

APPROVED
1-2000

Rockville, Maryland
January 11, 2000

The Board of Education of Montgomery County met in regular session at the Carver Educational Services Center, Rockville, Maryland, on Tuesday, January 11, 2000, at 10:00 a.m.

ROLL CALL Present: Mrs. Patricia O'Neill, President
in the Chair
Mr. Stephen Abrams
Mr. Kermit V. Burnett
Mr. Reginald M. Felton
Mrs. Beatrice B. Gordon
Mrs. Nancy J. King
Ms. Laura Sampedro, Student Board Member
Ms. Mona M. Signer
Dr. Jerry Weast, Secretary/Treasurer

Absent: None

or () indicates student vote does not count. Four votes needed for adoption.

RESOLUTION NO. 1-00 Re: **CLOSED SESSION**

On recommendation of the Superintendent and on motion of Mr. Felton seconded by Mr. Abrams, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

WHEREAS, The Board of Education of Montgomery County is authorized by the *Education Article* and *State Government Article* of the *Annotated Code of Maryland* to conduct certain meetings or portions of its meetings in closed sessions; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board of Education of Montgomery County conduct portions of its closed sessions on January 11, 2000, in Room 120 from 8:30 to 10:00 a.m. and 12:30 to 2:00 p.m. to discuss the personnel appointments, the human resources monthly report, and the EEO Report as permitted under Section 10-508(a)(1) of the *State Government Article*; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board of Education consult with counsel to receive legal advice as permitted under Section 10-508(a)(7) of the *State Government Article*; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board of Education discuss collective bargaining negotiations, as permitted under Section 10-508(a)(9) of the *State Government Article* and Section 4-107(d)(2)(ii) of the *Education Article*; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board of Education of Montgomery County dedicate part of the closed session on January 11 to acquit its executive functions and to adjudicate and review appeals, which is a quasi-judicial function outside the purview of the Open Meetings Act under Section 10-503(a) of the *State Government Article*; and be it further

Resolved, That these portions of the meeting continue in closed session until the completion of business.

RESOLUTION NO. 2-00 Re: **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

On motion of Mr. Felton and seconded by seconded by Ms. Signer, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

Resolved, That the Board of Education amend and approve its agenda by moving the Human Resources Personnel Appointments after the resolution on African American History Month.

RESOLUTION NO. 3-00 Re: **AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH**

On recommendation of the Superintendent and on motion of Ms. Signer seconded by Mrs. King, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

WHEREAS, In 1926, Dr. Carter G. Woodson – educator, author, and founder/director of the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History – initiated Negro History Week in order to increase awareness about Negro History in American communities and schools; and

WHEREAS, In 1976, Negro History Week was extended to one month and proclaimed a national celebration by The United States Congress; and

WHEREAS, African Americans have been an integral part of our history from the inception of our nation, and their participation and contributions are studied and celebrated year-round as part of the Montgomery County Public Schools curriculum; and

WHEREAS, The purpose of this month is to provide an opportunity to focus especially on the invaluable past and present achievements and contributions of African Americans; and

WHEREAS, Historically, high expectations for academic excellence have been a tradition within the African American community; and

WHEREAS, Montgomery County Public Schools, in *Our Call To Action*, is committed to holding high expectations and positive attitudes for all students in order to raise the bar

and close the gap in student achievement; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board of Education and superintendent of schools hereby declare the month of February 2000 to be "African American History Month"; and be it further

Resolved, That the Montgomery County Board of Education and the superintendent of schools encourage the staff, students, parents, and community to actively engage in this observance of the contributions of African Americans in Montgomery County, the state, and the nation and enhance the awareness of the impact of attitudes and expectations on the achievement of African American students.

RESOLUTION NO. 4-00 Re: **PERSONNEL APPOINTMENT**

On recommendation of the Superintendent and on motion of Mrs. King seconded by Mrs. Gordon, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

Resolved, That the following personnel appointment be approved effective February 1, 2000:

<u>Appointment</u> James A. Williams	<u>Present Position</u> Superintendent, Dayton Public Schools	<u>As</u> Deputy Superintendent, Office of Organizational Development
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RESOLUTION NO. 5-00 Re: **PERSONNEL APPOINTMENT**

On recommendation of the Superintendent and on motion of Mrs. King seconded by Mrs. Gordon, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

Resolved, That the following personnel appointment be approved effective February 1, 2000:

<u>Appointment</u> Judie A. Muntner	<u>Present Position</u> Principal, Beall ES	<u>As</u> Interim Associate Superintendent, Office of Instruction and Program Development
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RESOLUTION NO. 6-00 Re: **PERSONNEL APPOINTMENT**

On recommendation of the Superintendent and on motion of Mrs. King seconded by Mrs. Gordon, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

Resolved, That the following personnel appointment be approved effective February 1, 2000:

<u>Appointment</u>	<u>Present Position</u>	<u>As</u>
Pat D. Abrunzo	Principal on Special Assignment, Office of Performance and Accountability	Performance Director, Office of School Performance and Accountability

RESOLUTION NO. 7-00 Re: **PERSONNEL APPOINTMENT**

On recommendation of the Superintendent and on motion of Mrs. King seconded by Mrs. Gordon, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

Resolved, That the following personnel appointment be approved effective February 1, 2000:

<u>Appointment</u>	<u>Present Position</u>	<u>As</u>
Donna S. Hollingshead	Assistant Principal, Seneca Valley HS	Performance Director, Office of School Performance and Accountability

RESOLUTION NO. 8-00 Re: **PERSONNEL APPOINTMENT**

On recommendation of the Superintendent and on motion of Mrs. King seconded by Mrs. Gordon, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

Resolved, That the following personnel appointment be approved effective February 1, 2000:

<u>Appointment</u>	<u>Present Position</u>	<u>As</u>
LaVerne S. Kimball	Principal, Burning Tree ES	Performance Director, Office of School Performance and Accountability

RESOLUTION NO. 9-00 Re: **PERSONNEL APPOINTMENT**

On recommendation of the Superintendent and on motion of Mrs. King seconded by Mrs. Gordon, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

Resolved, That the following personnel appointment be approved effective February 1, 2000:

<u>Appointment</u>	<u>Present Position</u>	<u>As</u>
Angelia Saunders-Tyler	Assistant Principal, Quince Orchard HS	Performance Director, Office of School Performance and Accountability

RESOLUTION NO. 10-00 Re: **PERSONNEL APPOINTMENT**

On recommendation of the Superintendent and on motion of Mrs. King seconded by Mrs. Gordon, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

Resolved, That the following personnel appointment be approved effective February 1, 2000:

<u>Appointment</u>	<u>Present Position</u>	<u>As</u>
Cynthia A. Rattley	Principal on Special Assignment, Office of School Performance and Accountability	Performance Director, Office of School Performance and Accountability

RESOLUTION NO. 11-00 Re: **PERSONNEL APPOINTMENT**

On recommendation of the Superintendent and on motion of Mrs. King seconded by Mrs. Gordon, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

Resolved, That the following personnel appointment be approved effective February 1, 2000:

<u>Appointment</u>	<u>Present Position</u>	<u>As</u>
Donna J. Weldin	Principal, Strawberry Knoll ES	Performance Director, Office of School Performance and Accountability

RESOLUTION NO. 12-00 Re: **PERSONNEL APPOINTMENT**

On recommendation of the Superintendent and on motion of Mr. Abrams seconded by Mrs. Gordon, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

Resolved, That the following personnel appointment be approved effective February 1, 2000:

Appointment
Mark X. Burke

Present Position
Director of Construction,
Loudoun County Public
Schools

As
Director, Division of
Construction

** Mr. Felton temporarily left the meeting.

RESOLUTION NO. 13-00 Re: **HUMAN RESOURCES MONTHLY REPORT**

On recommendation of the Superintendent and on motion of Mrs. Gordon seconded by Mrs. King, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present:

Resolved, That the Board of Education approve the Human Resources Monthly Report dated January 11, 2000.

RESOLUTION NO. 14-00 Re: **DEATH OF MS. LINDA HARRISON, SPECIAL EDUCATION BUS ATTENDANT, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

On recommendation of the Superintendent and on motion of Mrs. Gordon seconded by Mrs. King, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present:

WHEREAS, The death on December 13, 1999, of Ms. Linda Harrison, bus attendant in the Department of Transportation, has deeply saddened the staff, students, and members of the Board of Education; and

WHEREAS, In the short time that Ms. Harrison had worked for Montgomery County Public Schools, she demonstrated competence as a bus attendant; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Harrison's eagerness to learn and her pleasant personality and good relationships with her fellow workers made her a valuable employee; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the members of the Board of Education express their sorrow at the death of Ms. Linda Harrison and extend deepest sympathy to her family; and be it further

Resolved, That this resolution be made a part of the minutes of this meeting and a copy be forwarded to Ms. Harrison's family.

RESOLUTION NO. 15-00

Re: **DEATH OF MRS. SHARON METZ, SPECIAL
EDUCATION TEACHER AT GAITHERSBURG
HIGH SCHOOL**

On recommendation of the Superintendent and on motion of Mrs. Gordon seconded by Mrs. King, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present:

WHEREAS, The death on November 9, 1999, of Mrs. Sharon Metz, special education teacher at Gaithersburg High School has deeply saddened the staff, students and members of the Board of Education; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Metz was a conscientious, dedicated professional who constantly provided high quality educational experiences for her students; and

WHEREAS, In more than eight years with Montgomery County Public Schools, Mrs. Metz was committed to students and sensitive to the needs of all people, making her an asset to the school system and community; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the members of the Board of Education express their sorrow at the death of Mrs. Sharon Metz and extend deepest sympathy to her family; and be it further

Resolved, That this resolution be made a part of the minutes of this meeting and a copy be forwarded to Mrs. Metz's family.

