APPROVED 1-1983	Rockville, Maryland January 5, 1983
The Board of Education of Montgomery County met in special session at the Educational Services Center, Rockville, Maryland, on Wednesday, January 5, 1983, at 8 p.m.	
ROLL CALL Present:	Mr. Blair G. Ewing, President in the Chair Dr. James E. Cronin Mr. Kurt Hirsch Mrs. Marilyn J. Praisner Mrs. Odessa M. Shannon Dr. Robert E. Shoenberg
Absent:	Dr. Marian L. Greenblatt Mrs. Suzanne Peyser
Others Present:	<ul><li>Dr. Edward Andrews, Superintendent of Schools</li><li>Dr. Harry Pitt, Deputy Superintendent</li><li>Dr. Robert S. Shaffner, Executive Assistant</li><li>Mr. Thomas S. Fess, Parliamentarian</li><li>Re: Review of FY 1984 Operating Budget</li></ul>

Mr. Ewing explained that the Board had divided itself into several subcommit- tees to work with various parts of the budget. The superintendent indicated that each primary account manager would review his/her portion of the budget and Board members could ask questions. Mr. Kenneth Hill, director of budget planning, would then review the revenue situation.

Mr. Ewing announced that Dr. Greenblatt and Mrs. Peyser were unable to attend the meeting. The superintendent stated that there were several serious decisions that had to be made in the county between now and May 15. He cited the budget of the Fairfax County Public Schools and noted that their 5.1 percent increase was an austere but fundable budget while the MCPS budget with its increase of 5.2 percent was considered by some to be the "ruination of the county." He said that his proposed budget honored negotiated agreements with the three employee organizations, made some modest program improvements, and made reductions where they would be least likely to damage existing levels of services.

Mrs. Shannon noted that they were cutting positions and trying to maintain the same level of services, and she wanted to know whether they were doing some reorganizing. The superintendent replied that they were because the reduction of 200 positions was a net figure. There was one place where they were probably doing some damage to the instructional program because they were taking out teacher assistants. Dr. Pitt provided an overview of K-12 instruction. Dr. Cronin asked that the Board be provided with copies of the latest information on class sizes. He also requested an estimate of the ratio of academic to nonacademic courses.

Dr. Hiawatha Fountain, associate superintendent, reviewed the budget for special and alternative programs. Mrs. Praisner inquired about the average enrollment at Phoenix I over the past years, and Dr. Cronin asked about the effect of cutting out the extended year program for the Phoenix School. Mr. Ewing asked that the Board be provided with as much information as possible on the program evaluation study of special education. He also inquired about any comparisons they might have with respect to other programs in the Washington Metropolitan area. The superintendent indicated that they could provide quantitative information, but it would be very difficult to get at the comparative quality of the programs. Dr. Cronin remarked that part of their obligation to the handicapped was to not only educate students but to prepare them for independent living. He asked about whether MCPS had programs to prepare handicapped students for independent living, and the superintendent indicated that the staff would provide a paper on that topic. Dr. Shoenberg thought it might be helpful if staff could provide information on the benefits received by educating handicapped children. The superintendent said they could tell the Board what it cost to institutionalize a young adult and some figures about youngsters who were partially or fully self-sufficient. Mr. Ewing asked that the Board receive information on the rise of incidence of cases involving students with severe emotional problems and how MCPS was handling these cases.

Dr. Lois Martin, associate superintendent, reviewed the program development section of the budget. Mrs. Shannon suggested that at some time they talk about staff development training programs for employees. Mr. Ewing asked that they discuss the facilities planning process and future directions for this department. He also suggested that Mr. Christeller would be willing to brief the Board on services the M-NCPPC might be able to provide the school system.

Mr. Richard Fazakerley, associate superintendent, described the budget highlights of supporting services. The superintendent asked that Board members receive copies of the county executive's proposed capital budget. Dr. Robert Shaffner, executive assistant, presented information on the general administrative offices reporting to the superintendent. Mr. Hill explained the sources of revenue for the budget and projections for federal funds.

Mr. Ewing thanked the staff for a useful and productive summary.

## Re: Adjournment

The president adjourned the meeting at 11:10 p.m.

President

Secretary

EA:mlw