

APPROVED  
5-2009

Rockville, Maryland  
February 3, 2009

The Board of Education of Montgomery County met at the Carver Educational Services Center, Rockville, Maryland, on February 3, 2009, at 6:00 p.m.

Present: Mrs. Patricia O'Neill, Vice President  
in the Chair  
Mr. Christopher Barclay  
Ms. Laura Berthiaume  
Dr. Judy Docca  
Mr. Philip Kauffman  
Ms. Quratul-Ann Malik  
Ms. Nancy Navarro  
Mr. Larry Bowers, Acting Secretary/Treasurer

Absent: Ms. Shirley Brandman  
Dr. Jerry Weast

Pledge of Allegiance

A moment of silence for Don Praisner, deceased member of the County council.

### **ALIGNING INITIATIVES AND PROGRAMS WITH THE BOARD'S ACADEMIC PRIORITIES**

#### **Academic Priority: Use Student, Staff, School, and System Performance Data to Monitor and Improve Student Achievement**

- Technology
- Shared Accountability

Re: **DISCUSSION**

Mr. Barclay inquired about a long-term creation of savings with online teacher training and access to curriculum for students and families. Mr. Collette stated that those objectives are being realized in the recommended budget and will continue in subsequent years.

#### **Academic Priority: Strengthen Family-school Relationships and Continue to Expand Civic, Business, and Community Partnerships that Support Improved Student Achievement**

- Strengthen family-school partnerships

Re: **DISCUSSION**

Ms. Navarro commented that there has been a great interest for a number of years on the part of the Board and system to ensure that there is a robust outreach and support

initiatives, especially for parents who are eager to advocate on behalf of their children's education. There is a maturity of parent groups within school communities who are not necessarily affiliated with the PTAs. She asked about the Parent Advisory Council and other nonprofit organizations that the school system has worked with, such as IMPACT Silver Spring. How can the school system partner with them to help leverage funds from foundations? Ms. Alvez replied that it is important for the school system to link with other parent groups and partner with them. Furthermore, the Parent Advisory Council is conducting advocacy and leadership workshops for parents to deliver workshops and resources to other parents.

Mr. Barclay commented on the maintenance of Web services to communicate with parents. What are the plans for training parents on using the Web? Ms. Alvez replied that there are workshops for parents on computer skills and navigating the Web, especially Edline activation. Mr. Barclay wanted to know about accessing computers, and he asked about establishing a partnership with the library system to get information on what students and parents have access to the MCPS website.

Mr. Barclay asked about graduation venues and the reduction in expenditures. How are the larger high schools going to use Constitution Hall (DAR)? Mr. Bedford explained that DAR has 3,700 seats available and large high schools have graduated from DAR in the past.

Ms. Berthiaume associated herself with the remarks of Ms. Navarro and Mr. Barclay. She asked where the reductions will be made in middle school counselors. Mr. Bedford replied that counselors are allocated in .5 increments, and the decisions have not been made.

Ms. Navarro remarked that, as staff thinks about the partnership with community groups, there is a need to pay attention to developing ways to support parents once they are more active and identify areas where they would like to see improvement. What happens to facilitate solutions and negotiate in a culturally appropriate manner? That is important to consider.

**Academic Priority: Foster and Sustain Systems that Support and Improve Employee Effectiveness, in Partnerships with MCPS Employee Organizations**

- Building capacity of staff
- Employee salaries and benefits

Re: **DISCUSSION**

Mr. Barclay noted that the number of consulting teachers was not reduced but staff will not go forward with the initiative. Mr. Bowers stated that additional positions were in the budget for growth, but the decision was made not to fund those positions.

Mr. Kauffman commented on the phase-out of the secondary learning centers, how much

training is done for the general education teachers, and whether it is mandatory or volunteer. Mr. Virga replied that this summer there will be mandatory training based on recommendations from the cross development team. Now, staff is reviewing how the training will be accomplished and the best model to use, such as face-to-face training. The desired outcomes will be shared with the Board. Mrs. O'Neill reminded the Board that there are various training opportunities, and they could visit to observe.

Ms. Berthiaume asked about the increase of \$1.6 million in workers compensation. Mr. Bowers stated that there is a countywide self-insurance fund which provides workers compensation and other insurance. Some of the increase is experience-based, to build the fund, and dependence on investment return is low at this time.

**Academic Priority: Organize and Optimize Resources for Improved Academic Results**

- Operational efficiency and excellence

Re: **DISCUSSION**

Ms. Navarro commended the staff on their commitment to savings with the expectation of clean and serviceable school facilities.

**Other Issues and Concerns by Board Members**

Mrs. O'Neill reminded everyone that the Board would take action on the operating budget on February 9, 2009. After the budget is submitted to the county executive and County Council, the Board will take final action on June 9, 2009.

Re: **Adjournment**

The Board of Education adjourned its meeting of February 3, 2009, at 7:15 p.m.

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PRESIDENT

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SECRETARY

JDW:gr