RESOLUTION NO. 16-00

Re: **DEATH OF MS. MONA MERKLING, BUS
OPERATOR IN THE DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION**

On recommendation of the Superintendent and on motion of Mrs. Gordon seconded by Mrs. King, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present:

WHEREAS, The death on December 2, 1999, of Ms. Mona Merkling, bus operator in the Department of Transportation, has deeply saddened the staff, students, and members of the Board of Education; and

WHEREAS, In more than 19 years with Montgomery County Public Schools, Ms. Merkling demonstrated exceptional ability as a bus operator; and

WHEREAS, Her cheerful and cooperative attitude and her concern for her passengers were a credit to the entire pupil transportation program; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the members of the Board of Education express their sorrow at the death of Ms. Mona Merkling and extend deepest sympathy to her family; and be it further

Resolved, That this resolution be made a part of the minutes of this meeting and a copy be forwarded to Ms. Merklings family.

** Mr. Felton rejoined the meeting.

RESOLUTION NO. 17-00 Re: **ITEM OF LEGISLATION**

On recommendation of the Superintendent and on motion of Mrs. Gordon seconded by Ms. Signer, the following resolution was adopted with Mr. Abrams, Mr. Burnett, Mr. Felton, Mrs. Gordon, Mrs. King, Ms. Sampedro, and Ms. Signer voting in the affirmative; Mrs. O'Neill voting in the negative:

Resolved, That the Board of Education strongly oppose MC 12-00 "Public Hearings on Transportation of Students," which would require the Board of Education to hold a public hearing on appeal of a superintendent's decision to add or delete a bus route or eliminate or move a bus stop.

RESOLUTION NO. 18-00 Re: **LEGISLATION**

On recommendation of the Superintendent and on motion of Mrs. King seconded by Ms. Signer, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

Resolved, That the Board of Education send a letter to the Montgomery County Delegation to explain local authority as why the Board strongly opposes MC 12-00, Montgomery County – Board of Education – Public Hearings on Transportation of Students.

Re: **BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS**

Mrs. O'Neill welcomed Dr. Williams to the table as the new deputy. Also, the Board Room had been renovated to be ADA-compliant and accessible for persons with physical disabilities to testify at the Board table. She noted that 16 MCPS students are among the 300 semifinalists in the 59th Intel Science Talent Search, one of the most prestigious and rigorous science competitions for high school students in the United States. With 13 semifinalists, Montgomery Blair High School tied with a New York school for first place in the nation in number of students. Quince Orchard, Walt Whitman and Thomas S. Wootton high schools each had one semifinalist. The 16 local students are among 18 finalists in Maryland, making the state second only to New York in the number of semifinalists.

Dr. Weast remarked that the Y2K bug did not bite MCPS very hard. He commended staff who worked very hard to make MCPS technology compliant for the Year 2000. There were 25 major projects in different stages of completion in August. More than 400 employees came to work over New Year's weekend to help avoid potential

problems. He commended Mr. Bowers for his dedicated work.

Mr. Abrams thanked the members of the Board and staff of Montgomery County Public Schools for their comments and expressions of sympathy after the loss of his mother.

Mr. Felton reported that he had a meeting with John Melman, National Association for Music Educators, and his concern over music and the arts in kindergarten. He was pleased with Dr. Weast's fact sheet and letter, which clarified the issue.

Mr. Burnett thanked Mr. Lavorgna, who met with the Silver Spring Advisory Committee. He did an excellent job of updating citizens on the Capital Improvement Program. Mr. Burnett thought more of this should be done to inform and educate the community regarding the budget activities of MCPS.

Re: POLICY IKA, GRADING AND REPORTING

Dr. Weast invited the following people to the table: Dr. Steven Seleznow, deputy superintendent for education; Dr. Patricia Flynn, director, Department of Academic Programs; Dr. Pam Splaine, director, Policy and Records Unit; and Ms. Kathy McGuire, director, Department of Comprehensive Pupil Services.

At the end of the 1998-99 school year, the Board of Education held discussions on issues related to the policy governing grading and reporting in Montgomery County Public Schools. Part of these discussions focused on whether to grant a waiver from semester final exams for high school students who earned an "A" in both quarters of a semester. The Board of Education voted on June 8, 1999, not to grant such waivers, including no waiver for seniors in the second semester. The Board also discussed the issue of consistency in the grading of countywide final exams; subsequently, changes were made to unify the grading scales for the countywide Algebra 1 and Geometry exams being given this year. On June 21, 1999, the Board specifically requested a review of *Policy IKA: Grading and Reporting* in light of these discussions and questioned whether any changes in the policy were necessary. The policy has been reviewed and, while the policy itself does not need revision at this time, there are other issues related to the implementation of the policy and the curricula on which grading expectations are based that need to be addressed.

The operating budget for next year includes a proposed external audit of curriculum in several content areas, beginning with mathematics, to ensure that curriculum, instruction, and assessments are aligned. Any changes recommended as a result of the curriculum audit would provide direction for strengthening this alignment. In addition, staff has moved ahead with the formation of a workgroup representing all stakeholders to identify ways to improve consistency among schools in the grading of student performance. This goes to the heart of the implementation of *Policy IKA: Grading and Reporting* and reflects a general concern that there is inconsistency in how

students are graded for their performance among and within schools. The charge of the workgroup will be to research best practices on national and local levels on grading scales and grading systems and develop recommendations for grading practices that can be incorporated into a revised *Regulation IKA-RA: Grading and Reporting*. If revisions to the policy are necessary when the workgroup has completed its task, Dr. Weast will bring recommendations forward to the Board of Education at that time. The target completion date for a report from the workgroup is October 2000.

Consistent implementation of grading practices, as exemplified by the changes now underway with high school final exams, is an important element in establishing a system of shared accountability for student success. A more consistent system of grading and reporting is essential in communicating progress to students and parents, establishing accountability, motivating learning, guiding and improving instruction, and demonstrating attainment of learning outcomes. In addition, such consistency is necessary to ensure that all students are adequately prepared for the High School Assessment Program.

Re: POLICY IKA, GRADING AND REPORTING

On motion of Mr. Abrams and seconded by Mrs. King, the following resolution was placed on the table:

Resolved, That the Board of Education support the formation of a workgroup representing all stakeholders to identify ways to improve consistency among schools in grading and performance of students.

Re: DISCUSSION

Mrs. Gordon thought that while the report was sufficient, the appointment of another workgroup to work until October 2000 was insufficient. There should be an ability to make recommendations about grading and consistency without a study. She was extremely disappointed, given accountability and previous discussions on grading and reporting, that the Superintendent did not provide a recommendation. There had to be a standard that was acceptable. Dr. Seleznow replied that the school system was in the process of setting grading standards for final exams and that implementation was parallel with the beginning of the High School Assessments (HSA) mandated by the state. A standard grading scale would be established in algebra, geometry, social studies, science, computer science, and foreign language final exams. There also would be a collaborative process to standardize grading practices in the classroom.

Mrs. Gordon said there would be a percentage for a grade in final exams. However, that would be meaningless since there would be another standard or no standard at all for other work that a student did. It is important for the school system to be consistent in having numerical percentages that always equal the same letter grades. Also, that grading system should be consistent across the entire school system. Dr. Weast

replied that consistency and standardization was necessary to graduate students through the HSA. The final exams would be standard, and work would be done with stakeholders to develop consistent grading practices.

Mrs. Gordon asked about all the grades that were given for courses that did not have final examinations, such as fifth grade social studies. What did an "A" or "B" mean? The school system cannot wait until ninth graders take a final exam to know how they compare to other students in the state and nation. The Board had been discussing this topic for a long time, and another workgroup would prolong any decisions. Dr. Weast understood the Board's frustration, but steps have been taken for standardization. However, 9,200 teachers must understand and work in collaboration to develop a uniform grading and reporting system.

Mr. Felton thought the Board wanted consistent grading throughout the county. If the grading scale is adjusted in one school, there is no way students can compete with their peers in other county schools. The Board wanted the first phase to inform the community that a specified level of performance would result in a specific grade. Dr. Flynn replied that to identify 90 as an "A" was to make the presumption that everyone was working from numeric grading scales and the scale was from 0 to 100 point range. The criteria currently in place was probably not descriptive enough, but it did provide a rubric for assigning grades. However, it would never bring the school system to the consistency the Board was seeking. On the other hand, a consistency from teacher to teacher in daily instruction and in expectations of students must be in place before implementing a consistent method for grading.

Mr. Abrams was encouraged by the introduction of standardized testing for final exams in multiple courses. However, he did not believe the same standard could be imposed in elementary school as in high school. The preparation of children through elementary school includes other matters that come with the recognition that education has to be individually tailored. What the school system should look for in a grading system is a way to assure equity on the grading scales throughout the county as a student reaches high school. He would like to see the workgroup examine the virtue of using external readers on exams. If the school system is looking for a judgment of uniformity, having external readers would remove the individual bias of the teacher from grading. Several things can be done in an area with an objective standard. However, there is a subjective component to education in that the teacher uses judgment in grading. At the elementary and middle school levels, there will be state testing requirements with measures of comparability based on those tests.

Mrs. Gordon asked for information on what an "A" represents in other school districts in Maryland. Do they assign numeric values to letter grades, and what are the numerical values? Mr. Abrams asked if there was consistency throughout the schools in those districts' grading practices.

Ms. Signer thought the discussion mirrored the deliberation of the Strathmore Group, which was developing a system of shared accountability. That discussion revolved around not just what it took to get an "A" or "B" and whether it took as much work to get that grade today as it did five years ago. The group had been struggling with shared accountability, especially at the high school level. At the elementary level, there are uniform exams, such as the CRT, MSPAP, and CTBS. There was discussion about using grades at the high school level based on the lack of uniformity across high schools. At the present time, she was far more interested in how students score on uniform, countywide final exams than on their grade-point average. The final exam indicated whether or not the student had mastered the body of knowledge as well as did other students throughout the county. Ms. Signer wanted to know how a student's score on the countywide final exam related to the student's grade in the course. She wanted the same information for the elementary level.

Mrs. King noted that students know the formula to determine how many points they need on the final exam to keep the "A" for the course. The final exam needed to mean more than 25 percent of the grade. Middle school principals have said there is no consistency with the CRT and MSPAP, and a student may do well on one and not the other. There appears to be a problem with the grading of one of those tests. Dr. Seleznow replied that a group scores the CRTs, so there is interrelational reliability. Curriculum coordinators were examining the test items to make sure there was an alignment with MCPS items and state testing. Dr. Flynn explained that the CTBS asks students what they know, which is the first step on the hierarchical ladder. The CRT is the second rung because it is a compilation of multiple choice, assessments, and some quasi open-ended assessments. The final rung is the MSPAP, which is more sophisticated and asks students to integrate prior knowledge and general new knowledge from information presented on the assessment. MSPAP is graded differently than the CRT.

