

# MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

December 15, 2005

The committee met on Wednesday at 8:30 a.m. in Room 120 of the Carver Educational Services Center in Rockville, Maryland. Those in attendance were: Mr. Gabe Romero, Mrs. Pat O'Neill, Mr. Roland Ikheloa, Mrs. Glenda Rose (recorder), Dr. Frieda Lacey, Ms. Jody Leleck, Ms. Linda Ferrell, Jane Butler, Betsy Brown, Kevin Maxwell, Dawn Ellis, Aggie Alvez, and Mark Kelsch.

The committee convened to hear informal updates on the Middle School Reform by three project teams.

**Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment** – Mr. Stephen Bedford, community superintendent, and Ms. Betsy Brown, director, Department of Curriculum and Instruction

Ms. Brown reported that there were three teams for each area. Furthermore, the team is exploring the overlap with other teams, such as double period English and MSA interventions. Each group is becoming for self-reliant and clear about their task, research and data needed, and gap analysis.

**Organizational Structure** – Mr. Mark Kelsch, community superintendent, and Ms. Dawn Ellis, consulting principal

Ms. Ellis stated that the group started with research to use as a basis for their work. There are subgroups to look into scheduling (block), grouping, vertical articulation, staffing, special education, ESOL, guidance, arts, physical education, and professional development. Within middle school, there appears to be improved achievement when there is a relationship between the teacher and student.

**Parent and Community Engagement and Communication** – Dr. Kevin Maxwell, community superintendent, and Ms. Jane Butler, director, Family and Community Partnerships

Dr. Maxwell remarked that this team is exploring strategies for parent involvement. Focus is developing in the areas of evening meetings, baby sitting provided, briefing with new parents, homework rooms combined with parent meetings, and parent transition through each level. There is a lot of research on engaging parents and reaching out in different ways. Furthermore, there could be training for parents through workshops or other methods.

Each presentation was followed by questions and dialogue between the team and committee members.

**Next Steps**

Schedule time to meet with four chairs of the project teams to understand the direction of the teams.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 a.m.