

APPROVED  
26-2005

Rockville, Maryland  
October 11, 2005

The Board of Education of Montgomery County met in regular session at the Carver Educational Services Center, Rockville, Maryland, on Tuesday, October 11, 2005, at 10:00 a.m.

Present: Mrs. Patricia B. O'Neill, President  
in the Chair  
Mr. Steve Abrams  
Ms. Sharon W. Cox  
Ms. Valerie Ervin  
Dr. Charles Haughey  
Mrs. Nancy Navarro  
Mr. Gabriel Romero  
Mr. Sebastian Johnson, Student Board Member  
Dr. Jerry Weast, Secretary/Treasurer

Absent: None

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

RESOLUTION NO. 535-05 Re: **RESOLUTION FOR CLOSED SESSIONS**

On recommendation of the Superintendent and on motion of Ms. Cox seconded by Dr. Haughey, 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 closed sessions on October 11, 2005, in Room 120 from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. and 12:15 to 2:00 p.m. to discuss the Human Resources Monthly Report, as permitted under Section 10-508(a)(1) of the *State Government Article*; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board of Education consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto, as permitted under Section 10-508(a)(3) of the *State Government Article* and Section 4-107(d) of the *Education Article*; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board of Education of Montgomery County 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 of Montgomery County dedicate part of the closed sessions on October 11, 2005, 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 this portion of the meeting continue in closed session until the completion of business.

RESOLUTION NO. 536-05            Re:    **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

On recommendation of the Superintendent and on motion of Dr. Haughey seconded by Ms. Cox, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

Resolved, That the Board of Education approve its agenda for October 11, 2005.

RESOLUTION NO. 537-05            Re:    **AMERICAN INDIAN HERITAGE MONTH**

On recommendation of the Superintendent and on motion of Dr. Haughey seconded by Ms. Cox, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

WHEREAS, Since 1990, the President of the United States has proclaimed the month of November as "National American Indian Heritage Month"; and

WHEREAS, American Indians have lived in the Americas for about 70,000 years, demonstrating courage, determination, and endurance; and

WHEREAS, American Indians have made significant contributions within the broader community by the accomplishments of extraordinary individuals in the areas of science, technology, law, education, research, politics, fine arts, sports, spirituality, environment, language and music; and

WHEREAS, The American Indian experience, past and present, enriches our county, state, and nation; and

WHEREAS, The American Indian community has developed outreach activities and partnerships with families, students, and schools to strengthen and support the academic achievement of American Indian students; now therefore be it

Resolved, That on behalf of the superintendent of schools and staff, the Montgomery County Board of Education hereby declares the month of November 2005 to be observed in Montgomery County Public Schools as "American Indian Heritage Month."

RESOLUTION NO. 538-05            Re:    **MONTGOMERY COUNTY EMPLOYEES' CHARITY CAMPAIGN**

On recommendation of the Superintendent and on motion of Mr. Abrams seconded by

Ms. Cox, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

WHEREAS, The needs of others have long depended on the generosity of the employees of the Montgomery County Public Schools who have contributed to charity campaigns organized in collaboration with the Montgomery County Government; and

WHEREAS, The charity campaign gives employees the option of contributing to worthy charities through the Montgomery County United Way and the Union Community Fund; and

WHEREAS, The three employee representative organizations – Montgomery County Association of Administrative and Supervisory Personnel, Montgomery County Education Association, and Service Employees International Union Local 500 – along with the Montgomery County Public Schools, are continuing their partnership for the 2005–2006 school year with both the United Way and the Union Community Fund as alternatives for employee charity contributions; and

WHEREAS, Last year school system employees contributed \$187,580 to the campaign; now therefore be it

Resolved, That fall 2005 is hereby designated the period for participation in the Montgomery County Public Schools Charity Campaign by the Board of Education of Montgomery County; and be it further

Resolved, That all employees of the Montgomery County Public Schools are urged to demonstrate their continuing charity by donating to this campaign as a reflection of their commitment to addressing the needs of people who need our support.

RESOLUTION NO. 539-05            Re:    **SUPERINTENDENT'S ANNUAL MARK MANN EXCELLENCE AND HARMONY AWARD**

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

WHEREAS, The Superintendent's Annual Mark Mann Excellence and Harmony Award was established in 1991 to honor the highest qualities and most significant accomplishments of the late Dr. Mark Mann, former principal of Parkland Junior High School; and

WHEREAS, The award is presented annually to a Montgomery County Public Schools administrator, who has shown exceptional performance in promoting academic excellence, positive human relations, and community outreach; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Sarah Pinkney-Murkey, principal of Rosa M. Parks Middle School, was chosen as the recipient of the 2005 Mark Mann Excellence and Harmony Award for her extensive record of excellence in educational leadership; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Pinkney-Murkey has made her school a place where “every child can learn,” where staff share a vision that “all children belong to us,” and where a positive school climate promotes collaboration and open dialogue to further the academic success of all its students; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board of Education congratulate Ms. Pinkney-Murkey on her accomplishments and on receiving the Mark Mann Excellence and Harmony Award.