Mrs. O'Neill had heard from parents that CRT grades were different from the course grade and that there appeared to be a disconnect between the two. She hoped that more teachers had the opportunity to score the CRTs, because it illustrated teaching practices on student learning. She believed that the school system must strive for consistency in grading, delivery of curriculum, and teaching practices.

Mrs. King asked if a kindergarten student who did not pass the reading and ISM objectives was moved to the next grade. What would the school system do to address promotions when a student did not successfully master the objectives? Dr. Weast replied that was the concept of social promotion. The school system is developing a structure in the curriculum and accountability system to help teachers avoid those promotions. There had to be general agreement on what MCPS wanted children to learn and make sure there was a delivery system in place to accomplish that. Sometimes it takes more time for a child to learn an objective; therefore, the educational plan must be individualized for the student. Also, the system can compare SAT scores

with students' grades to see if there is grade inflation. If the Advanced Placement Exam was taken, the system can examine how the student compared nationally.

Mr. Burnett said it was not easy for the Board to wait until October for the workgroup on the grading system. Pieces of the system could be done now. He found it hard to accept the idea that there was not a measurement to assess what a student had learned. Or to accept the idea that a student has mastered 30 percent of the curriculum and was passing at one schools and that, in another school, the percentage for passing was higher. This damaged the children as well as their families because they could have been receiving "A"s but did badly on the test. MCPS has to be honest with students who are only learning 20 percent of the curriculum but still expect to pass the final. He had difficulty in waiting until October to develop standards. Dr. Weast stated he wanted to move forward, and what was making him impatient was knowing that in 2002 children would be graduating from MCPS based on the high school assessment. On the other hand, by October the school system would change the whole instructional and grading system that had grown over the past 30 years. There must be a process to make sure that staff is involved.

Ms. Sampedro was definitely in favor of consistency in the exams and classroom. However, she had observed that teachers were teaching a new concept on the exam review day.

Mr. Felton asked for information on grading and reporting in layman's terms that states concisely what MCPS plans to do and the time line of action for the next 12 months and the next 24 months.

RESOLUTION NO. 19-00 Re: **POLICY IKA, GRADING AND REPORTING**

On motion of Mr. Abrams and seconded by Mrs. King, the following resolution was adopted with Mr. Abrams, Mr. Burnett, Mr. Felton, Mrs. King, Mrs. O'Neill, Ms. Sampedro, and Ms. Signer voting in the affirmative; Mrs. Gordon voted in the negative:

Resolved, That the Board of Education support the formation of a workgroup representing all stakeholders to identify ways to improve consistency among schools in grading and performance of students.

Re: **POLICY FFA, NAMING SCHOOLS**

Dr. Weast invited the following people to the table: Mr. Richard Hawes, director of facilities management, and Dr. Pam Splaine, director of policy and records.

On October 25, 1999, the Board of Education took tentative action on and disseminated

for public comment the draft of the revision to Policy FFA, Naming Schools. Seven responses were received during the public comment period. Six of the individuals who responded, including Dr. Nancy Grasmick, state superintendent of schools, supported the policy.

Re: **POLICY FFA, NAMING SCHOOLS**

On recommendation of the Superintendent and on motion of Mrs. King seconded by Mr. Burnett, the following resolution was placed on the table:

WHEREAS, On August 24, 1999, The Board of Education introduced, in a new business item, amendments to Policy FFA, *Naming Schools*; and

WHEREAS, On September 14, 1999, The Board of Education adopted a resolution to amend Policy FFA, *Naming Schools*; and

WHEREAS, Staff has revised the policy as directed by the Board of Education; and

WHEREAS, On October 25, 1999, the Board of Education took tentative action on draft Policy FFA, *Naming Schools*, and distributed it for public comment; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board of Education take final action on Policy FFA.

Re: **AN AMENDMENT TO POLICY FFA, NAMING SCHOOLS**

On motion of Ms. Signer and seconded by Mr. Abrams, the following amendment was placed on the table:

Resolved, That the Board of Education amend Policy FFA, Naming Schools by adding the following language in Section C, 6.:

The Board of Education welcomes suggestions for school names on an on-going basis. These names will be kept on file by the Board of Education and used as references.

Re: **DISCUSSION**

Mrs. Gordon noted that the Board would develop a list of up to four names, and the amendment stated that the Board of Education would keep names on file. She asked if the Board was taking on some responsibilities that had been the Superintendent's, and how the Board would develop that list of four names. There needed to be clarification on whether the Board or Superintendent would do this work. Mr. Felton's expectation was that staff would continue to provide support.

Mrs. Gordon stated that the policy should be amended to clarify that the Superintendent would develop a list of up to four schools. Mr. Abrams disagreed, since this was Board policy and the Board had the responsibility. The Board relies on staff for implementation and operation. His presumption was that the process would remain the same as in the past. The only difference was that the names would be submitted to the Board as opposed to the community committee.

RESOLUTION NO. 20-00 Re: **AN AMENDMENT TO POLICY FFA, NAMING SCHOOLS**

On motion of Ms. Signer and seconded by Mr. Abrams, the following amendment was adopted unanimously:

Resolved, That the Board of Education amend Policy FFA, Naming Schools by adding the following language in Section C, 6.:

The Board of Education welcomes suggestions for school names on an on-going basis. These names will be kept on file by the Board of Education and used as references.

Re: **AN AMENDMENT TO POLICY FFA, NAMING SCHOOLS**

On motion of Mr. Abrams and seconded by Mrs. King, the following amendment was placed on the table:

Resolved, That the Board of Education amend Policy FFA, Naming Schools by adding the following language in Section C., 2.:

The superintendent shall establish a process through which interested groups in the community that the school will serve shall be charged with the responsibility of recommending, in priority order, its preferences from among the listing of names provided by the Board of Education **and up to three additional names recommended by the committee.**

Re: **DISCUSSION**

Mr. Abrams suggested that the Board develop a list of four names, the superintendent would establish a process in the community, the committee would prioritize the four Board names, and the amendment gave the committee an opportunity to rate up to seven names.

Mr. Felton thought the intent of the change in policy was to ensure that the Board had the authority to name the schools. However, if a committee added three names, it

would appear that the committee did not approve of the Board's selection.

Mr. Abrams' intent of the amendment was to give the community input. He was not suggesting that the Board would accept a name from the committee. However, the committee might have a suggestion that had not occurred to the Board and allowing such suggestions would make a richer process.

Mrs. King wanted the record to show that she agreed with Mr. Abrams. In this day and age, the message to the community must be that the Board was not cutting out the community's opportunity to provide suggestions for the naming of schools. The Board still had the final vote on the name of the school.

Mrs. Gordon's interpretation of the amendment was that the policy would revert to the former policy. The Board always had the final vote and never took advantage of that fact and disapproved of a name submitted from the community. She thought Mr. Felton was trying to establish policy that would allow the Board to signal in advance a suggestion for a name but allow the community to have input. She asked what would happen if the community ranked their names above the Board's suggestions, and the Board did not choose the community's choice.

Mr. Abrams noted that the revision of the policy was to give direction to the community, and the amendment was to provide inclusiveness in the process.

Mr. Burnett understood Mr. Felton's proposal, and Mr. Abrams amendment had merit. As a friendly amendment, he wanted to narrow community input to two names. Mr. Abrams agreed.

RESOLUTION NO. 21-00

Re: **AN AMENDMENT TO POLICY FFA, NAMING SCHOOLS**

On motion of Mr. Abrams and seconded by Mrs. King, the following amendment was adopted with Mr. Abrams, Mr. Burnett, Mrs. King, Mrs. O'Neill, Ms. Sampedro, and Ms. Signer voted in the affirmative; Mr. Felton and Mrs. Gordon voted in the negative:

Resolved, That the Board of Education amend Policy FFA, Naming Schools by adding the following language in Section C., 2.:

The superintendent shall establish a process through which interested groups in the community that the school will serve shall be charged with the responsibility of recommending, in priority order, its preferences from among the listing of names provided by the Board of Education **and up to two additional names recommended by the committee.**

** Ms. Sampedro temporarily left the meeting at this point.

RESOLUTION NO. 22-00

Re: **POLICY FFA, NAMING SCHOOLS**

On recommendation of the Superintendent and on motion of Ms. Signer seconded by Mrs. King, the following resolution, as amended, was adopted with Mr. Abrams, Mr. Burnett, Mr. Felton, Mrs. King, Mrs. O'Neill, and Ms. Signer voting in the affirmative; Mrs. Gordon voting in the negative:

WHEREAS, On August 24, 1999, The Board of Education introduced, in a new business item, amendments to Policy FFA, *Naming Schools*; and

WHEREAS, On September 14, 1999, The Board of Education adopted a resolution to amend Policy FFA, *Naming Schools*; and

WHEREAS, Staff has revised the policy as directed by the Board of Education; and

WHEREAS, On October 25, 1999, the Board of Education took tentative action on draft Policy FFA, *Naming Schools*, and distributed it for public comment; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board of Education take final action on Policy FFA as follows.

Naming Schools

A. PURPOSE

To establish an equitable process by which the Board of Education can assume its responsibility for naming schools

B. ISSUE

When it is necessary to open new schools, the Board of Education must have an equitable process for naming those schools.

C. POSITION

1. It is the responsibility of the Board of Education to adopt official names for county public school facilities. In fulfilling this responsibility, the Board will make every effort to respect community preferences.
2. When a new school site is purchased, or a planning project for a new school is initiated, the superintendent will establish a temporary, generic name to designate the site or building for planning purposes. As a new school nears completion, the Board shall develop a listing of up to four

names. The superintendent shall establish a process through which interested groups in the community that the school will serve shall be charged with the responsibility of recommending, in priority order, its preference from among the listing of names provided by the Board of Education and up to two additional names recommended by the committee.

