

APPROVED  
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Rockville, Maryland  
January 16, 2008

The Board of Education of Montgomery County met in special session at the Carver Educational Services Center, Rockville, Maryland, on Wednesday, January 16, 2008, at 7:05 p.m.

Present: Mrs. Nancy Navarro, President  
in the Chair  
Mr. Steve Abrams  
Mr. Christopher Barclay  
Ms. Shirley Brandman  
Ms. Sharon Cox  
Dr. Judy Docca  
Mr. Ben Moskowitz  
Mrs. Patricia O'Neill  
Dr. Jerry Weast, Secretary/Treasurer

Absent: None

Re: **FY 2009 OPERATING BUDGET HEARING**

The following people testified before the Board of Education:

1. Stephen Sabia, student
2. Rockzana Flores, student
3. Bonnie Cullison, Montgomery County Education Association
4. Rebecca Newman, Montgomery County Association of Administrative
5. Merle Cuttitta, SEIU Local 500
6. Bob Monsheimer, Montgomery County Taxpayers League
7. Brian Roberts, NAACP Parents Council
8. Susan Young, Watkins Mill Cluster
9. Dawn Trahern, Magruder Cluster
10. Paula Robinson, Whitman Cluster
11. Leslie Cuneo, Damascus Cluster
12. Jaimie Jacobson, Clarksburg Cluster
13. Fran Simmons, Sherwood Cluster
14. Nagma Hussain, Springbrook Cluster
15. Patti Twigg, Paint Branch Cluster
16. Dawn Dolan, Blake Cluster
17. Amy Hartley, Rockville Cluster
18. Lori Merrill, Richard Montgomery Cluster
19. Laurie Halverson, Churchill Cluster
20. Rich Edelman, Wootton Cluster
21. Brehanu Bendane

22. Michael Barnet
23. Marvin Weinman
24. Diane Raynes
25. Karen Craney
26. David Holdefer
27. Joan Karasik
28. John Surr
29. Whitney Ellenby
30. Ricki Sabia
31. Liz Roth
32. Amuthan Kannan
33. Daniel Nichols
34. Jackie Suzich

The Board of Education asked the following questions:

1. Ms. Cox referred to Ms. Cullison's testimony on data magnet consortium schools that she believes proves them effective. "Those students are achieving at higher levels than they were previously." Ms. Cox asked for information on what kind of analysis has been done on the student performance results for the magnet consortium schools. The Board should be looking, not only at what those students were doing previously, but also other students who were brought into the consortium. How are those students achieving compared to the schools they came from? How are other students achieving? What is the depth of the analysis of the consortium?
2. Mr. Moskowitz noted Ms. Cullison's testimony and her referral to nine schools selected for Phase II middle school reform and given additional resources to improve instruction. She suggested that these schools should be given the choice of implementing either the magnet consortium model or the OCIP pilot school model. Mr. Moskowitz asked for elaboration and analysis on that suggestion. What is the fiscal impact would be of giving the schools a choice?
3. Ms. Brandman stated that there was a question about how MCPS does projections for anticipating how many special education students will enroll in the future. She asked for clarification. Also, she would like information on the conflicting numbers of ESOL students.
4. Mrs. Navarro asked staff to clarify and provide responses to the points raised by Mr. Monsheimer.
5. Mr. Abrams asked about the integration of athletics with academics in Mr. Roberts' testimony. He wanted information on the Quince Orchard High School's model.
6. Ms. Cox had a question based on the testimony of the Watkins Mill Cluster about the deferral of 18 promethean boards at Montgomery Village Middle School.
7. Ms. Cox asked about the cost, personnel, and related costs for the implementation of AVID training.
8. Ms. Cox referred to the testimony of the Magruder Cluster, and she asked for

- information about math teachers in elementary and middle schools and content certification. What is the number of elementary and middle school math teachers across the system that do not have degrees in the content area? What is the nature and volume of training opportunities that are available in math for teachers who want to deepen their content knowledge?
9. Mr. Abrams asked for a profile of the current IB program in Watkins Mill High School. How many students have been able to transfer into Watkins Mill and participate in that program? What kind of capacity does Watkins Mill have? Is there excess capacity currently in the program? If there is no excess capacity, what kind of resources would be necessary to increase the capacity for an additional 15 to 20 students?
  10. Mr. Abrams noted that several clusters testified in support for the continuation of adding assistant principals. The current budget has 10 and the prior recommendation was 16. What would be the cost of staying on the original schedule?
  11. Mr. Abrams asked for staff's assessment on the readiness of the teaching force to help the system achieve the new emphasis for acceleration in elementary math. What training modalities are being contemplated to make sure the system remains current, including but not limited to some distance learning approaches?
  12. Mr. Barclay asked for data on high school literacy coaches. What are the reading scores over a few years of schools with literacy coaches compared to schools without literacy coaches? What is the system using as measures of support for those literacy coaches? How is the system evaluating the success of those coaches in high schools?
  13. Ms. Brandman asked about staffing levels to support inclusion. She wanted information about how the determinations are made with the need for staffing to support greater inclusion.
  14. Mrs. O'Neill asked background information and how funds are distributed for activity buses – middle and high school. How does it operate? What is the cost for countywide activity buses?
  15. Ms. Brandman asked for clarification on TechMod and whether it includes promethean boards at the secondary level. Are Alpha Smarts considered in TechMod for schools that have either special education programs or a large number of special education students?
  16. Ms. Brandman asked about the reduction/realignment of ESOL teachers from the METS program.
  17. Mrs. O'Neill referred to Churchill Cluster's testimony which noted a 1998 report on the MCPS web that indicates there is little or no maintenance on HVAC, no cleaning of filters, no changing of filters, and no servicing. She asked staff to respond to that information.
  18. Mrs. O'Neill asked staff to clarify the testimony about crossing guards at Cabin John Middle School.
  19. Ms. Brandman asked for information on site coordinators on major construction projects. What is the cost? What considerations have been given to the feasibility

- of using site coordinators?
20. Mr. Barclay wanted for clarification on the difference between focus schools, transition schools, and Title I schools. What are the distinctions?

The meeting adjourned at 10:20 p.m.

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PRESIDENT

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SECRETARY

JDW:gr