RESOLUTION NO. 540-05            Re:    **NATIONAL BUS SAFETY WEEK**

On recommendation of the Superintendent and on motion of Ms. Cox seconded by Dr. Haughey, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

WHEREAS, October 16-22, 2005, has been designated as National School Bus Safety Week; and

WHEREAS, The members of the Board of Education and the superintendent of schools have implemented a *Ride by the Rules* campaign to assure each student has a safe, pleasant, and secure ride to and from school; and

WHEREAS, The standards of conduct on the school bus are as important to student success as they are in the classroom; and

WHEREAS, Each student riding a school bus should have a safe and secure environment that sets a positive tone for the day and fosters a high level of learning and success; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board of Education proclaim the week of October 16–22, 2005, as National School Bus Safety Week; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board of Education formally indicate its support for the *Ride by the Rules* campaign during National School Bus Safety Week.

Re:    **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

The following people testified before the Board of Education:

- |    |                 |                          |
|----|-----------------|--------------------------|
| 1. | Ruth Jacobs     | Revised Curriculum       |
| 2. | Vaughn Bennett  | Chess                    |
| 3. | John Garza      | Sex Education Curriculum |
| 4. | Jeff Meer       | Sex Education Curriculum |
| 5. | Teressa Wallace | Health Curriculum        |
| 6. | Julie Lees      | Gifted Education         |
| 7. | Michelle Turner | CRC                      |

**Re: BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS**

Dr. Weast commented that Kimberly Oliver, kindergarten teacher at Broad Acres Elementary School, was named Maryland Teacher of the Year for 2005 at a ceremony last Friday evening in Baltimore County. Each of the 24 Maryland school jurisdictions selects an outstanding teacher to compete for the award, sponsored by the Maryland State Department of Education. She played a notable role in the restructuring of Broad Acres that has proved so successful in improving student achievement and meeting or exceeding all requirements of the *No Child Left Behind Act* for the 2003 and 2004 school years. In addition, she has earned certification by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. Through her leadership in professional development, she has encouraged other teachers at Broad Acres who are pursuing certification.

Mr. Abrams noted that the school system has had a lot of award winners over the years who are still in the system. He thought those winners also need to be constantly celebrated and included with the present award winners. He hoped they would be included in the future.

Mr. Abrams commended the county executive for following the law and sending a letter to the Food and Drug Administration requesting a waiver to allow the county to purchase prescription drugs from Canada for employees. Since the school system receives federal grants, Mr. Abrams was concerned with the potential of jeopardizing those grants if the system had gone forward with Mr. Perez's encouragement to start a program to procure drugs from Canada.

Furthermore, the Board received a letter from Mr. Perez that was retaliatory in nature regarding the legality and availability of translation services at the last meeting. The answer to the letter had to point out the law and facts to correct Mr. Perez' interpretation.

Dr. Haughey commented that he served on the committee to select the teacher of the year, and he was impressed by the caliber of teachers, especially Ms. Oliver since she was clearly the best candidate. Second, he was pleased with the success of the Sharp Suspension Program. Third, he was astounded by the number of the volunteers from Comcast who worked at Silver Spring International Middle School and Sligo Creek Elementary School. Finally, he was pleased at the turn out for the Strategic Planning forums and said there is an advantage to this approach.

Mr. Romero noted that there had been interpreters available at this and the last meeting for anyone who needed that service. Furthermore, there are informative booklets for parents that have been translated into a number of languages. Second, he reported on his inspection of Rocky Hill Middle School, and the wonderful layout of the building for smaller learning communities. Plus, the landscaping and front entrance are very welcoming. Third, Mr. Romero was charged by the Strategic Planning committee to look at the CIP and

investigate construction by meeting with architects and builders. He expected to provide a report to the Board later this fall.

Ms. Cox stated that it was a pleasure to see Ms. Oliver being acknowledged as an excellent teacher and representative of Montgomery County. Several Board members went to the MABE Conference and saw Mrs. O'Neill installed as president of the association.

Mrs. O'Neill reported that a number of Board members went to the Supreme Court to hear the *Schaffer v. Weast* case. Interestingly, the first student member of the county Board of Education, David Nieman, was sworn in as a member of the Supreme Court bar. Also, she congratulated Ms. Oliver for her award and expertise as an educator.

**Re: UPDATE ON CIP/ENROLLMENT**

Dr. Weast invited the following people to the table: Mr. Richard Hawes, director, Department of Facilities Management, and Mr. Bruce Crispell, director, Division of Long-range Planning. This year's annual update on enrollment includes a presentation on preliminary enrollment and demographic trends affecting future enrollment. The presentation also includes an overview of Spending Affordability Guidelines (SAG), the State CIP request, and the schedule for the superintendent's boundary and CIP recommendations.