3. It is preferred that schools be named for distinguished persons, no longer active in their careers, who have made an outstanding contribution to the community, county, state, or nation. The Board of Education will give strong consideration to names of women and minorities so that these are equitably represented among county school names.
4. Geographic names may also be considered for new schools. These names should be clearly identifying, widely known, and recognized.
5. Although the Board will consider carefully community recommendations for school names, the final responsibility for officially naming a school building rests with the Board of Education.
6. The Board of Education welcomes suggestions for school names on an on-going basis. These names will be kept on file by the Board of Education and used as references.

D. DESIRED OUTCOME

An equitable process by which the Board of Education can assume its responsibility for naming schools.

E. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

The superintendent will publish a regulation to implement this policy.

F. REVIEW AND REPORTING

This policy will be reviewed on an on-going basis in accordance with the Board of Education policy review process.

RESOLUTION NO. 23-00

Re: **CONTRACTS FOR MORE THAN \$25,000**

On recommendation of the Superintendent and on motion of Ms. Signer seconded by Mrs. King, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present:#

WHEREAS, Funds have been budgeted for the purchase of equipment, supplies, and

contractual services; now therefore be it

Resolved, That having been duly advertised the following contracts be awarded to the low bidders meeting specifications as shown for the bids as follows:

103-97	Fresh Produce	
	<u>Awardee</u>	
	Coastal Sunbelt Produce	\$ 100,000
1078.1	Professional Services for the Department of Global Access Technology – Extension	
	<u>Awardees</u>	
	Grant Thornton	
	S3G Spectrum, Inc.	
	Total	\$ 200,000
4038.3	Closed Circuit Television Equipment	
	<u>Awardees</u>	
	D & H Distributing Company	\$ 40,000
	Kipp Visual/Security System	22,890
	Northern Video System, Inc.*	246,800
	Presearch, Inc.	119,064
	Security Equipment Distributing, Inc.	47,399
	Sunrise Systems	1,156
	Tri-Ed Distributing, Inc.	281,190
	Total	\$ 758,499
4054.2	Bathroom Partition Repair Parts	
	<u>Awardee</u>	
	Centar Industries	\$ 39,806
4088.1	Media Center Supplies	
	<u>Awardees</u>	
	Brodart Company	\$ 20,551
	Demco, Inc.	4,785
	Interstate Office Supply Company*	29,904
	National Micrographics System	760
	Pyramid School Products	28,287

	School Specialty	21,334
	Total	\$ 105,621
7017.2	Typewriter Ribbon and Copier Staple Cartridges – Extension	
	<u>Awardees</u>	
	Corporate Express	\$ 729
	Landon Systems Corporation	1,743
	Logan's Marketing*	766
	Matrix Data Corporation*	347
	Xerox Corporation	21,000
	Total	\$ 124,585
9117.1	Detergents	
	<u>Awardee</u>	
	Adams Burch Company, Inc.	\$ 35,451
9178.1	Energy Management Automation Systems Up-Grade	
	<u>Awardee</u>	
	Siebe-Pritchett, Inc.	\$ 153,428
	MORE THAN \$25,000	\$1,517,390

RESOLUTION NO. 24-00 Re: **ARCHITECTURAL FEE ADJUSTMENT FOR
NORTHWEST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL #6**

On recommendation of the Superintendent and on motion of Ms. Signer seconded by Mrs. King, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present:#

WHEREAS, On August 24, 1999, the Board of Education approved the appointment of SHW Group, Inc., to provide professional architectural design and construction administration services for the new Northwest Elementary School #6; and

WHEREAS, On November 18, 1999, the Board of Education voted to collocate the elementary school and Longview Center at the Northwest Elementary School #6 site; and

WHEREAS, It is necessary to amend the architect's contract based on a proportional increase in the project size and scope associated with the combined elementary school and special education center facilities; and

WHEREAS, Funds for architectural planning for the Longview Center collocation have

been requested as part of the FY 2001 Capital Budget; and

WHEREAS, Staff has negotiated a fee adjustment with the firm SHW Group, Inc., for professional architectural design and construction administration services associated with implementing the combined elementary school and special education center; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Montgomery County Board of Education approve a \$247,351 increase in the contract with SHW Group, Inc., for the Northwest Elementary School #6 project to provide architectural and engineering services for the collocation of the Longview Center at the Northwest Elementary School #6 site, contingent on the County Council's approval of the FY 2001-2006 Capital Improvements Program.

RESOLUTION NO. 25-00 Re: **AWARD OF CONTRACTS – WINSTON CHURCHILL HIGH SCHOOL**

On recommendation of the Superintendent and on motion of Ms. Signer seconded by Mrs. King, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present:#

WHEREAS, On December 8, 1998, the Board of Education authorized staff to utilize a construction management process for the Winston Churchill High School modernization project, with work to begin July 1, 1999, and be completed by November 2001; and

WHEREAS, The following sealed bid represents the eleventh in a series of subcontracts that were bid as part of a construction management process for the Winston Churchill High School modernization project:

<u>Low Bid</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Consultant' s Estimate</u>
<u>Auditorium Seating</u> T. J. Distributors, Inc.	\$112,000	\$125,380

and

WHEREAS, The aggregate minority business participation for the subcontracts bid to date is 27.7 percent; now therefore be it

Resolved, That a contract for \$112,000 be awarded to T. J. Distributors, Inc., for auditorium seating for the Winston Churchill High School modernization project, in accordance with plans and specifications prepared by Duane, Cahill, Mullineaux and Mullineaux.

RESOLUTION NO. 26-00

Re: **CHANGE ORDERS EXCEEDING \$25,000**

On recommendation of the Superintendent and on motion of Ms. Signer seconded by Mrs. King, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present:#

WHEREAS, The Department of Facilities Management has received change order proposals from various contractors that exceed \$25,000; and

WHEREAS, Staff and the project architects have reviewed these change orders and found them to be reasonable; now therefore be it

Resolved. That the Board of Education approve the following change orders for the amounts indicated:

Activity 1

Project: Chevy Chase Elementary School

Description: During excavation, the contractor uncovered debris that necessitated the removal and replacement of soil that could not be used as structural fill for the new building foundations.

Contractor: R. J. Crowley, Inc.

Amount: \$89,301

Activity 2

Project: Earle B. Wood Middle School

Description: The energy management system installation contract awarded to Systems 4, Inc., is being assigned to the general contractor for implementation and supervision.

Contractor: Porter Construction Management, Inc.

Amount: \$336,170

RESOLUTION NO. 27-00

Re: **GRANT OF RIGHT-OF-WAY AT NORTHWEST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL #6**

On recommendation of the Superintendent and on motion of Ms. Signer seconded by Mrs. King, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present:#

WHEREAS, The Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission has requested a grant of right-of-way at Northwest Elementary School #6, located on Richter Farm Road in Germantown; and

WHEREAS, The proposed grant of right-of-way consisting of 13,180 square feet is necessary to extend a sanitary sewer to serve increased development in the Germantown area; and

WHEREAS, The right-of-way will not affect any land that could be used for school programming and recreational activities; and

WHEREAS, All construction, restoration, and future maintenance will be performed without disruption to the instructional program and at no cost to the Board of Education, with Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission and its contractors assuming liability for all work; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the president and secretary of the Board of Education be authorized to execute a grant of right-of-way of 13,180 square feet to the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission at Northwest Elementary School #6.

RESOLUTION NO. 28-00 Re: **UTILIZATION OF FY 2000 FUTURE SUPPORTED FUNDS FOR THE TROOPS TO TEACHERS PROGRAM**

On recommendation of the Superintendent and on motion of Ms. Signer seconded by Mrs. King, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present:#

Resolved, That the superintendent of schools be authorized to receive and expend within the FY 2000 Provision for Future Supported Projects a federal grant award of \$21,259 for participation in the Department of Defense’s Troops to Teachers Program, in the following categories:

<u>Category</u>	<u>Amount</u>
3 Instructional Salaries	\$13,440
4 Textbooks and Instructional Supplies	1,000
5 Other Instructional Costs	5,743
12 Fixed Charges	1,076
 Total	 <u>\$21,259</u>

and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the county executive and County Council.

RESOLUTION NO. 29-00 Re: **UTILIZATION OF FY 2000 FUTURE SUPPORTED FUNDS FOR THE ADDITIONAL SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY FUNDING FOR EXCELLENCE (SAFE) PROGRAM FUNDING**

On recommendation of the Superintendent and on motion of Ms. Signer seconded by Mrs. King, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present:#

Resolved, That the superintendent of schools be authorized to receive and expend within the FY 2000 Provision for Future Supported Projects a grant award of \$16,700 from the Maryland State Department of Education under the School Accountability Funding for Excellence (SAFE) Program funding in the following categories:

<u>Category</u>	<u>Amount</u>
3 Instructional Salaries	\$ 8,500
4 Textbooks and Instructional Supplies	3,200
5 Other Instructional Costs	<u>5,000</u>
 Total	 <u>\$16,700</u>

and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be sent to the county executive and County Council.

RESOLUTION NO. 30-00 Re: **UTILIZATION OF FY 2000 FUTURE SUPPORTED FUNDS FOR THE GOVERNORS' GIFTED AND TALENTED STUDENT EDUCATION PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT GRANT**

On recommendation of the Superintendent and on motion of Ms. Signer seconded by Mrs. King, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present:#

Resolved, That the superintendent of schools be authorized to receive and expend within the FY 2000 Provision for Future Supported Projects a grant award of \$69,000 from the Maryland State Department of Education, under the Governor's Gifted and Talented Development program, in the following categories:

<u>Category</u>	<u>Amount</u>
3 Instructional Salaries	\$ 12,778
4 Textbooks and Instructional Supplies	15,700
5 Other Instructional Costs	39,500
12 Fixed Charges	<u>1,022</u>
Total	<u>\$ 69,000</u>

and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be sent to the county executive and County Council.

