

APPROVED  
21-2008

Rockville, Maryland  
September 22, 2008

The Board of Education of Montgomery County met at the Carver Educational Services Center, Rockville, Maryland, on June 10, 2008, at 10:15 a.m.

Present: Ms. Shirley Brandman, Vice President  
in the Chair  
Mr. Steve Abrams  
Mr. Christopher Barclay  
Ms. Sharon Cox  
Dr. Judy Docca  
Ms. Quratul-Ann Malik  
Mrs. Patricia O'Neill  
Dr. Jerry Weast, Secretary/Treasurer

Absent: Mrs. Nancy Navarro

# or ( ) indicates student vote does not count. Four votes needed for adoption.

RESOLUTION NO. 348-08 Re: **RESOLUTION FOR CLOSED SESSION**

On recommendation of the superintendent and on motion of Ms. Cox seconded by Mr. Abrams, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present:

WHEREAS, The Board of Education of Montgomery County is authorized by the *Education Article* and *State Government Article* of the *Annotated Code of Maryland* to conduct certain meetings or portions of its meetings in closed sessions; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board of Education of Montgomery County conduct a closed session on September 22, 2008, in Room 120 from 5:30 to 6:00 p.m.; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board of Education of Montgomery County receive legal advice, as permitted under Section 10-508(a)(7) of the *State Government Article*; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board of Education of Montgomery County discuss the Human Resources Appointments, as permitted under Section 10-508(a)(1) of the *State Government Article*; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board of Education of Montgomery County dedicate part of the closed session on September 22, 2008, to acquit its administrative functions and to adjudicate and review appeals, which is a quasi-judicial function outside the purview of the Open Meetings Act under Section 10-503(a) of the *State Government Article*; and be it further

Resolved, That the meeting continue in closed session until the completion of business.

Re: **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

RESOLUTION NO. 349-08 Re: **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

On recommendation of the superintendent and on motion of Mrs. O'Neill seconded by Mr. Barclay, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present:

RESOLUTION NO. 350-08 Re: **WALK TO SCHOOL DAY**

On recommendation of the superintendent and on motion of Mrs. O'Neill seconded by Mr. Barclay, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present:

WHEREAS, In 1997, the first national "Walk to School Day" was sponsored in Chicago and, in 2000, the first international "Walk to School Day" was celebrated; and

WHEREAS, East Silver Spring Elementary School was the first Montgomery County public school to sponsor a local "Walk to School Day," and

WHEREAS, Obesity, which can lead to chronic illnesses, is increasing and encouraging physical activity is one way to combat this troubling trend; and

WHEREAS, Walking to school would reduce the number of vehicles on the road, thus reducing the intake of pollutants that can be especially harmful to children; and

WHEREAS, Walking to school provides an opportunity to teach children pedestrian skills such as crossing the street at marked crossings; and

WHEREAS, Parents and community leaders again are joining together nationally and internationally to walk children to school or to the bus stop to promote traffic pollution awareness, health and physical fitness, and pedestrian safety in their community; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board of Education and superintendent of schools proclaim October 8, 2008, as "Walk to School Day"; and be it further

Resolved, That the school system notify the public and school community of "Walk to School Day," publicize this resolution and the school system's participation through internal and external media, and encourage everyone to consider the safety of pedestrians and, in particular, student walkers—every day.

RESOLUTION NO. 351-08

Re: **NATIONAL DISABILITY AWARENESS  
MONTH**

On recommendation of the superintendent and on motion of Mrs. O'Neill seconded by Mr. Abrams, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present:

WHEREAS, October is *National Disability Awareness Month* in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Montgomery County Public Schools is committed to providing all children with a high-quality, world-class education that ensures success for every student through excellence in teaching and learning; and

WHEREAS, Montgomery County Public Schools is committed to providing a climate of acceptance, respect, and high expectations that results in academic achievement and the attainment of important skills for all students, based on the principle that every child can learn and succeed; and

WHEREAS, The principals, teachers, and families of Montgomery County Public Schools have been working collaboratively to foster classroom environments that reduce barriers and embrace all students by providing an effective instructional program that incorporates inclusive practices in all schools; and

WHEREAS, Montgomery County Public Schools promotes the improved health and welfare of students with disabilities by providing professional development opportunities for educators in an effort to provide equal access for all students to rigorous academic offerings; and

WHEREAS, The educators and families of Montgomery County Public Schools deserve to celebrate and highlight their accomplishments in promoting disability awareness and reflect on how they might further promote health and well-being among persons with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, Montgomery County Public Schools, as part of *National Disability Awareness Month*, recognizes the importance of embracing global attitudes, practices, and policies that promote successful educational outcomes for students with disabilities; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Montgomery County Board of Education and the superintendent of schools declare the month of October as *National Disability Awareness Month* in Montgomery County Public Schools and encourage staff members in schools across the county to sponsor appropriate learning and community-building activities in honor of its recognition.