**Re: DISCUSSION**

Mr. Abrams pointed out that the average county income is going up, which would result in a decrease in the FARMS rate. Dr. Weast agreed that since it costs too much to live in Montgomery County, younger families are moving to other jurisdictions.

Dr. Weast continued that students requiring ESOL services have continued to climb. This fact has huge implications on funding and instruction since it is difficult to acquire academic English within two years.

Dr. Weast reported that there was a net increase of students coming to MCPS from private schools. Ms. Ervin asked for the ethnic breakdown of private schools with enrollment and withdrawals.

Dr. Weast noted that the school system is much more diverse than the county as a whole. The important thing is how MCPS leads the country on almost every score, and the college entrance rate is 100 points above the country's average.

Dr. Weast was determined that the facilities in the poorest areas of the county should be improved, especially to reduce the number of relocatable classrooms. The rate of mobility within the school system affects facilities as well as instruction.

Ms. Cox wanted to know if the school system had school-by-school data that showed what other schools, both in the same and other clusters, from which students are coming, and if the system is looking at disaggregated data to determine if there is a difference in academic achievement.

Re: **UTILIZATION OF FORMER ROBERT E. PEARY HIGH SCHOOL**

On recommendation of the Superintendent and on motion of Ms. Ervin and seconded by Ms. Cox, the following resolution was placed on the table:

WHEREAS, The County Council has been asked to approve an agreement for the sale of the former Robert E. Peary High School facility to the Melvin J. Berman Hebrew Academy; and

WHEREAS, The sale request has been referred to the County Council's Management and Fiscal Policy (MFP) Committee for review and a recommendation for the full Council; and

WHEREAS, The chair of the MFP Committee has asked for the Board of Education's position on the disposal of the former Peary High School facility; and

WHEREAS, The superintendent and staff recommend that the Board of Education adopt a position opposing a permanent sale of the Peary facility because of the uncertainty that the facility may be needed for public educational purposes in the future; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board of Education oppose the permanent sale of the former Peary High School facility on the grounds it may be needed for public education in the future; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the County Council Management and Fiscal Policy Committee.

RESOLUTION NO. 541-05

Re: **AN AMENDMENT TO THE UTILIZATION OF FORMER ROBERT E. PEARY HIGH SCHOOL**

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

WHEREAS, The Board of Education recognizes that retrieving the Peary facility will impact the current tenant and supports any provisions included in the lease agreement that may entitle the tenant to reimbursement for improvements that have been made to the facility by the tenant.

RESOLUTION NO. 542-05

Re: **UTILIZATION OF FORMER ROBERT E. PEARY HIGH SCHOOL**

On recommendation of the Superintendent and on motion of Ms. Ervin and seconded by Ms. Cox, the following resolution was adopted unanimously, as amended:

WHEREAS, The County Council has been asked to approve an agreement for the sale of the former Robert E. Peary High School facility to the Melvin J. Berman Hebrew Academy; and

WHEREAS, The sale request has been referred to the County Council's Management and Fiscal Policy (MFP) Committee for review and a recommendation for the full Council; and

WHEREAS, The chair of the MFP Committee has asked for the Board of Education's position on the disposal of the former Peary High School facility; and

WHEREAS, The superintendent and staff recommend that the Board of Education adopt a position opposing a permanent sale of the Peary facility because of the uncertainty that the facility may be needed for public educational purposes in the future;

WHEREAS, The Board of Education recognizes that retrieving the Peary facility will impact the current tenant and supports any provisions included in the lease agreement that may entitle the tenant to reimbursement for improvements that have been made to the facility by the tenant; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board of Education oppose the permanent sale of the former Peary High School facility on the grounds it may be needed for public education in the future; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the County Council Management and Fiscal Policy Committee.

Re: **LUNCH AND CLOSED SESSION**

The Board of Education recessed from 12:25 to 2:15 p.m. for lunch and closed session.

\*\*Mr. Johnson left the meeting.

RESOLUTION NO. 543-05

Re: **CONTRACTS OF \$25,000 OR MORE**

On recommendation of the Superintendent and on motion of Mr. Abrams seconded by Dr. Haughey, 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 below:

1061.2	Software User Training Services—Extension	
	<u>Awardees</u> (See note)	
	Computech International*	
	Knowlogy Corporation*	
	Orange Technologies, Inc.	
	Personalized Computer Training*	
	Softek Services, Inc.*	
	Total	\$ 90,000
1062.2	Speech and Language Services	
	<u>Awardees</u> (See note)	
	Atlantic Health Services, Inc.*	
	Care Resources, Inc.*	
	EBS Healthcare	
	National Speech/Language Therapy Center*	
	Progressus Therapy, Inc.	
	Therapy Needs, Inc.*	
	Tri Rehab of Germantown, Inc.*	
	Total	\$ 600,000
1090.3	Services for Infants and Toddlers with Developmental Delays	
	<u>Awardees</u> (See note)	
	Care Resources, Inc.*	
	Early Intervention Therapists	
	Jewish Social Service Agency	
	The Language Experience, LLC*	
	National Speech/Language Therapy Center*	
	Pediatric Therapy Associates*	
	Total	\$ 300,000
1133.2	Occupational and Physical Therapy Services for Students with Disabilities—Extension	
	<u>Awardees</u>	