RESOLUTION NO. 31-00 Re: **UTILIZATION OF FY 2000 FUTURE SUPPORTED FUNDS FOR THE NURTURING THE BRAIN WORKSHOP PROJECT**

On recommendation of the Superintendent and on motion of Ms. Signer seconded by Mrs. King, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present: #

Resolved, That the superintendent of schools be authorized to receive and expend within the FY 2000 Provision for Future Supported Projects a federal grant award of \$7,000 under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Preschool Discretionary Grant program, via the Maryland State Department of Education, for a statewide professional development workshop, in the following category:

<u>Category</u>	<u>Amount</u>
6 Special Education	\$7,000
Total	<u>\$7,000</u>

and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be sent to the county executive and County Council.

Re: **MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT**

The report reflected the projected financial condition through November 30, 1999, based on program requirements and estimates made by primary and secondary account managers. At this time, there is a projected surplus in revenues of \$95,623 and

a projected expenditure surplus of \$400,000. Staff will continue to closely monitor both revenues and expenditures.

RESOLUTION NO. 32-00 Re: **CLOSED SESSION RESOLUTION**

On recommendation of the Superintendent and on motion of Mrs. Gordon seconded by Mrs. King, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present:

WHEREAS, The Board of Education of Montgomery County is authorized by the *Education Article* and *State Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland* to conduct certain meetings or portions of its meetings in closed sessions; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board of Education of Montgomery County conduct portions of its meeting on Tuesday, February 8, 2000, in Room 120 of the Carver Educational Services Center from 8:30 to 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. to discuss personnel matters, as permitted under Section 10-508(a)(1) of the *State Government Article*, consult with counsel to obtain legal advice, as permitted by Section 10-508(a)(7) of the *State Government Article*; and review and adjudicate appeals in its quasi-judicial capacity and to discuss matters of an executive function outside the purview of the Open Meetings Act (Section 10-503(a) of the *State Government Article*); and be it further

Resolved, That such meetings shall continue in closed session until the completion of business.

Re: **REPORT OF CLOSED SESSION**

On December 14, 1999, by unanimous vote, the Board of Education voted to conduct a closed session as permitted under the *Education Article* § 4-107 and *State Government Article* § 10-501, *et seq.*, of the *Annotated Code of Maryland*.

The Montgomery County Board of Education met in closed session on December 14, 1999, from 8:45 to 10:05 a.m. and 1:00 to 1:50 p.m. in Room 120, Carver Educational Services Center, Rockville, Maryland, and

1. Reviewed and/or adjudicated the following appeals: 1999-11, 1999-30, 1999-37, 1999-38, 1999-43, NEC-1999-110, T-1999-112, and T-1999-113.
2. Reviewed the Superintendent's recommendation for the appointments of two community superintendents and an executive assistant in the Office of School Performance and Accountability, subsequent to which the vote to approve the appointments was taken in open session.

3. Discussed and reviewed the Human Resources Monthly Report, subsequent to which the vote to approve the report was taken in open session.
4. Consulted with counsel to receive legal advice as permitted under Section 10-508(a)(7) of the *State Government Article*.
5. Discussed collective bargaining negotiations, as permitted under Section 10-508(a)(9) of the *State Government Article* and Section 4-107(d)(2)(ii) of the *Education Article*.
6. Discussed matters of an executive function outside the purview of the Open Meetings Act (Section 10-503(a) of the *State Government Article*).

In attendance at the closed session were: Steve Abrams, Elizabeth Arons, Larry Bowers, Fran Brenneman, Kermit Burnett, Reggie Felton, Bea Gordon, Roland Ikheloa, Nancy King, Frieda Lacey, George Margolies, Patricia O'Neill, Brian Porter, Glenda Rose, Laura Sampedro, Steve Seleznow, Mona Signer, Roger Titus, and Jerry Weast.

On January 5, 2000, by unanimous vote, the Board of Education voted to conduct a closed session as permitted under the *Education Article* § 4-107 and *State Government Article* § 10-501, *et seq.*, of the *Annotated Code of Maryland*.

The Montgomery County Board of Education met in closed session on January 5, 2000, from 9:10 to 10:20 p.m. in Room 120, Carver Educational Services Center, Rockville, Maryland, and discussed collective bargaining negotiations, as permitted under Section 10-508(a)(9) of the *State Government Article* and Section 4-107(d)(2)(ii) of the *Education Article*.

In attendance at the closed session were: Steve Abrams, Larry Bowers, Fran Brenneman, Kermit Burnett, Reggie Felton, Ed Frantz, Bea Gordon, Roland Ikheloa, Nancy King, Sheldon Kline, Don Kopp, Patricia O'Neill, Brian Porter, Glenda Rose, Steve Seleznow, Mona Signer, and Jerry Weast.

** Ms. Sampedro rejoined the meeting at this time.

RESOLUTION NO. 33-00

Re: **MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 18, 1999, BOARD MEETING**

On motion of Mr. Abrams and seconded by Mrs. Gordon, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

Resolved, That the Board of Education approve its minutes for the November 18, 1999, meeting.

RESOLUTION NO. 34-00

Re: **MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 1 AND 13, 1999
BOARD MEETINGS**

On motion of Mr. Felton and seconded by Mr. Abrams, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

Resolved, That the Board of Education approve its minutes for the December 1 and 13, 1999, meetings.

RESOLUTION NO. 35-00

Re: **MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 16, 1999, BOARD
MEETING**

On motion of Ms. Sampedro and seconded by Mrs. King, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

Resolved, That the Board of Education approve its minutes for the December 16, 1999, meeting.

Re: **NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business.

Re: **LUNCH AND CLOSED SESSION**

The Board of Education recessed for lunch and closed session from 12:15 to 1:35 p.m.

RESOLUTION NO. 36-00

Re: **AMENDMENT OF AGENDA**

On motion of Mr. Felton and seconded by Ms. Signer, the following motion was adopted unanimously:

Resolved, That the Board of Education amend its agenda to add a consent item.

Re: **DIALOGUE WITH CHIEF OF POLICE, COL.
CHARLES A. MOOSE**

Chief Moose outlined his philosophy and initiatives for the Montgomery County Police Department (MCPD). He felt that the schools were an extension of the community. In community policing, the schools are for the young people, and the police want to be responsive to the schools and students. Also, he was pleased that MCPS participated in the D.A.R.E. program, and he hoped that partnership would continue and increase over time. Chief Moose had talked with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF) to inquire about its Gangs Resistance Education and Training (GREAT) program. The GREAT program was a natural continuation of the D.A.R.E. program. With a

continuum of interaction between the police and students, the Student Resource Officers (SRO) would be in the high schools.

Mr. Abrams extended a welcome to Chief Moose. He was delighted that Chief Moose took the time to come to the Board and present some exciting programs. The continuum of programs and interdepartmental delivery of services would make a big difference in Montgomery County. He was heartened to hear that collocation was not limited to social services. He also liked the idea of an inclusive program with a countywide approach.

Mr. Felton extended his appreciation to Chief Moose for reaching out to schools. It was important to get the right message to the community regarding SROs. He asked what the department hoped to gain from this program. Chief Moose replied that SROs improved the relationship between the Montgomery County Police and young people. With SROs, young people will begin to interact with police officers and develop a level of trust. Another aspect of the SRO's role would be educating students about their rights and responsibilities as good citizens. Within the school, the SRO is another asset for the principal in safety and security. It would allow the police to do a better job of knowing the school community and making better use of resources. The SRO could augment classroom instruction with law enforcement and legal issues. Chief Moose saw a vast array of roles for the SRO in interacting with students, but the first goal was to return trust and confidence.

Mrs. King thanked Chief Moose for coming to the Board. She had faith in the SRO program and supported Chief Moose's efforts. Chief Moose stated that the SRO program must be tailored to dovetail with Montgomery County programs.

Ms. Signer was pleased to have the dialogue with Chief Moose. Even though Chief Moose announced the SRO program in September, the Board had never had a discussion about the role and responsibilities of SROs. As the dialogue continues on SROs, a number of issues had to be addressed, including the involvement of SRO with students, the lines of authority, and the interaction of the SRO with MCPS security personnel. There should be work with the community and principals to assure an appropriate program. Chief Moose said there had been dialogue in public meetings and workgroups since September. There had been no decisions with, and the process had to be endorsed by, the County Executive, the County Council, Board of Education, and the community. After the endorsement, the details would be worked out in hiring officers, developing responsibilities, and establishing the lines of authority.

Mr. Burnett welcomed Chief Moose to Montgomery County and to the Board. He asked what type of collaborative efforts were taking place between the City of Rockville and Gaithersburg that may have resources to combine and complement the SRO program. Chief Moose replied that he had met with the chiefs of those jurisdictions, and they endorse this kind of program.

Mrs. Gordon said she was familiar with this national program, and it had been very successful. She was pleased that Montgomery County was moving forward with this dialogue. She thought it was important to focus on the positive aspects of the program since students should understand that police officers are role models. She hoped that the school system would look at the educational piece of law and law enforcement as well as the officers working with peer mediation and conflict resolution.

Re: PUBLIC COMMENTS

The following people testified before the Board of Education:

<u>Person</u>	<u>Topic</u>
1. Adele Liskov	Ethics Officer Position (Statement on file in the Board Office)
2. Ralph Byrd	Student Resource Officer
3. William Tell	Kindergarten Curriculum
4. Linda Rigsby	Student Resource Officer
5. Scott Barber	Ethics Officer Position
6. Joe Pauley	Thank You
7. Dr. Yvette Edghill-Smith	Student Resource Officer
8. Phyllis Wallenmeyer	Policy on Homework
9. Penny Kyler	Ethics Office Position

Regarding Mr. Tell's testimony, Mr. Felton and Mr. Abrams requested the Superintendent to send a letter to Mr. Tell clarifying the Board's action on December 14, 1999.

Re: NORTHEAST CONSORTIUM PREFERRED CHOICE GUIDELINES

Dr. Weast invited the following people to the table: Judith Bresler, Esquire, general counsel, and Mr. Dale Fulton, director, High School Academic Initiatives. In 1996, the Board of Education adopted a resolution establishing guidelines for the preferred choice student assignment process. The guidelines include a utilization standard of 80-100% of facility capacity.