Re: **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

The following person testified before the Board of Education:

<u>Person</u>	<u>Topic</u>
Henry Hailstock	Grades, Suspensions, Expulsions

Mr. Barclay asked staff to verify the African American failure rate projected for the High School Assessments, as stated in Mr. Hailstock's testimony.

**Re: BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS**

Dr. Docca commented that the Board met with MCEA, and she was impressed with their collaboration with the system. On September 11, she attended Flag Day at John T. Baker Middle School, and she noted that is the only school that commemorates the day. The program is devoted to Mr. Bob Ruth, a former teacher, who was working in the Pentagon on September 11. On September 17, the Strategic Planning Forum was highlighted by promotion of some of the unique and successful programs within the schools. On September 20, Mrs. O'Neill and she attended the rededication of Parkland Middle School, and she thought it is a beautiful building with wonderful programs. Finally, she met the principal of Paint Branch High School and toured the school, which has strong academics and supportive staff.

Mr. Barclay commented on the Strategic Planning Forum, and he was pleased with the turnout and participants' impressions of MCPS.

Ms. Cox suggested that the Board of Education commemorate 9/11 on the first meeting in September. Also, she asked that a letter be sent to the Gleason family expressing condolences on the passing of the former county executive, James P. Gleason.

Mrs. O'Neill stated that she attended the AmeriCorps induction and graduation ceremonies. MCPS programs that received support from Americorps were Study Circles and College Tracks. She attended the B-CC Lazarus Leadership Program graduation with Ms. Malik, and she said she thought it was very inspiring to hear about young people who gave up their summers to do service projects in the community. Mrs. O'Neill said she was impressed by the donation of aerospace memorabilia, and she asked staff to send a letter of thanks to this gentleman for his contribution.

Dr. Weast pointed out that there is a substantial increase over the previous year in the number of MCPS students who have attained the very top scores in the PSAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. MCPS has 146 students who have qualified as National Merit Scholarship semifinalists this year—22 more than the previous year. He said he was also pleased that the semifinalists represent 15 MCPS high schools from all parts of the county. Students take the PSAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test in the fall of their junior year. The current semifinalists will go on to compete nationally for merit scholarships that will be offered in spring 2009.

Dr. Weast commented on Michael Zarchin, principal of Thomas W. Pyle Middle School, who is the winner of this year's Mark Mann Excellence and Harmony Award. The award is named in honor of Dr. Mark Mann, former principal of Parkland Junior High School, who died in 1988. MCPS gives the award annually to an administrator who has shown an exceptional ability to encourage academic excellence, positive human relations, and strong community outreach.

RESOLUTION NO. 352-08      Re:    **REVISIONS TO MINORITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISE PROCEDURES FOR STATE-FUNDED PUBLIC SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS**

On recommendation of the superintendent and on motion of Mr. Abrams seconded by Ms. Cox, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present:#

WHEREAS, The Interagency Committee on School Construction has asked local school boards to formally approve the revisions to the procedures for Minority Business Enterprise participation on state-funded projects; and

WHEREAS, Staff recommends that the revised procedures be approved and incorporated in the Board of Education procedures for Minority Business Enterprise participation on school construction projects; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the procedures for Minority Business Enterprise participation adopted on July 6, 2005, by the Board of Education be modified as per the document titled *Minority Business Procedures for State Funded Public School Construction Projects*, to include the June 2008 revisions required by the Interagency Committee for School Construction.