	Care Resources, Inc.*	\$ 50,000
	Tri Rehab of Germantown, Inc.*	90,000
	Therapy Needs, Inc.*	<u>10,000</u>
	Total	\$ 150,000
1154.2	Digital Library Project—Extension	
	<u>Awardee</u>	
	ProQuest Company	\$ 346,000
4043.4	Security System Supplies and Equipment	
	<u>Awardees</u>	
	ADI*	\$ 67,961
	Alarmax Distributors, Inc.	89,366
	Allegheny Electronics	31,937
	Capitol Cable and Technology, Inc.	33,259
	Meadowlands Electronics	<u>147,746</u>
	Total	\$ 370,269
4097.7	Computer Supplies	
	<u>Awardees</u>	
	American Toner Products, Inc.*	\$ 592
	B & H Photo Video	1,793
	Best Computer Supplies	57,269
	Business Stationers	32,080
	Canon Business Solutions, Southeast, Inc.	378,892
	Carolina Imaging Products*	67,578
	CDW Government, Inc.	214
	Corporate Express Imaging	10,111
	Global Government Educational Solutions	1,905
	Pyramid School Products	3,151
	Quill Corporation	1,224
	Standard Stationery Supply Company	765
	Tree House, Inc.*	<u>7,154</u>
	Total	\$ 562,728
4080.6	Art Equipment	
	<u>Awardees</u>	
	AFP Industries, Inc.*	\$ 438
	Commercial Art Supply	8,249
	Cutlass Enterprises, Inc.	1,304

	Dick Blick East	313
	Glover Equipment, Inc.	24,689
	Integrity School Supplies*	13,460
	James Howard Company	914
	Midwest Technology Products & Service*	44,704
	Pyramid School Products	4,905
	Sax Arts & Crafts	3,244
	School Specialty	1,756
	Sheffield Pottery, Inc.	31,684
	Smith Office & Computer Supply	7,676
	Windtree Enterprises, Inc.	<u>2,475</u>
	Total	\$ 145,811
4146.1	Office Supplies/Systems Contract	
	<u>Awardee</u>	
	OfficeMax	\$1,120,000
4160.1	Grant Evaluators—Extension	
	<u>Awardee</u>	
	ORC Macro	\$ 60,000
4181.1	Serious Incident Information Management System Software	
	<u>Awardee</u>	
	Global Software, Inc.	\$ 115,000
4182.1	Information Technology Research and Consulting	
	<u>Awardee</u>	
	Gartner, Inc.	\$ 100,320
7003.9	Audio and Visual Equipment and Supplies	
	<u>Awardees</u>	
	AFP Industries, Inc.*	\$ 1,389
	Burlington Audio Tapes, Inc.*	187,948
	CTL Communications Televideo, Ltd.*	332,199
	Kunz, Inc.*	55,962
	Nicholas P. Pipino Associates, Inc.	67,325
	Valiant, Inc.	<u>31,410</u>
	Total	\$ 676,233

7049.7	Photographic Supplies and Equipment		
	<u>Awardees</u>		
	B & H Photo Video	\$	33,303
	Freestyle Sales Company		8,304
	HPI International, Inc.		5,513
	Penn Camera Exchange, Inc.		3,128
	Service Photo Supply, Inc.		8,579
	W.B. Hunt Company, Inc.		<u>38,980</u>
	Total	\$	97,807
7077.2	HVAC Filters and Services		
	<u>Awardee</u>		
	Consolidated Safety Services, Inc.	\$	210,000
7117.4	Heavy Equipment, Tractor and Mower Parts		
	<u>Awardees</u>		
	Gaithersburg Equipment Company	\$	140,200
	Lawn and Power Equipment		<u>27,000</u>
	Total	\$	167,200
7132.4	Cafeteria Disposable Supplies		
	<u>Awardees</u>		
	Calico Industries, Inc.	\$	90,420
	Carroll Manufacturing and Sales		8,635
	Filmx, Inc.		1,273
	S. Freedman and Sons, Inc.		152,603
	Industrial Products Supply*		154
	Kahn Paper Company, Inc.		448,412
	Transilwrap Company, Inc.		837
	Webco Packaging, Inc.*		<u>30,594</u>
	Total	\$	732,928
7154.1	Studio Television Packages for Schools		
	<u>Awardee</u>		
	CTL Communications Televideo, Ltd.*	\$	105,372
9182.2	Waste Compactor Replacements at Various Facilities—Extension**		
	<u>Awardee</u>		

	Big Stuff, Inc.		\$ 55,654
9397.1	Retaining Walls and Storm Management Modifications**		
	<u>Awardee</u> Custom Masonry		\$ 75,000
TOTAL PROCUREMENT CONTRACTS EXCEEDING		\$25,000	\$6,080,322

\* Denotes Minority-, Female-, or Disabled-owned Business

\*\* Planned Life-cycle Asset Replacement Bid (PLAR)

Note: Contract amounts will be based on individual requirements.