The high school population in the Northeast Consortium area is rapidly approaching available capacity. For example, by 2001 the projected enrollment of 1,517 at Paint Branch High School will exceed available capacity of 1,499, excluding special education students and the rooms dedicated exclusively to their educational needs. Current projections show that within five years, by 2005, the combined population of the three high schools (5,467) will be within four seats of available capacity (5,471). Capacity must be addressed to continue to promote the concept and the reality of choice.

To continue to provide the opportunity for movement envisioned by the Board of Education when it established Preferred Choice in the Northeast Consortium, Dr. Weast recommended that the guidelines for the Preferred Choice student assignment process be expanded to provide the ability to use 80-100% capacity or 80-100% projected enrollment. The latter standard would be used at individual schools or grade levels within schools that approach or exceed capacity. The ability to use 80-100% of facility capacity or 80-100% of projected enrollment as the basis for preferred choice assignments will provide the flexibility needed to maintain the high degree of choice the current assignment process permits.

Re: **NORTHEAST CONSORTIUM PREFERRED CHOICE GUIDELINES**

On recommendation of the Superintendent and on motion of Mrs. Gordon seconded by Ms. Signer, the following resolution was placed on the table:

WHEREAS, On November 25, 1996, by Resolution Number 799-96, the Board of Education adopted preferred choice assignment criteria, that required "[t]hat the preferred choice student assignment process be operated in a fair way that enables the three high schools involved to operate within the 80 to 100 percent utilization range, and with race/ethnic compositions that fall within the range of the Northeast Consortium high schools, and with male and female composition of each of the three consortium high schools falling in the 45 to 55 percent range;" and

WHEREAS, Each of the three Northeast Consortium high schools is now or is projected within the next five years to be over capacity at one or more grade levels; and

WHEREAS, It is necessary to use projected enrollment for preferred choice schools so that appropriate capital projects can be planned; and

WHEREAS, The preferred choice process cannot operate successfully without a standard that permits movement of students; now therefore be it

Resolved, That Resolution Number 799-96 is hereby amended to provide that preferred choice student assignments use as a guide 80 to 100 percent of utilization or 80 to 100; percent of projected enrollment by grade level based on official September enrollment data or the Spring update, whichever is available at the time of choice assignment decisions.

Re: **DISCUSSION**

Ms. Signer supported the proposed changes. She had some concerns because the school system currently had an advisory committee to address options for over enrollment at Montgomery Blair High School. One of the options was moving some

students into other clusters, including the Northeast Consortium. However, if the Consortium is at or near capacity, the school system might want to reconsider what the options are for the Blair Advisory Committee. Dr. Weast replied that staff was examining other ways to have choice in the Blair area as well as encourage choice throughout the district.

Mr. Felton noted that the proposal in effect gave more opportunities for students to be placed. He would support the resolution, and the school system should push for more choice. He asked if adopting the resolution would result in any operational problems. Mr. Fulton replied that this action would give the school system more flexibility in assigning students and make choice possible within the Consortium.

Mrs. Gordon noted the use of portables at Paint Branch High School for the coming year to accommodate growth in enrollment. In the long-term, there is going to be continued growth in that area. She asked what the implications of that growth would be, especially with the special programs that cannot accommodate the state-rated capacity. Mr. Lavorgna replied that the planned modernization would address that issue or there was the possibility of an addition.

RESOLUTION NO. 37-00

Re: **NORTHEAST CONSORTIUM PREFERRED CHOICE GUIDELINES**

On recommendation of the Superintendent and on motion of Mrs. Gordon seconded by Ms. Signer, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

WHEREAS, On November 25, 1996, by Resolution Number 799-96, the Board of Education adopted preferred choice assignment criteria, that required "[t]hat the preferred choice student assignment process be operated in a fair way that enables the three high schools involved to operate within the 80 to 100 percent utilization range, and with race/ethnic compositions that fall within the range of the Northeast Consortium high schools, and with male and female composition of each of the three consortium high schools falling in the 45 to 55 percent range;" and

WHEREAS, Each of the three Northeast Consortium high schools is now or is projected within the next five years to be over capacity at one or more grade levels; and

WHEREAS, It is necessary to use projected enrollment for preferred choice schools so that appropriate capital projects can be planned; and

WHEREAS, The preferred choice process cannot operate successfully without a standard that permits movement of students; now therefore be it

Resolved, That Resolution Number 799-96 is hereby amended to provide that preferred choice student assignments use as a guide 80 to 100 percent of utilization or 80 to 100;

percent of projected enrollment by grade level based on official September enrollment data or the Spring update, whichever is available at the time of choice assignment decisions.

RESOLUTION NO. 38-00 Re: **TECHNICAL REVISION TO BOARD OF EDUCATION
RESOLUTION #729-99 – REQUEST FOR
EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION
FOR ADVANCE LAND ACQUISITION REVOLVING
FUND (ALARF)**

On recommendation of the Superintendent and on motion of Mrs. King seconded by Ms. Signer, the following resolution was adopted Mr. Burnett, Mr. Felton, Mrs. Gordon, Mrs. King, Mrs. O'Neill, Ms. Sampedro, and Ms. Signer voting in the affirmative; Mr. Abrams voting in the negative:#

WHEREAS, On December 14, 1999, the Board of Education approved Resolution Number 729-99 requesting an FY 2000 emergency supplemental appropriation to reimburse the ALARF account for land purchased for the Northwest Elementary School #6 project; and

WHEREAS, Staff inadvertently designated the ALARF account to receive the funds directly from the emergency supplemental appropriation request which is technically incorrect; and

WHEREAS, The resolution needs to be revised to designate the funds for the Northwest Elementary School #6 project which then will be used to reimburse the ALARF account; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board of Education request an FY 2000 emergency supplemental appropriation and amendment to the FY 1999-2004 Capital Improvements Program in the amount of \$1,650,000 for the Northwest Elementary School #6 project to reimburse the Advanced Land Acquisition Revolving Fund for the purchase of additional land; and be it further

Resolved, That this resolution be forwarded to the county executive and the County Council as a substitute for Resolution Number 729-99.

Re: **STUDENT SERVICE LEARNING**

Dr. Weast invited the following people to the table: Dr. Hiawatha Fountain, associate superintendent, Office of Pupil and Community Services, and Ms. Kristine Leary, instructional specialist, Department of Comprehensive Pupil Services. In the audience to answer questions were Ms. Maria Conway, service learning contact, Kingsview Middle School; Ms. Margaret Donnellon, director, Middle School Instruction; Dr. Patricia

Flynn, director, Department of Academic Programs; Ms. Patricia Foster, principal, Francis Scott Key Middle School; Ms. Kathy McGuire, director, Department of Comprehensive Pupil Services; Ms. JoEllen Nauman, service learning coordinator, Gaithersburg High School; Mr. Daniel Shea, principal, Quince Orchard High School; and Ms. Denise Stablein, chair, Montgomery County Commission on Children and Youth.

In response to the June 15, 1999, request from Mr. Reginald M. Felton, this item was scheduled to discuss the matter of student service learning (hereinafter referred to as "service learning"). Since August 1999, the following actions have been initiated to enhance service learning for secondary students in Montgomery County Public Schools.

Organization

The systemwide service learning staff for the 1999-2000 school year includes the service learning specialist and three AmeriCorps/Connector Corps volunteers. The systemwide service learning staff has divided the county into three geographical areas. Each Connector Corps staff member is responsible for one geographical area in order to provide direct support to schools in a more efficient manner. Additionally, the service learning specialist is available to all schools on an "as-needed" basis. At the local school level, each middle school has a stipend position and each high school continues to have a 0.2 staff position assigned as the service learning contact.

Curriculum-Infused Service Learning

Service learning is the connection of academic learning and student service experience. Through service learning, students are provided with opportunities for authentic application of academic learning. Students have the chance to explore potential careers, gain life-long skills, and learn the importance of community involvement. To ensure that curriculum-infused service learning provides our students with meaningful service experiences, the following curriculum-related activities are in process.

Curriculum coordinators have reviewed all high school courses with infused or connected service learning hours. In a very few cases, hours were deleted because there was not a natural connection between service learning and course outcomes. In the remaining subject areas, curriculum coordinators have confirmed the curricular connections to service learning and communicated expectations for the infusion of service learning to their teachers. The service learning specialist has attended subject area resource teacher meetings to discuss the implementation of infused service learning and provide instructional resources.

Informational brochures are being developed for each curricular area that has infused or connected service learning. These brochures will describe specific service learning activities that will take place in each course. The brochures will be available for use by students, parents, teachers, and community agencies and will be translated into other languages.

Training

The MCPS service learning plan includes the infusion of service learning into selected middle and high school curricula. To deliver instruction in curriculum-infused and connected service learning, staff must be trained and provided with instructional resources. Staff development on best practices in service learning is being planned collaboratively by staff from the Office of Instruction and Program Development and the Office of Pupil and Community Services. The training will be delivered during second semester to middle school English, science, and social studies teachers and high school social studies teachers responsible for the infusion of service learning. Teachers and service learning staff attended training on service learning curricular connections provided by Maryland State Department of Education curriculum specialists and the Maryland Student Service Alliance. This information also will be included in the staff development. Grant funds will be used to provide schools with instructional resources on the implementation of best practices in service learning. To use resources effectively, staff development activities will be conducted using a training-of-trainers model.

In September, the service learning specialist worked with Department of Global Access Technology staff to provide in-service training for service learning coordinators and contacts on the use of the Student Information System (SIS) to record service learning hours. The use of the SIS provides school and central office service learning staff with a greater ability to monitor local school and countywide progress toward completion of the graduation requirement. With the reporting capability in the SIS, local schools will be able to generate reports on the status of all students. This will allow schools to monitor more frequently the progress of graduating seniors.

Communication

Information on service learning and service opportunities outside of school is disseminated throughout the system using a variety of means. These means of communication include presentations at staff and PTA meetings; parent letters and articles for publication in PTA newsletters; the publication of a monthly service learning newsletter; a frequently updated service learning web page, and use of the service learning conference on FirstClass; visits to middle and high schools to provide students with information and service opportunities; assistance for teachers and activity sponsors in developing and implementing service projects; and meetings with seniors who need assistance to complete the graduation requirement. The Montgomery County Volunteer and Community Services Center continues to provide training for agencies wishing to become an approved service site. The Volunteer Center also maintains a web page of the approved agencies and service opportunities for students.