RESOLUTION NO. 353-08      Re:    **UTILIZATION OF THE FY 2009 PROVISION FOR FUTURE SUPPORTED PROJECTS FUNDS**

On recommendation of the superintendent and on motion of Mr. Abrams seconded by Ms. Cox, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present:#

WHEREAS, The above-noted grant qualifies for a transfer of appropriation from the Provision for Future Supported Projects, pursuant to the provisions of County Council Resolution No. 16-578, approved May 22, 2008; and

WHEREAS, The above-noted project does not require any present or future county funds; and

WHEREAS, Sufficient appropriation is available, within the FY 2009 Provision for Future

Supported Projects, to permit the above-noted transfer within state categories; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the superintendent of schools be authorized to receive and expend \$322,000 within the FY 2009 Provision for Future Supported Projects, as specified below:

Project	Positions*	Amount
Gaithersburg Judy Center	2.5	\$ 322,000
Total		\$ 322,000

- Positions\*
- 1 Instructional specialist
  - 1 Social worker
  - .5 Paraeducator

and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be sent to the county executive and County Council.

**RESOLUTION NO. 354-08      Re:    HUMAN RESOURCES APPOINTMENTS**

On recommendation of the superintendent and on motion of Mr. Abrams seconded by Ms. Cox, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present:

Resolved, That the following personnel appointment be approved, effective September 23, 2008:

<u>Appointment</u> Juan Cardenas	<u>Current Position</u> Team Leader, Communications and Family Outreach	<u>As</u> Director, Multimedia Services
-------------------------------------	---	---

RESOLUTION NO. 355-08

Re: **HUMAN RESOURCES APPOINTMENTS**

On recommendation of the superintendent and on motion of Ms. Cox seconded by Mr. Abrams, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present:

Resolved, That the following personnel appointment be approved, effective September 23, 2008:

<u>Appointment</u>	<u>Current Position</u>	<u>As</u>
Sandra Navidi	Coordinator, Business Management, Entrepreneurship, Finance, and Information Technologies	Supervisor, Education Entrepreneurship, and Information Technology

Re: **IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICY IKA, GRADING AND REPORTING**

Dr. Weast invited the following people to the table: Mr. Erick J. Lang, associate superintendent, Office of Curriculum and Instructional Programs; Ms. Betsy Brown, director, Department of Curriculum and Instruction; Ms. Theresa Cepaitis, director, Curriculum Development and Program Implementation; Ms. Ebony Y. Langford, director, Elementary School Instruction and Achievement; Ms. Judy Brubaker, principal, Spark M. Matsunaga Elementary School; and Mrs. Joanne M. Kress, staff development teacher, Spark M. Matsunaga Elementary School.

In 2003, the Board revised Policy IKA, *Grading and Reporting*, to support clear communication regarding student achievement; consistent practices within and among schools; clarity in the meaning of grades; and congruence of grading and reporting practices with standards-based curriculum, instruction, and assessment. Beginning with the 2004–2005 school year, the school system embarked on policy implementation when teachers of students in Grades 1–8 implemented the academic meaning of a grade.

High schools joined the implementation when formal procedures and “Look Fors” for grading students in Grades 6–12 were established for school year 2005–2006. During 2006–2007, all secondary schools used the Online Achievement and Reporting System (OARS) to determine and report grades, while continuing to apply published procedures.

At the elementary level during school years 2005–2006 and 2006–2007, selected schools field tested standards-based grading and reporting systems and distributed a standards-based report card for students in Grades 1 and 2.

On September 11, 2007, the Board received an update on the implementation of Policy IKA, *Grading and Reporting*, including information on responding to stakeholder feedback and the following aspects of implementation during 2007–2008:

1. All secondary schools implementing OARS
2. A multistakeholder team charged to develop recommendations for aligning the secondary gradebook more closely with the policy
3. Continued field test of standards-based grading and reporting systems in Grades 1–2 in 19 elementary schools, using a system-developed data collection tool
4. Test of a purchased electronic standards-based gradebook prototype in Grades 1–2 in selected elementary schools
5. Application of standards-based curriculum, instruction, and assessment in Grades 1–3 in all elementary schools, to build readiness for later implementation of standards-based grading
6. Development of a standards-based report card for students in Grade 3, for later implementation
7. Development of resources to support elementary standards-based grading and reporting, based on learning theory and current research

Implementation of Policy IKA is designed in phases to allow modifications based on stakeholder feedback and the availability of essential resources. Each phase of implementation yields data that inform plans for the next step. In this way, staff members are able to strike a balance between maintaining momentum and ensuring success.

Implementation during the 2006–2007 school year at both the elementary and secondary levels revealed that professional development, technical support, agreed-upon procedures, and clear communication are critical to success. It also became apparent at the elementary level that schools need a grading system that not only aligns with the policy, but also aligns with learning theory.