RESOLUTION NO. 544-05      Re:    **OFFICE SPACE LEASE EXTENSION AT EXCHANGE PLACE**

On recommendation of the Superintendent and on motion of Mr. Abrams seconded by Dr. Haughey, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present:#

WHEREAS, Space is not available at Montgomery County Public Schools-owned facilities to accommodate staff occupying 5,138 square feet of office space at Exchange Place located at 451 Hungerford Drive; and

WHEREAS, Department of Facilities Management staff has negotiated favorable financial terms to extend the current lease to January 2011; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the superintendent and president of the Board of Education be authorized to execute a Lease Renewal Endorsement for 5,138 square feet of office space at Exchange Place for a base rental rate of \$21.00 per square foot.

RESOLUTION NO. 545-05      Re:    **UTILIZATION OF THE FY 2006 PROVISION FOR FUTURE SUPPORTED PROJECT FUNDS**

On recommendation of the Superintendent and on motion of Mr. Abrams seconded by Dr. Haughey, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present:#

WHEREAS, The grants qualify for a transfer of appropriation from the Provision for Future Supported Projects, pursuant to the provisions of County Council Resolution No. 15-631, approved May 27, 2005; and

WHEREAS, The projects do not require any present or future county funds; and

WHEREAS, Sufficient appropriation is available, within the FY 2006 Provision for Future Supported Projects, to permit the transfers within state categories; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the superintendent of schools be authorized to receive and expend, within the FY 2006 Provision for Future Supported Projects, as specified below:

<u>Project</u>	<u>Positions</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Individuals with Disabilities Education Act— Early Intervention		\$ 50,042
Individuals with Disabilities Education Act— LRE Training		34,974
Gaithersburg High School Trading Room Project		<u>75,000</u>
Total		<u>\$ 160,016</u>

and be it further

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

RESOLUTION NO. 546-05      Re:    **HUMAN RESOURCES MONTHLY REPORT**

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

Resolved, That the Board of Education approve the Human Resources Monthly Report dated October 11, 2005.

RESOLUTION NO. 547-05      Re:    **PRELIMINARY PLANS – SHERWOOD HIGH SCHOOL**

On recommendation of the Superintendent and on motion of Ms. Cox seconded by Dr. Haughey, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present:

WHEREAS, The architect for the proposed addition to Sherwood High School, Samaha Associates, P.C., has prepared a schematic design in accordance with the educational specifications; and

WHEREAS, The Sherwood High School Facility Advisory Committee has provided input for the proposed schematic design; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board of Education approve the preliminary plans report for the addition to Sherwood High School developed by Samaha Associates, P.C.

Re: **UPDATE ON TECHNOLOGY IN SUPPORTING  
ACCOUNTABILITY AND TEACHING AND  
LEARNING**

Dr. Weast invited the following people to the table: Ms. Jody Leleck, associate superintendent, Office of Curriculum and Instructional Programs; and Dr. Faith Connolly, director, Department of Shared Accountability.

This is an update on the strategic importance of information technology in the reform initiatives under way in MCPS. This technology includes the software and hardware as well as the innovative approaches in the use of information to inform decision making. However, more needs to be done to mirror the technology advances in private industry that make actual real-time information available anytime, anywhere. Product manufacturing and delivery systems that employ highly sophisticated technology are the backbone of the 21<sup>st</sup> century advances in the world's economy, and there are many examples in the success of Dell, WalMart, and UPS among many others, that point the way for improving the production and delivery of public services. MCPS is largely still in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Support for improving the school system's information technology resources is critical to ensuring the ability of MCPS to thrive in an increasingly demanding and challenging world. All the reform initiatives need technology to deliver a highly rigorous curriculum, grade-level student assessments aligned with national and state standards, instruction based on individual students' needs, differentiated professional training for teachers and principals to ensure effective instructional practices, and greater communication with parents.

Re: **DISCUSSION**

Ms. Ervin noted that she had heard a lot about technology, but she wanted to know what the school system was spending on technology, and how it helped the students. Ms. Leleck replied that teachers can use technology to analyze quickly a student's progress in order to focus instruction, and the teacher can use the time saved to further help the student. Dr. Weast commented on apportioning the resources since there is differential learning within the county. He wanted to know about those children in the impacted areas to determine if they have the most capable teacher.

Ms. Ervin asked what the impact was on the teacher and student learning. Ms. Leleck replied that the key to ensuring access to a rigorous curriculum was through the use of data.

