

APPROVED
5-2003

Rockville, Maryland
January 16, 2003

The Board of Education of Montgomery County met in regular session at the Carver Educational Services Center, Rockville, Maryland, on Thursday, January 16, 2003, at 7:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL Present: Mrs. Patricia B. O'Neill, President
 in the Chair
 Mr. Kermit V. Burnett
 Ms. Sharon Cox
 Dr. Charles Haughey
 Mr. Walter Lange
 Mr. Gabe Romero
 Dr. Jerry Weast, Secretary/Treasurer

Absent: Mr. Reginald M. Felton
 Mr. Mihyar Alnifaidy, Student Board Member

Re: **FY 2004 OPERATING BUDGET HEARING**

The following people testified before the Board of Education:

1. Robert Hartman and Trisha Young, Head Start Policy Council
2. Jerry Klobukowski, Commissioner of Poolesville
3. Meredith Walters, Seneca Valley Cluster
4. Mark O'Connor, Quince Orchard Cluster
5. Link Hoewing, Poolesville Cluster
6. Tami Fries, Northwest Cluster
7. Allyson Morrision, Watkins Mill Cluster
8. Terry Schott, Magruder Cluster
9. Linda Dutka, Gaithersburg Cluster
10. Sonya Leaman, Damascus Cluster
11. Ivy Leichman, Montgomery County Pupil Personnel Workers Association
12. Steve Johnson and Audene Harvey, Montgomery County School Psychologists Association
13. Ana Henderson
14. Dr. Wai Yee Chan, Organization of Chinese Americans, The Chinese Culture and Community Services Center, and the International Education
15. Haydee DePaula, ARC of Montgomery County
16. Elizabeth Roth, Autism Society of America, Montgomery County Chapter
17. Kevin Mohs
18. Mary Salazar
19. Joan Karasick, Transition Work Group
20. Doug Alexander

21. Ruby Rubens
22. ESOL Bilingual Advisory Committee (EBAC) – Gadi Romem, Co-chair
23. Dr. John Young

The Board of Education asked the following questions:

1. Ms. Cox asked staff to provide information on how the issues can be addressed without vertical articulation teachers and whether or not there was flexibility within clusters that are interested in a dedicated person and the use resources to obtain that kind of a position.
2. At Seneca Valley, there was a request for funds to pilot the program, *Connections*. Mr. Romero asked for information on the funding and a breakdown on how the program would be implemented.
3. Mr. Lange inquired about an internship program for maintenance personnel. What would be the costs and programmatic implications?
4. Mr. Lange asked how services could continue for both the Safe and Drug Free Schools program and character education.
5. Mrs. O'Neill noted that there was federal money to support the Safe and Drug Free Schools program. What changes will happen in the Safe and Drug Free Schools program? What will continue to exist? What are the revenue streams?
6. Ms. Cox inquired about the concept of the Chinese language taught in middle schools. She knew that in high schools, when there is parent interest, a course can be established. She asked what the process would be for providing a course in Chinese at the middle schools if there is sufficient community interest.
7. Mrs. O'Neill asked which high schools currently offer a course on Chinese. What levels are offered at each high school? How many students are enrolled in each level? This information could be used to backmap the interest in teaching Chinese to the elementary schools.
8. Ms. Cox asked for information on how guidance counselors work with transition support teachers. What kind of training is available to guidance counselors in helping with those responsibilities?
9. Mr. Lange asked for a summary of the programs in staff development that specifically addresses the awareness of the regular classroom teacher on the issues of cultural/racial, special needs, and ESOL awareness. The summary should include: description of what is available, identification of the capacity in terms of numbers per year, and how many have gone through that training in the past two

years.

10. Mr. Lange requested that the Board be supplied with last year's information on the alternate Chinese Immersion program.
11. Mr. Burnett asked for the number of pupil personnel workers on staff and a breakdown by the language spoken. Also, he asked for the breakdown by the language spoken of school psychologists.
12. Mrs. O'Neill asked for a legal implications on whether or not there were impediments to not providing transportation to an immersion program. Based on the recent memorandum from the superintendent on the cost of a Chinese Immersion program, Mrs. O'Neill asked for information separating the transportation costs from the curricula and staffing issues.

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY

JDW:gr