For these reasons, during school year 2007–2008, procedures and resources were refined to align practices more closely with the policy at both elementary and secondary levels and to prepare for expanded implementation in elementary schools during school year 2008–2009.

MCPS continues to demonstrate resolve and resilience implementing a policy that supports system initiatives to improve the achievement of all students. Staff remain committed to implementing this policy fully because MCPS has learned through experiences and research that it ties closely to our philosophy in MCPS about teaching and learning. MCPS will continue to make progress with this complex effort, not only because of our commitment but also because staff listens to stakeholders and make adjustments



accordingly. It is this kind of strategic collaboration and deliberate planning that allows staff to engage in continuous improvement.

Re: **DISCUSSION**

Board members commented on grading and reporting. Mr. Abrams inquired about the grading using the learning curve or average grade. Ms. Malik asked if the graph was for a semester or year, and she replied that it depended on the course. Mr. Barclay encouraged staff to make the report card as user- and viewer-friendly as possible. Mrs. O'Neill noted that, originally, there was too much information on the elementary report card; parent feedback concurred. Ms. Brandman asked about students performing above level. She wanted to know if the student is measured by grade level criteria or the next grades' criteria. Staff replied that the report card indicates reading above, on, or below grade level and math has grade level and accelerated columns. Mr. Brandman wanted to know about the grading for ESOL and special education student. Staff replied that there is a section to report these grades for ESOL and special education grades are adjusted to grade level, depending on the IEP.

Board members commented on elementary grading and reporting. Mr. Abrams asked if instructors know when the student has mastered the information. Staff responded that content-specific statements indicate proficiency and the corresponding grade. Mr. Barclay wanted to know how the system deals with non-English-speaking parents with the report card and conference, and staff explained that the report card is translated into the five most widely spoken languages, with the need identified by teachers, as well as translators for conferences. Ms. Brandman asked how the new report card was communicated to parents. Staff replied that a packet was sent to homes prior to back-to-school night. Ms. Brandman noted that a pilot provides parent feedback. Staff explained that parents like it and teachers have suggested improvements. Ms. Cox asked if there would be a need for more technology support when the report card was rolled out to all elementary schools. Staff answered that the system has been refined through the pilot and there are no anticipated problems with the complete rollout.

Board members commented on secondary grading and reporting. Mr. Barclay noted that Edline allows students to advocate for themselves and allows parents to be more proactive; however, inconsistencies among teachers can be frustrating. He wanted to know if teachers feel there is more time to teach with more technology available to them? Staff responded that teachers find it tricky to consistently update grades, and each tool has a learning curve. Frequent feedback is the best way to accelerate learning. Mrs. O'Neill commented on the teachers and time; it has never been a 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. job. The positive thing about electronic grade books is that it can be accessed from anywhere, anytime. Furthermore, the Board was concerned about the implementation of the policy and getting it right; that is why implementation included revision and retraining for staff. Mr. Abrams stated that the demographic population has changed, and he wanted to know if the new technology was a help or hindrance. What are the alternatives? Staff explained

that with technology and ESOL staff parents are being taught how to access reports. Ms. Cox was pleased to hear about the effect of implementing the policy on the culture of teaching and learning. Dr. Docca said she appreciated the work of staff with implementation of the policy and communication with parents, since it revolutionizes teaching.

RESOLUTION NO. 356-08            Re:    **CLOSED SESSION RESOLUTION**

On recommendation of the superintendent and on motion of Mr. Abrams seconded by Ms. Cox, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present:

WHEREAS, The Board of Education of Montgomery County is authorized by the *Education Article* and *State Government Article* of the *Annotated Code of Maryland* to conduct certain meetings or portions of its meetings in closed sessions; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board of Education of Montgomery County conduct a closed session on Tuesday, October 14, 2008, in Room 120 of the Carver Educational Services Center to meet from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. to discuss personnel matters, as permitted under Section 10-508(a)(1) of the *State Government Article*; consult with counsel to obtain legal advice, as permitted by Section 10-508(a)(7) of the *State Government Article*; review and adjudicate appeals in its quasi-judicial capacity; and discuss matters of an executive function outside the purview of the Open Meetings Act (Section 10-503(a) of the *State Government Article*); and be it further

Resolved, That such meeting shall continue in closed session until the completion of business.