Mrs. O'Neill stated that the use of data helps meet the needs of each child. The more technology that is used, the faster that data can be analyzed and acted on to provide appropriate instruction.

Ms. Ervin thought the community wanted to know how the technology helps the children. Dr. Weast explained that there needs to be documented information on what a child has

learned, and what should be done if that child has not learned the curriculum. In the past, children were tested at the end of the grade when it was no longer possible to reteach the curriculum. If they had not learned the information, then it was someone else's problem. With technology, the students can be assessed early and often to make a rapid change in instruction.

Mr. Abrams noted that it will be more cost effective when technology is introduced into the process and implemented by a paraeducator. In the context of a differentiated classroom, the teacher does not need to administer the assessment if there are tools that allow interaction between the guide and student. The teacher's time can be used to analyze, diagnose, and prescribe instruction. Dr. Weast commented that students can self-administer the test to ascertain whether or not they have the concept done correctly. With technology, they system can move quicker, better, cheaper, and more targeted.

Mr. Romero noted that in his experience as an architect, hand-drafting has given way to technology, and fewer people can do the work. More projects can be handled, and clients can make more changes at the last minute. However, technology is a tool, which does not make an architect or teacher. Mr. Porter commented that technology allows for faster decision making that results in proper student instruction and increased rigor.

Ms. Cox thought this was the right approach to move the system forward with consistency and the use of data across all schools. She asked if the vision and use of technology will eventually be tied to student achievement. Also, she asked if instructional materials will be assessed to determine which produce the best outcomes and if best practices will be identified. Mr. Porter confirmed that the school system's vision is to have information across the system to ascertain what produces success, if there is consistency, if the background of the teacher makes a difference, how staff development changes instruction, and what can be done to enhance student achievement. Dr. Weast would like a system that could analyze interventions with a cost-effective critique.

Ms. Cox noted that the Grading and Reporting Policy is being monitored for implementation. With this data, it can be determined if the purpose of the policy is met.

Mrs. Navarro remarked that this is the information age, and the school system needs the resources to accomplish its mission and goals. The Board has to articulate what is needed and why so that parents and the community can understand the system's technology.

Mrs. O'Neill thought it was nice to talk about technology, but the bottom line is: does it make a difference for children? The Board clearly needs to articulate to the funding body on how technology affects student achievement.

Ms. Ervin stated that there is a need for talking points for the Board.

Re: **UPDATE ON MIDDLE SCHOOL REFORM**



Dr. Weast invited the following people to the table: Ms. Jody Leleck, associate superintendent, Office of Curriculum and Instructional Programs; Mr. Donald Kress, chief school performance officer, Office of School Performance; and Mrs. Linda Ferrell, acting director, Middle School Instruction and Achievement. This update will provide information on the status of middle school reform. The goal of this initiative is to meet effectively the diverse needs of middle school students by providing a rigorous and challenging middle school academic program that improves teaching and learning, prepares students for rigorous high school standards, and promotes continuous improvement in all middle schools. The Middle School Reform Initiative addresses four of the Board of Education's core governance policies: Policy IEB, *Middle School Education*; Policy IFA, *Curriculum*; Policy IKA, *Grading and Reporting*; and Policy IOA, *Gifted and Talented Education*. It also embraces Policy ABA, *Community Involvement*, and Policy ABC, *Parental Involvement*. As the comprehensive plan for middle school reform is developed, the Board will simultaneously review and, as appropriate, revise Policy IEB, *Middle School Education*.

A Middle School Reform Steering Committee is overseeing the development of the reform plan. It is chaired by two deputy superintendents and the chief operating officer, and includes stakeholder representatives, parents, students, and employee representatives. The Steering Committee identified seven reform elements and established project teams to align with each element. The project teams will research scientifically based practices, benchmark exemplary models, and review and analyze relevant data to formulate and recommend reform strategies and initiatives. There is a specific focus on addressing the achievement gap of African American and Hispanic students, English language learners, students with disabilities, and students affected by poverty.

The development of the middle school comprehensive reform recommendations requires extensive collaboration. Consequently, the project teams also include stakeholders from all of the administrative offices, school-based representatives, the three employee associations, parent and community stakeholders, and students. This paper outlines the reform elements; the charge, tasks, and membership of the Steering Committee and project teams; and the timeline to complete this reform initiative. The proposed middle school reform plan will be presented to the superintendent for recommendation to the Board during the fall of 2006.

Re: **DISCUSSION**

Dr. Haughey noted the large number of people involved in making recommendations for the reform, but there were only a few parents and students. He asked where the fresh perspective is that will make the change for effective middle schools. Ms. Ferrell replied that there is a lot of research that will identify consultants. Also, nontraditional parent groups need to be included in the discussion. Ms. Leleck stated that the charge to the project teams directs them to schedule focus group discussions. Dr. Haughey was supportive of community members' input, and there is wisdom in the professional literature.

