that the plans to build on the Seven Locks site would have to be adapted and new building permits would need to be obtained especially with the road improvements (state and local) to the site.
12. Mrs. O'Neill wanted to know whether or not there was an option that accelerated the Bells Mill modernization. Mr. Hawes responded that the work group did not look at accelerating that project. There is no nexus in building the Seven Locks replacement facility and accelerating the Bells Mill project.
13. Mrs. O'Neill reiterated that Kendale could be built and used as a holding school for Bells Mill. Would that accelerate the Bells Mill modernization? Mr. Hawes stated that the completion of the Kendale project would be summer 2007, and Bells Mill is now scheduled in the CIP for beginning in 2009 which would not affect the queue.
14. Ms. Cox requested clarification that if Bells Mill Elementary School was moved into Kendale, then the Board would have to request funding from the County Council one year earlier. Mr. Hawes stated that any change must be approved by the Council.
15. Mr. Abrams stated that there was \$18 million in the budget dedicated for Kendale. One option that did not have support was to use Kendale as a holding school for Bells Mill. If the Board were to address Bells Mill first, what are the logistics and quickest timeline? Mr. Hawes stated that Bells Mill's modernization could be accelerated by 18 months if the money was requested immediately and the Council approved the funds.
16. Mr. Abrams inquired about the portables at Bells Mill by suggesting (1) the children in the portables could go to a holding school in lieu of new portables, or (2) put the entire school in a holding school for an extended period of time. Mr. Hawes thought that staff could focus on the portables since it did not make sense to put the whole school in a holding facility.
17. Mrs. O'Neill inquired about the status of the health situation with the HVAC and portables at Potomac Elementary School. Mr. Hawes replied that the HVAC system has been inspected and there are no problems. However, two portables will be replaced at Potomac this year.
18. Ms. Ervin wanted to know if the replacement portables are new. Mr. Hawes stated that the replacement portables for Bells Mill and Potomac are new.
19. Ms. Cox asked Mr. Margas what was his definition of a mega-school, and whether or not the school system should build an elementary school with a 740 core. He replied that the schools with that capacity should not be built in the Churchill Cluster.

20. Mrs. O'Neill asked if there was anything that would lead the Wayside Elementary School community to think that its addition would be in jeopardy with Option 5B. Mr. Hawes replied that it will be programed in the CIP unless there is a change in the CIP.
21. Mrs. O'Neill reminded the audience that there would be no motions or action taken at this meeting since it was a hearing.
22. Mrs. O'Neill asked for the core capacity for Wayside, Wood Acres, and Northwest elementary schools. Mr. Hawes replied that all are planned for or have a 740 core.

The hearing concluded at 10:10 p.m.

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PRESIDENT

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SECRETARY

JDW:gr