

APPROVED
38-2003

Rockville, Maryland
November 12, 2003

The Board of Education of Montgomery County met in special session at the Carver Educational Services Center, Rockville, Maryland, on Wednesday, November 12, 2003, at 7:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL Present: Mrs. Patricia B. O'Neill, President
 in the Chair
 Ms. Sharon Cox
 Mr. Reginald M. Felton
 Dr. Charles Haughey
 Mr. Gabe Romero
 Mr. Sagar Sanghvi, Student Board Member
 Mr. Larry Bowers, Acting Secretary/Treasurer

Absent: Mr. Kermit V. Burnett
 Mr. Walter Lange

Re: **PUBLIC HEARING ON THE CAPITAL
BUDGET AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS
PROGRAM**

The following people testified before the Board of Education:

1. Jerry Klobukowski, Poolesville Commissioner
2. Bonnie Cullison, President, MCEA
3. Neville Levi, Montgomery Village Foundation
4. Michelle Yu, President, MCCPTA
5. Meredith Walters, Seneca Valley Cluster
6. Link Hoewing, Poolesville Cluster
7. James Keenan, Quince Orchard Cluster
8. Lauren Haven, Northwest Cluster
9. Nick Farson, Wheaton Cluster
10. Mark Rother, Kennedy Cluster
11. Mike Sauter, Northwood Cluster
12. Barbara Shulman, Einstein Cluster
13. Chris Barclay, Montgomery Blair Cluster
14. Richard Edelman, Wootton Cluster
15. Kevin Byrne, Rockville Cluster
16. Kate Savage, Richard Montgomery Cluster
17. Janis Sartucci and Lilo Mitz, Churchill Cluster
18. Tim Creagan
19. Larry Center, Committee for Excellence at Richard Montgomery (CERM)

20. Joe Mornini
21. Harry Klugel

22. Theresa Jones
23. Melanie Haste
24. Robert Fuhrer
25. Dontez Barrett
26. Jennie Discepolo
27. Maria Douglas
28. Neema Rosner
29. Manette Niu
30. Kathryn Ramsperger
31. John Walters

The Board of Education asked the following questions:

1. Ms. Cox wanted background information on the public address system at Poolesville Elementary School.
2. Mr. Felton noted that Ms. Cullison had addressed the feasibility study of the Mark Twain Program, but had not taken a position on privatization of the program. Ms. Cullison replied that MCEA believes that the options that serve the students best are those that can be provided through the public school system.
3. Ms. Cox asked for a response regarding the environmental issues at Poolesville High School.
4. Board members were impressed by all the clusters and how they support each other with a knowledge of the needs throughout the school system.
5. Mr. Romero noted that PLAR issues were raised at every school, which seems to be a systemic problem. He wanted to know what the probability would be for a feasibility study for a long-term plan to address all the problems in aging schools.
6. Mr. Felton wanted to know if there was an approach that could accelerate pedestrian safety at all schools without a delay based on funding. Mr. Hawes replied that there was a program in the CIP to address safe access funded at \$1.2 million a year. This allows staff to complete eight to nine projects each year. There is an evaluation system with several criteria to prioritize requested projects. To date, the funding has been able to accommodate requests. Mrs. O'Neill noted that the Board has written to Councilman Andrews regarding sidewalks in the community. She thought Mr. Keenan's testimony related to safe paths on school grounds. Mr. Felton asked staff to followup with a phone call or visit with Mr. Keenan.

7. Mrs. O'Neill asked about the roof for Northwood High School. Mr. Hawes replied that the Northwood project will have CIP, PLAR, and reroofing funds. The roofing will be done as part of the reopening project, but will be funded through separate roof replacement monies.
8. Mr. Felton stated that the KIPP program is not a "done deal" with the reopening of the Belt facility. There is support for the concept, but the Board has not made a decision.
9. Regarding the Blair testimony, Mr. Felton asked about the safe access project that has been funded but not completed. Mr. Hawes responded that a portion of the Highland View Elementary School project has been completed. However, there was a delay because the Park and Planning Commission had to approve the removal of several trees. Also, there is an issue about gaining access to the school property through privately held property, which will delay the project until the right-of-way is satisfactorily negotiated between the parties. Mr. Felton asked that the community be advised as to the progress of the project.
10. Dr. Haughey noted Mr. Farson's testimony about the possible impact of the KIPP program on the Belt facility. He hoped that information would be available to the community if the program moves forward. Mrs. O'Neill remarked that there has not been a charter application filed for KIPP.
11. Mr. Romero asked for an update on the negotiations on Montgomery Hills. Mr. Hawes explained that the county is negotiating with the private school to agree on acceptable lease provisions. At the present, the lease terms would be 13 years with a five-year notification period for reclaiming the facility (18 years before MCPS could reclaim the facility for educational use). However, the outstanding issue is the cost of reclaiming the property.
12. Mr. Romero encouraged clusters to advocate for full funding before all agencies.
13. Mr. Romero asked about the mold problem at Silver Spring International Middle School. Mr. Hawes replied that staff has met with the community to address the problem. School staff is collecting information and the issue will be addressed through the capital budget.
14. Mr. Romero asked if portables could be placed in the SSIMS courtyard. Mr. Hawes stated that the courtyard is completely enclosed. If the capital project is approved, four portables will be removed from the site.
15. Ms. Cox asked about playground equipment at Bel Pre, East Silver Spring, Strathmore, and Rolling Terrace elementary schools.

16. Ms. Cox wanted information on the requested cover at Glen Allen Elementary School.
17. Ms. Cox requested information on Einstein Cluster's testimony about the enrollment projections and the 2006 addition.
18. Mrs. O'Neill noted that other schools were concerned about playground equipment. She asked that all requests be listed on a single page. Also, Ms. Cox asked for the decision-making criteria for playground equipment.
19. Mr. Felton asked about including the add/alternates in the Northwood project. Mr. Hawes pointed out that the CIP request has not been approved even though the funds have been requested. Add/alternate is a mechanism for receiving bids with a 90-day period for additional items.
20. Dr. Haughey asked if staff had conferred with the City of Rockville regarding the Maryvale and recreational facilities. Mr. Hawes replied that the city was considering improving and maintaining some of the fields at Maryvale Elementary School. So far, there have been no decisions.
21. Ms. Cox asked for information on the situation on Maryvale's air conditioning and heating.
22. Ms. Cox questioned the Churchill Cluster coordinator about the comments on Supplement A. She understood that communities had made the decision to wait for modernization in order to design the school for program implementation. Was the cluster advocating for asset replacement rather than modernization? Ms. Santucci replied that there was no official vote in the cluster, but the consensus was that maintenance of school facilities is paramount. However, the cluster was asking for both asset replacement and modernization.
23. Mrs. O'Neill asked staff to meet with the Seven Locks community. Mr. Hawes agreed to a meeting.

The hearing was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

PRESIDENT

Board Minutes

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SECRETARY

JDW:gr