He was confident that new models and levels of expectations will be introduced into the process.

Ms. Cox thought the approach is well thought out. She cautioned staff to recall the lessons learned from other major initiatives that were implemented. The plan should not be the end product, but also should include implementation, communication, and barriers.

Mrs. Navarro agreed with Dr. Haughey and his observation about membership on the project teams. Under parent and community engagement, she realized that the charge was for review and there was no mention of recommendations and subsequent action. She asked if the strategies for parent engagement and communication will be used systemwide. Mr. Bowers stated that all of the project teams are expected to make recommendations that will come to the steering committee. The plan will be drafted by the steering committee with further input from community groups prior to submission to the superintendent.

Mr. Romero thought high school students should be involved since they had recently experienced middle school. Also, members of the community might be interested in being more involved in working on the plan.

Ms. Ervin said it was clear that the right people were engaged in the process. She noted the global screening in second grade and said there is a need to eliminate institutional barriers.

Mrs. O'Neill thought that Ms. Ferrell is the right choice to lead this reform. Change in Montgomery County is slow, but this reform is urgent. The children who have been a part of the early childhood reform are now in fifth grade, and they are ready for more rigorous instruction in middle school.

RESOLUTION NO. 548-05            Re:    **CLOSED SESSION RESOLUTION**

On recommendation of the Superintendent and on motion of Mrs. Navarro seconded by Dr. Haughey, 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 a closed session on Monday, October 24, 2005, in Room 120 of the Carver Educational Services Center to meet from 6:30 to 7:00 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*; review and adjudicate appeals in its quasi-judicial capacity; and 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.

RESOLUTION NO. 549-05            Re:    **REPORT OF CLOSED SESSION**

On recommendation of the Superintendent and on motion of Ms. Cox seconded by Mr. Romero, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present:

On September 26, 2005, by unanimous vote of members present, 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 September 26, 2005, from 6:00 to 6:30 p.m. in Room 120 of the Carver Educational Services Center, Rockville, Maryland, and

1. Reviewed and adjudicated the following appeals in its quasi-judicial capacity outside the purview of the Open Meetings Act (Section 10-503(a) of the *State Government Article*) with a subsequent vote to approve in open session: 2005-26, 2005-31, 2005-32, and T-2005-51.
2. Reviewed and adjudicated the following appeals in its quasi-judicial capacity outside the purview of the Open Meetings Act (Section 10-503(a) of the *State Government Article*): T-2005-49, NEC-2005-50, and 2005-30.
3. Reviewed the superintendent's recommendation for Human Resources appointments, subsequent to which the vote to approve was taken in open session.
4. 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 sessions were: Steve Abrams, Larry Bowers, Sharon Cox, Valerie Ervin, Charles Haughey, Roland Ikheloa, Sebastian Johnson, Frieda Lacey, George Margolies, Nancy Navarro, Pat O'Neill, Brian Porter, John Q. Porter, Lori Rogovin, Gabe Romero, Glenda Rose, Matt Tronzano, and Jerry Weast.

RESOLUTION NO. 550-05            Re:    **APPOINTMENTS TO THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
ON FAMILY LIFE AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT**

On motion of Mrs. O'Neill and seconded by Mr. Abrams, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present:

WHEREAS, Action was scheduled today to appoint members to the reconstituted Citizens Advisory Committee on Family Life and Human Development; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Education has not received qualified nominees with two alternatives from organizations with reserved membership on the committee – Citizens for Responsible Curriculum (CRC), Parents and Friends of Ex-Gays and Gays (PFOX), and the Montgomery Region of the Maryland Association of Student Councils (MCR); now therefore be it

Resolved, That action on the appointment of the committee is rescheduled for the business meeting on Monday, October 24, 2005.

Re: **UPDATE ON THE WORK OF THE  
COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT  
COMMITTEE**

Mr. Romero, chair of the Communications and Public Engagement Committee, reported that the committee was charged by the Board to look at the Board Office to determine how that office can best carry out the duties of the Board. Through that work, the policies governing the Board Office and Ombudsman should be reviewed. The Policy and Communications and Public Engagement committees met on November 3, 2005. In that meeting, Ms. Bresler reviewed the statutes, policies, and court decision to determine the Board's hiring of staff. Ms. Ervin asked for a copy of the report. Mrs. Navarro also asked for a copy of what happened at the meeting prior to this report.

Mr. Romero stated that he asked for comments from staff for his review prior to this meeting, and he wanted to include his commentary. He stated that it will be a priority to get the information to the Board.

Mrs. O'Neill stated that she thought it should come to the full Board since there are rumors in the community. Any changes to a policy will require action by the Board as well as any changes to the Board Office staffing.

Mrs. Navarro noted that even the Board members on the committees were not provided with the information.

Mr. Romero continued that the committee was a work group to review the policies (BNA/BNB) to ascertain if there should be revisions and/or make recommendations. Both committees met to start the process.

