

MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

February 9, 2006

The committee met on Thursday at 8:35 a.m. in Room 120 of the Carver Educational Services Center in Rockville, Maryland. Those in attendance were: Mr. Gabe Romero (Chair), Mrs. Pat O'Neill, Dr. Charles Haughey, Mr. Roland Ikheloa, Mrs. Glenda Rose (recorder), Dr. Frieda Lacey, Ms. Jody Leleck, Ms. Linda Ferrell, Ms. Betty Collins, Ms. Doreen Heath, Dr. Frank Stetson, Mr. Pat Abrunzo, Mrs. Jane Woodburn, Mrs. Sandy Sengstack, Ms. Shirley Brandman, Mr. Stephen Zagami, Dr. LaVerne Kimball, Mr. Don Kress, Mrs. Shelly Johnson, Ms. Merle Cuttittia, and Ms. Darlene Merry.

The committee convened to hear informal updates on the Middle school Reform by four project teams.

Extended Learning Opportunities (ELO) – Dr. LaVerne Kimball (community superintendent, Office of School Performance) and Mr. Stephen Zagami (director, Department of Student Services)

Dr. Kimball and Mr. Zagami reported that the project team was divided into five subcommittees with each having two/three charge statements to review, benchmark, define, and research. The team has to address barriers that are root causes for non-participation, such as caring for siblings and transportation. At the present time, the team is getting information on what is in place and the success of those outreach programs. There is one central survey to the middle schools, and the team is waiting for the results in order to analyze the data.

The committee asked if the community could participate with volunteer organizations to help with ELO. There could be a way of being strategic with their involvement, and MCPS students could do ELO activities in their facilities. An example is the Saturday School that has become a partnership with the school system.

Technology – Ms. Doreen Heath (assistant chief information officer, Department of Student/Business Technologies) and Mrs. Shelley Johnson (director, Division of Career and Technology Education)

Mrs. Johnson stated that technology overlaps with all the other project teams. The team was divided into two subgroups – (1) student-centered technology, and (2) operations and support. The team is doing a gap

analysis, looking at the desired state, developing definitions and seeking clarification, equity issues, and keyboarding. Furthermore, there is *No Child Left Behind* (NCLB) and technology access, staff development, eLearning, distance learning, and online textbooks. There was a discussion about hardware, and the committee asked for information on providing a laptop for all 8th graders as was done in Maine – student population and cost.

Human Resources – Mrs. Jane Woodburn (director, Department of Recruitment Staffing) and Mr. Pat Abrunzo (director, Office of School Performance)

Mrs. Woodburn described the activities of this project team. The team is divided into subgroups that are conducting research through focus groups and a survey. The groups report out to determine common areas, and the need for more studies. There was a discussion about the certification of middle school teachers, and staff stated that only half of the teachers have secondary certification (Grades 7 - 12).

Mr. Abrunzo commented on recruitment and retention of staff. The team is looking at the incentives that other systems use to recruit employees, especially teachers. The team is also exploring pathways to train or recruit administrators.

Leadership and Professional Development – Dr. Frank Stetson (community superintendent, Office of School Performance) and Mrs. Betty Collins (director, Staff Development Initiatives)

Dr. Stetson explained the composition of the team, the schedule, and bench marking with Richmond and Fairfax school systems. Again, the issues from this team will be incorporated in the general survey to middle school personnel.

Ms. Collins reported that professional development must be aligned with MCPS initiatives, PGS systems, framework to improve teaching and learning. The research is finding great consistency with MCPS methods. There needs to be a common definition for leadership to assure academic achievement, maintenance of learning communities, shared decision making models, roles and responsibilities of middle school leaders, and expectations for resource teachers.

The committee was impressed by the immense amount of work done in a compressed time frame.

Next Steps

1. Meet with the Policy Committee to review the draft on Policy IEB – *Middle School Education*.
2. Review the draft report from the Steering Committee.

The meeting adjourned at 10:10 a.m.