

APPROVED
23-2008

Rockville, Maryland
October 7, 2008

The Board of Education of Montgomery County met in special session at the Carver Educational Services Center, Rockville, Maryland, on Tuesday, October 7, 2008, at 5:30 p.m.

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

Absent: Mr. Steve Abrams
Ms. Sharon Cox

The Board of Education met with the Executive Board of SEIU Local 500 and discussed the Career Development and Educational Improvement Committee's Workplace English Program.

SEIU Local 500's presentation focused on — .

- ◆ Supporting Services Training and Development
- ◆ PowerPoint presentation of the charge, charter, project scope, and activities
- ◆ Testimonials
- ◆ Getting to excellence

The Board members and superintendent commented as follows:

- ◆ The project was very heartwarming, and MCPS is in the business of education.
- ◆ The Board was proud of what has been accomplished, and commends those who have made a commitment to leadership with a vision.
- ◆ It is inspiring to students to see these employees as lifelong learners.
- ◆ Helping others is the right thing to do, and MCPS is helping keep families strong.

The president of SEIU Local 500 suggested to the Board and leadership that the use of the "N" word should be banned. There were three testimonials about students using inappropriate and offensive language.

The discussion that ensued highlighted the following thoughts—

- ◆ Civil rights classes could be initiated in all middle schools since students do not know what they do not know.
- ◆ Overall, students' language is offensive should be addressed.
- ◆ If students are confronted for their inappropriate language, staff should be supported by administration.
- ◆ With everyone looking at suspension rates, what can staff do?
- ◆ This is a good topic to put on the table.
- ◆ Montgomery County Region , Maryland Association of Student Councils is working on this and could offer videos or mini courses.
- ◆ Somehow the message needs to get to students that rude language is not acceptable.
- ◆ Culture of Respect must be emphasized with students.
- ◆ Some words should not be tolerated and students should be confronted when feasible.
- ◆ MCPS should establish standards with an expectation that all will comply.
- ◆ Nothing changes overnight and everyone must be patient.

In conclusion, The Board president stated that the Board hears the frustration of staff and has started the conversation at the Board table.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY

JDW:gr