Mrs. O'Neill pointed out that Policy BNB is out of date, and there needs to be changes in practice or policy.

RESOLUTION NO. 551-05

Re: **APPEALS**

On motion of Dr. Haughey and seconded by Mr. Abrams, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present:

Resolved, That the Board of Education adopt its Decision and Order in Appeal 2005-30, admission to gifted center, reflective of the following vote: Mr. Abrams, Ms. Cox, Dr. Haughey, Mr. Johnson, Mrs. O'Neill, and Mr. Romero voting to affirm; Ms. Ervin and Mrs. Navarro were absent when this case was adjudicated.

Re: **DISCUSSION**

Mr. Abrams thought the appeals needed to be read into the record, but he asked for staff to streamline the process, if possible.

Re: **AN ASSESSMENT OF LANGUAGE ASSISTANCE SERVICES PROVIDED BY MCPS TO THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY**

On motion of Ms. Ervin and seconded by Mrs. O'Neill, the following resolution was placed on the table:

Resolved, That the Board of Education refer the Office of Legislative Oversight's Report to the superintendent of schools for the drafting of either a new policy/regulation or amending of existing policy/regulation or a stand-alone regulation to be considered by the Board's Policy Committee, to establish greater systemwide awareness and more consistent use of language assistance services, to include the following elements:

1. identifying the language assistance services available
2. incorporating existing procedures on the use of language assistance services for recurring events such as PTA meetings and parent-teacher conferences
3. establishing procedures on the use of language assistance services for unforeseen events such as an unscheduled school visit by a parent or an emergency phone call from a parent whose native language is other than English
4. providing professional development on when and how to use language assistance services
5. providing adequate notice to LEP parents about the availability of language assistance services
6. establishing a process that tracks the use and evaluates the effectiveness of the language assistance services
7. identifying responsible offices
8. recruiting and strategic placement of bilingual school-based staff
9. partnering with community-based organizations.

RESOLUTION NO. 552-05

Re: **AN AMENDMENT OF THE ASSESSMENT OF**

**LANGUAGE ASSISTANCE SERVICES PROVIDED  
BY MCPS TO THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY**

On motion of Ms. Cox and seconded by Mr. Abrams, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present:

Resolved, That the Board of Education ~~refer the Office of Legislative Oversight's Report to~~ **direct** the superintendent of schools **to review and report on current policies, regulations, and procedures, and practices and report on ways to** ~~for the drafting of either a new policy/regulation or amending of existing policy/regulation or a stand alone regulation to be considered by the Board's Policy Committee, to establish greater improve~~ systemwide awareness and ~~more~~ consistent use of language assistance services, to include the following elements:

1. ~~identifying~~ the language assistance services available
2. ~~incorporating~~ existing procedures on the use of language assistance services for recurring events such as PTA meetings and parent-teacher conferences
3. ~~establishing~~ procedures on the use of language assistance services for unforeseen events such as an unscheduled school visit by a parent or an emergency phone call from a parent whose native language is other than English
4. ~~providing~~ professional development on when and how to use language assistance services
5. ~~providing~~ adequate notice to LEP parents about the availability of language assistance services
6. ~~establishing~~ a process that tracks the use and evaluates the effectiveness of the language assistance services
7. ~~identifying~~ responsible offices
8. ~~recruiting~~ and strategic placement of bilingual school-based staff
9. partnering with community-based organizations.

RESOLUTION NO. 553-05

Re: **AN ASSESSMENT OF LANGUAGE ASSISTANCE  
SERVICES PROVIDED BY MCPS TO THE  
SCHOOL COMMUNITY**

On motion of Ms. Ervin and seconded by Mrs. O'Neill, the following resolution, as amended, was adopted unanimously by members present:

Resolved, That the Board of Education direct the superintendent of schools to review current policies, regulations, procedures, and practices and report on ways to improve systemwide awareness and consistent use of language assistance services to include the following elements:

1. the language assistance services available

2. existing procedures on the use of language assistance services for recurring events such as PTA meetings and parent-teacher conferences
3. procedures on the use of language assistance services for unforeseen events such as an unscheduled school visit by a parent or an emergency phone call from a parent whose native language is other than English
4. professional development on when and how to use language assistance services
5. adequate notice to LEP parents about the availability of language assistance services
6. a process that tracks the use and evaluates the effectiveness of the language assistance services
7. identify responsible offices
8. recruiting and strategic placement of bilingual school-based staff
9. partnering with community-based organizations.

Re: **NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business.

Re: **ITEMS OF INFORMATION**

The following items were available:

1. Legal Fees Report
2. Construction Progress Report

RESOLUTION NO. 554-05      Re: **ADJOURNMENT**

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

Resolved, That the Board of Education adjourn its meeting of October 11, 2005, at 5:20 p.m.

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PRESIDENT

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SECRETARY

JDW:gr

# MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION SUMMARY SHEET

October 11, 2005

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