Each month, an individual student or school service club is featured on a segment of the MCPS TV show *Special Edition*. The students are filmed on location engaged in a service activity and then interviewed on the value of their service. Featured students are from middle and high schools and represent the diversity of Montgomery County.

Faith communities offer students many opportunities to participate in service learning activities. To clarify the kinds of activities approved for service learning hours, the following statement, written in collaboration with Community Ministries of Montgomery County, has been reiterated for students, parents, staff, and faith communities through its newsletter, from which the following excerpt was taken:

Youth in religious congregations may earn service-learning hours for select activities conducted under congregation auspices. Such activities must be independent of worship participation or internal congregational service. These activities must make a positive contribution to the wider community.

Systemwide Service Opportunities

The service learning specialist will continue to work with the student affairs coordinator to sponsor schoolwide and countywide programs and to disseminate information on service learning through Student Government Associations. At the end of the 1998-1999 school year, student government and service learning specialists worked together to sponsor a collection of usable school supplies and clothing discarded during locker clean-outs. The collected items were donated to refugee camps in Kosovo. For the 1999-2000 school year, this and similar projects will be jointly sponsored. Included in this effort will be the diversity conference for students, Students Helping Others Unite Today (SHOUT), to be held on March 15, 2000; a student-led effort to strengthen recycling practices in the schools; and a peer tutoring/mentoring program to enable students to engage in the systemwide initiatives to raise standards and close the achievement gap. This collaboration will continue to provide school- and system-sponsored service opportunities for all students.

The service learning specialist serves as the planning committee co-chair for the sixth annual Week of the Young Child Family Festival to be held April 8, 2000, at Wheaton Plaza. This collaborative effort brings together MCPS students and staff, Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services staff, and community-based agencies. The outcome is a festival that provides a day of fun and learning for young children and their families. Groups provide activity tables that model developmentally appropriate hands-on learning activities for young children. County agencies provide information on services for families; celebrity readers demonstrate the importance of reading to and with young children; and MCPS secondary students earn service learning hours by helping with all aspects of the festival. The festival is sponsored by the Early Childhood Committee of the Montgomery County Collaboration Council for Children Youth and Families, Montgomery County Public Schools Division of Early Childhood Services and the Office of Pupil and Community Services, Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services, Montgomery College, Montgomery County Council of Parent-Teacher Associations, the Maryland Community Association for the Education of Young Children, and Network for Children.

Re: DISCUSSION

Mrs. O'Neill thanked staff for a thorough presentation and packet of material. Her daughter participated in Student Service Learning (SSL), and she saw SSL evolve as a PTA leader. Consistency on all levels in all programs in all aspects was critical. One of the issues was infusing SSL into the curriculum, and she would like students to get out of the schoolhouse and into the community as part of their learning. The other issue was lifting the cap on 260 hours for SSL for students who were very active in community service. When she read the individual breakdown of schools, the infusion of SSL in classes needed to be more clearly articulated.

Mrs. King observed that students were taking a course to fulfill the SSL requirements and not learning from the experience. The whole idea of the program was to teach them about giving back to the community. She had a concern about students receiving SSL hours in courses without working in the community. Ms. Leary replied that (1) this summer curriculum coordinators would review courses that include SSL hours and decide whether those hours were appropriate, and (2) determine if the SSL was meaningful within the class as presented by the instructor.

Mrs. Gordon was pleased to note the SSL changes that met the spirit of compliance of the requirement. The intent of the program was to give students the opportunity to learn and reflect on their service, and now the emphasis was more on learning rather than community service. She was gratified that MCPS was reviewing the curricular areas because it was important that staff, students, and parents understand the SSL hours on the report card.

Ms. Signer said she was in favor of community service, but less in favor of SSL. The idea was to give something back to the community. However, it was possible for a student to graduate from MCPS and meet the SSL requirement without leaving the schoolhouse. The SSL was infused in the curriculum, but the students were not aware of SSL credit in those courses. They are unaware of the link between SSL and the courses they are taking. MCPS must do a better job of explaining SSL and how students gain those hours. Ms. Leary explained that staff was developing ways for students to be involved in the community when there were SSL hours linked to a course. Communication with students and parents about SSL had been increased.

Mr. Felton asked what incentives were used for schools or students to see the value of service. Ms. Leary replied that the newsletter and the website included recognition of schools, teachers, and students for their activities. In addition, students who completed 260 hours received a certificate of meritorious service.

Mr. Felton wanted to know if there was anything that contributed or encouraged greater participation in service. Dr. Seleznow thought staff was moving SSL away from a

negative connotation to a constructive learning experience that the whole community values.

Mr. Burnett said his daughter got her SSL hours through the LTI program at John F. Kennedy High School. As a college student, this year she had volunteered at a school in Baltimore to tutor students in reading. Part of that responsibility to society came from her high school experience and the value she received from SSL hours.

Ms. Sampedro knew there were students who did not know they were receiving SSL hours in their classes. Since it is a graduation requirement, SSL should be explained to students when they are registering for classes.

Re: **COUNTY'S ECONOMIC OUTLOOK AND FINANCIAL PROSPECTS**

Mr. Timothy L. Firestine, director of the Montgomery County Department of Finance, briefed the Board of Education on the economic projections and financial forecast for Montgomery County for Fiscal Year 2001. The presentation was an example of the improved collaboration between Montgomery County Government and Montgomery County Public Schools. The presentation enabled the Board of Education to hear directly the most recent information on the county economy and how it is likely to affect potential revenues available for MCPS in future operating and capital budgets.

RESOLUTION NO. 39-00 Re: **BOARD APPEAL 1999-43**

On motion of Mr. Burnett and seconded by Mrs. Gordon, the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That the Board of Education adopts its Decision and Order in Appeal 1999-43, a student matter, reflective of the following vote: Mr. Abrams, Mr. Burnett, Mr. Felton, Mrs. Gordon, Mrs. King, Mrs. O'Neill, Ms. Sampedro, and Ms. Signer voting to reverse.

RESOLUTION NO. 40-00 Re: **BOARD APPEAL 1999-46**

On motion of Mr. Burnett and seconded by Mrs. Gordon, the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That the Board of Education adopts its Decision and Order in Appeal 1999-46, a student matter, reflective of the following vote: Mr. Abrams, Mr. Burnett, Mr. Felton, Mrs. Gordon, Mrs. King, Mrs. O'Neill, Ms. Sampedro, and Ms. Signer voting in the affirmative.

RESOLUTION NO. 41-00

Re: **STUDENT RESOURCE OFFICE PROGRAM**

On motion of Ms. Signer and seconded by Mrs. King, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

WHEREAS, The Student Resource Officer Program (SRO) seeks to expand the concept of community policing by assigning police officers to high schools as part of the school staff; and

WHEREAS, The Montgomery County Chief of Police has announced his intention to assign police officers as liaisons in all high schools; and

WHEREAS, Parents of Gaithersburg High School students have expressed concerns about the placement of an SRO at that school and have asked that the program be suspended; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Education has no procedure for the placement of police officers or guidelines for their appropriate role in schools; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board of Education ask the Superintendent of Schools to recommend appropriate procedures for the assignment of SROs to high schools and guidelines for the SRO's role and involvement with students; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board of Education schedule time to discuss the Superintendent's recommendations.

Re: **ETHICS OFFICER POSITION**

On motion of Ms. King and seconded by Mr. Burnett, the following resolution was placed on the table as a previous new business item:

WHEREAS, In response to the Ethics Panel's recommendations, the Board of Education approved the position of Ethics Officer in the FY 2000 Operating Budget; and

WHEREAS, The position has recently been advertised to be filled as soon as possible; and

WHEREAS, On November 10, 1998, The Superintendent of Schools wrote to the Board to state that staff was unable to identify any school district that has an ethics officer; rather, most local school districts, like Montgomery County Public Schools, simply have policies that cover ethics and conflicts of interest; and

WHEREAS, A review of the duties and responsibilities of this position indicates that it is unnecessary to dedicate a permanent position to perform the stated functions; now be it

Resolved, That the Board of Education expresses its intention, as part of its FY 2001 Operating Budget, to redirect the dollars allocated for the Ethics Officer position to supplement resources for more pressing instructional needs; and be it further

Resolved, That the hiring of the Ethics Officer position, as recently advertised, cease effective immediately; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent of Schools to explore dollar-neutral options for performing the stated functions of the Ethics Officer position including collaborating with the County Government's Ethics Commission to perform some, if not all, of the functions identified by the Ethics Panel.

Re: **DISCUSSION**

Mrs. King stated that after discussion with other county employees and staff, she had concluded that the focus should be on the academic achievement of children. Therefore, she wanted to redirect the \$45,000 back to the operating budget and have the ethics officer's duties accomplished with in-house resources.

Mrs. Gordon did not agree with the intent of the motion. She did not believe this motion was in order because it was a budget action outside of the budget process. If the chair ruled that it was in order, she had grave concerns about taking this action. It sent exactly the wrong message to the public as the Board examines how it carries out its responsibilities as representatives of the people. If the school system had an ethics officer, Board members would have understood that they could not accept gifts of more than \$25 and would have returned the signed and numbered prints they received from an architect. Mr. Abrams and Mr. Burnett asked what had been given to Board members. Mrs. Gordon thought there were occasions in which the Board was not aware of all of the ethics policies and laws. She would hate to see the Board communicate that it was not important for the Board to follow through in this area. She agreed with Mrs. King that money should be focused on the academic achievement of children. However, when the Board had an entire office of eight people that no other system in the entire country had, why would the Board pick on this one \$45,000 position? The school system did not have in-house general counsel who could advise the Board. In most places, it is the general counsel who serves as the ethics officer. The Board needed to be much more careful about what it communicated, especially in light of character education and expected ethics.

Mr. Felton was opposed to the motion. The Board spent quite a bit of time reviewing the issue of ethics. The Board listened to the Ethics Panel and its recommendations. More importantly, a great deal of money in contracts and decisions flow through staff and the Board. He thought the school system had been fortunate not to have any

problems to date. If there were a general counsel, he would be willing to have that person assume the position of ethics officer.