RESOLUTION NO. 357-08            Re:    **REPORT OF CLOSED SESSION**

On recommendation of the superintendent and on motion of Mr. Abrams seconded by Ms. Cox, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present:

On September 9, 2008, by unanimous vote, the Board of Education voted to conduct closed sessions, as permitted under the *Education Article* § 4-107 and *State Government Article* § 10-501, *et seq.*, of the *Annotated Code of Maryland*.

The Montgomery County Board of Education met in closed sessions on September 9, 2008, from 9:00 to 10:10 a.m. and 12:20 to 1:55 p.m. in Room 120 of the Carver Educational Services Center, Rockville, Maryland, and

1. Reviewed and considered the following appeals with a subsequent vote in open session in its quasi-judicial capacity outside the purview of the Open Meetings Act (Section 10-503(a) of the *State Government Article*): T-2008-46, T-2008-50, T-2008-51, T-2008-52, T-2008-55, T-2008-57, NEC-2008-53, DCC-2008-56, 2008-14, 2008-17, 2008-41, 2008-42, 2008-43, and 2008-45.

2. Discussed the Human Resources Monthly Report, with a subsequent vote in open session, as permitted under Section 10-508(a)(1) of the *State Government Article*.
3. Received legal advice, as permitted under Section 10-508(a)(7) of the *State Government Article*.
4. Discussed matters of an administrative function outside the purview of the Open Meetings Act (Section 10-503(a) of the *State Government Article*).

In attendance at the closed sessions were Steve Abrams, Aggie Alvez, Christopher Barclay, Steve Bedford, Judy Bresler, Larry Bowers, Shirley Brandman, Patrick Clancy, Robin Confino, Sharon Cox, Judy Docca, Brian Edwards, Suzann King, Frieda Lacey, Erick Lang, Quratul-Ann Malik, Nancy Navarro, Patricia O'Neill, Glenda Rose, Steve Simon, and Laura Steinberg.

RESOLUTION NO. 358-08      Re:    **APPEALS**

On recommendation of the superintendent and on motion of Mr. Abrams seconded by Ms. Cox, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present:

WHEREAS, The Board of Education has met in closed session and deliberated on appeals brought before its members acting in its quasi-judicial capacity under Section 10-503(a) of the *State Government Article*; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board of Education hereby decides the following appeals reflective of the Board members' votes in closed session, the disposition of which will be recorded in the minutes of today's meeting:

<u>Appeal Number</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Disposition</u>
T-2008-45	Student Transfer	Dismissed
T-2008-54	Student Transfer	Affirmed
DCC-2008-59	Student Assignment	Affirmed
2008-47	Early Entrance to Kindergarten	Affirmed

Re:    **NEW BUSINESS**

On motion of Mr. Abrams and seconded by Ms. Cox, the following new business item was introduced:

Resolved, That the Board of Education amend Policy JEE, *Student Transfers*, to include an alternative to the hardship requirement when the transfer is supported by the school that a student wishes to transfer into believes that the transfer would aid that school.

RESOLUTION NO. 359-08      Re:    **ADJOURNMENT**

On recommendation of the superintendent and on motion of Mr. Abrams seconded by Mr. Barclay, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present:

Resolved, That the Board of Education adjourn its meeting of September 9, 2008, at 8:50 p.m.

---

PRESIDENT

---

SECRETARY

JDW:gr

Resolution	Abrams	Barclay	Brandman	Cox	Docca	Malik	Navarro	O'Neill

A = affirmative; N = negative; O = absent; AB = abstain

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SUMMARY SHEET**

**September 22, 2008**

RESOLUTION FOR CLOSED SESSION .....	1
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE .....	2
APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA .....	2
WALK TO SCHOOL DAY .....	2
NATIONAL DISABILITY AWARENESS MONTH .....	3
PUBLIC COMMENTS .....	4
BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS .....	4
REVISIONS TO MINORITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISE PROCEDURES FOR STATE FUNDED PUBLIC SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS .....	5
UTILIZATION OF THE FY 2009 PROVISION FOR FUTURE SUPPORTED PROJECTS FUNDS .....	5
HUMAN RESOURCES APPOINTMENTS .....	6
HUMAN RESOURCES APPOINTMENTS .....	7
IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICY IKA, <i>GRADING AND REPORTING</i> .....	7
CLOSED SESSION RESOLUTION .....	10
REPORT OF CLOSED SESSION .....	10
APPEALS .....	11
NEW BUSINESS .....	11
ADJOURNMENT .....	12