Ms. Signer was opposed to the motion. It was taking budget action outside of the budget work sessions, and it was amending the Ethics Policy outside of the policy process. The suggestion by Mrs. King that Mr. Margolies had a background an ethics officer and Ms. Bresler could provide support to the Ethics Panel was the configuration that had been used over the past several years. Today, all three members of the Ethics Panel testified that that configuration had not been sufficient since those people did not have the time to devote to making the duties of an ethics officer a reality.

Mr. Abrams spoke to the budget process. If it were next year's budget, he would agree with Mrs. Gordon and Ms. Signer. However, the motion deleted a position from the present budget. Right now the Board's agenda should be to focus all its efforts, resources, and personnel expenditures on students and providing education. It would be nice to have the luxury of additional slots, but the Board did not. He thought staff had demonstrated over time that when they were given a charge, they perform admirably. He would support the motion and take the Board through the next budget cycle. It would give the Board an opportunity to ascertain how well the structure worked with Mr. Margolies being primarily responsible for the ethics officer function with backup from legal counsel.

Mr. Burnett stated that he had studied this issue and agreed with Mr. Abrams. He would support the motion.

RESOLUTION NO. 42-00 Re: ETHICS OFFICER POSITION

On motion of Ms. King and seconded by Mr. Burnett, the following resolution was adopted with Mr. Abrams, Mr. Burnett, Mrs. King and Mrs. O'Neill voting in the affirmative; Mr. Felton, Mrs. Gordon, and Ms. Signer voting in the negative:#

WHEREAS, In response to the Ethics Panel's recommendations, the Board of Education approved the position of Ethics Officer in the FY 2000 Operating Budget; and

WHEREAS, The position has recently been advertised to be filled as soon as possible; and

WHEREAS, On November 10, 1998, The Superintendent of Schools wrote to the Board to state that staff was unable to identify any school district that has an ethics officer; rather, most local school districts, like Montgomery County Public Schools simply have policies that cover ethics and conflicts of interest; and

WHEREAS, A review of the duties and responsibilities of this position indicates that it is unnecessary to dedicate a permanent position to perform the stated functions; now be it

Resolved, That the Board of Education express its intention, as part of its FY 2001 Operating Budget, to redirect the dollars allocated for the Ethics Officer position to supplement resources for more pressing instructional needs; and be it further

Resolved, That the hiring of the Ethics Officer position, as recently advertised, cease effective immediately; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent of Schools to explore dollar-neutral options for performing the stated functions of the Ethics Officer position including collaborating with the County Government's Ethics Commission to perform some, if not all, of the functions identified by the Ethics Panel.

Re: **DISCUSSION**

Ms. Signer asked if the Ethics Policy would come back before the Board for revision because the ethics officer position was in the policy. Mrs. Gordon noted that the Superintendent would explore dollar-neutral options; however, it appeared that decision had been made. Mrs. King stated that the Superintendent would make recommendations to the Board.

Mrs. Gordon restated that the policy should be amended because the Board was in violation of the policy. Mr. Abrams asked Mrs. Gordon to explain in detail how the Board was in violation of its policy and what mechanism would be used to sanction the Board. Mrs. Gordon stated that the policy established the position of an ethics officer. Mr. Abrams maintained the position of an ethics officer was established within the policy, but did not outline how it would be filled and who makes the determination to fill that position.

Mrs. O'Neill ruled that the Board officers would meet with Ms. Bresler to confer and determine whether or not there was a violation of the Ethics Policy. Mrs. King stated for the record that the last *resolved* of the motion said "That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent of Schools to explore dollar-neutral options for performing the stated functions of the Ethics Officer position including collaborating with the County Government's Ethics Commission to perform some, if not all, of the functions identified by the Ethics Panel." It did not say anywhere that the Board was not going to comply with the establishment of the ethics officer position.

RESOLUTION NO. 43-00

Re: **CELL PHONES AND PAGERS**

On motion of Mrs. King and seconded by Mrs. O'Neill, the following resolution was adopted with Mr. Abrams, Mr. Burnett, Mr. Felton, Mrs. King, Mrs. O'Neill, Ms. Sampedro, and Ms. Signer voting in the affirmative; Mrs. Gordon voting in the negative:

WHEREAS, Parents have raised concerns over the uneven enforcement of the MCPS regulation on cell phones and pagers (COG-RA); and

WHEREAS, Parents are concerned about being able to communicate with their children during extracurricular activities and especially when they are away as visitors at away athletic competitions; and

WHEREAS, Although the policy is reflective of state law, it was adopted at a time of concern over criminal use of the devices on school property and at a time when cell phones were not as ubiquitous as now; and today cell phones and pagers are part of many adult lives; now therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent of Schools to perform a thorough review of this issue, including a review of MCPS regulations as to the appropriate discipline to be imposed for violations; and be it

Resolved, That the Superintendent recommend to the Board options for seeking statewide support for appropriate changes in the law.

RESOLUTION NO. 44-00

Re: **RECOMMENDATIONS TO STRENGTHEN CHOICE**

On motion of Mr. Felton and seconded by Mrs. King, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

WHEREAS, Public schools in America ensure that every child has an opportunity to high quality education; and

WHEREAS, On November 9, 1998, the Montgomery County Board of Education voted unanimously to oppose any form of vouchers, the use of public funds for tuition at private and parochial schools; and

WHEREAS, Montgomery County Public Schools continues to provide leadership for the nation's public school systems in the areas of academic standards, curricula realignment, and improved student achievement; and

WHEREAS, Public School Choice, the expansion of options to parents in the placement of their children at public schools throughout the district, represents a positive and viable alternative to vouchers; be it

Resolved, That the Board of Education request the Superintendent to develop recommendations to strengthen Public School Choice within Montgomery County Public Schools, to include signature and special programs; and be it further

Resolved, That the Superintendent develop an appropriate time line for the expansion of Public School Choice programs consistent with budgetary, student growth, improved content standards, and improved student achievement initiatives.

Re: **NEW BUSINESS**

Mrs. King moved and Mr. Abrams seconded the following:

WHEREAS, Several parents have expressed concerns about the implementation of the curriculum in middle schools and have stated that the middle school instructional programs are not rigorous enough, students are not adequately challenged and there are no honors programs in many middle schools; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Superintendent of Schools prepare a comprehensive report to the Board outlining a course of action to make the middle school curriculum more rigorous and challenging to students; and be it further it

Resolved, That the report include an analysis of the impact of the recommendations of the Maryland State Department of Education's Middle Learning Years Task Force as soon as they are released.

Re: **ITEMS OF INFORMATION**

The following items were available for information:

- 1. Items in Process
- 2. Legal Fees Report for October 1999
- 3. Construction Progress Report
- 4. Change Order Quarterly Report

RESOLUTION NO. 45-00

Re: **ADJOURNMENT**

On recommendation of the Superintendent and on motion of Mr. Felton seconded by Mr. Abrams, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

Resolved, That the Board of Education adjourn its meeting of January 11, 2000, at 4:25 p.m.

PRESIDENT

JWD:gr

SECRETARY

MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
SUMMARY SHEET

January 11, 2000

CLOSED SESSION	1
APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA	2
AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH	2
PERSONNEL APPOINTMENT	3
HUMAN RESOURCES MONTHLY REPORT	6
DEATH OF MS. LINDA HARRISON, SPECIAL EDUCATION BUS ATTENDANT, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION	6
DEATH OF MRS. SHARON METZ, SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER AT GAITHERSBURG HIGH SCHOOL	7
DEATH OF MS. MONA MERKLING, BUS OPERATOR IN THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION	7
ITEM OF LEGISLATION	8
BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS	8
POLICY IKA, <i>GRADING AND REPORTING</i>	9
POLICY FFA, <i>NAMING SCHOOLS</i>	14
CONTRACTS FOR MORE THAN \$25,000	19
ARCHITECTURAL FEE ADJUSTMENT FOR NORTHWEST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL #6	21
AWARD OF CONTRACTS - WINSTON CHURCHILL HIGH SCHOOL	22
CHANGE ORDERS OVER \$25,000	22
GRANT OF RIGHT-OF-WAY AT NORTHWEST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL #6	23
UTILIZATION OF FY 2000 FUTURE SUPPORTED FUNDS FOR THE TROOPS TO TEACHERS PROGRAM	24
UTILIZATION OF FY 2000 FUTURE SUPPORTED FUNDS FOR THE ADDITIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY FUNDING FOR EXCELLENCE (SAFE) PROGRAM FUNDING	24
UTILIZATION OF FY 2000 FUTURE SUPPORTED FUNDS FOR THE GOVERNORS' GIFTED AND TALENTED STUDENT EDUCATION PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT GRANT	25
UTILIZATION OF FY 2000 FUTURE SUPPORTED FUNDS FOR THE NURTURING THE BRAIN WORKSHOP PROJECT	26
MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT	26
CLOSED SESSION RESOLUTION	26
REPORT OF CLOSED SESSION	27
MINUTES	28

LUNCH AND CLOSED SESSION 29

AMENDMENT OF AGENDA 29

DIALOGUE WITH CHIEF OF POLICE, COL. CHARLES A. MOOSE 29

PUBLIC COMMENTS 30

NORTHEAST CONSORTIUM PREFERRED CHOICE GUIDELINES 31

**TECHNICAL REVISION TO BOARD OF EDUCATION RESOLUTION #729-99 – REQUEST FOR
EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION FOR ADVANCE LAND ACQUISITION
REVOLVING FUND (ALARF) 33**

STUDENT SERVICE LEARNING 34

COUNTY’S ECONOMIC OUTLOOK AND FINANCIAL PROSPECTS 39

BOARD APPEALS 39

STUDENT RESOURCE OFFICE PROGRAM 39

ETHICS OFFICER POSITION 40

CELL PHONES AND PAGERS 43

RECOMMENDATIONS TO STRENGTHEN CHOICE 44

NEW BUSINESS 45

ITEMS OF INFORMATION 45

ADJOURNMENT 45