

APPROVED
39-2003

Rockville, Maryland
November 13, 2003

The Board of Education of Montgomery County met in regular session at the Carver Educational Services Center, Rockville, Maryland, on Thursday, November 13, 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. Walter Lange
 Mr. Gabe Romero
 Mr. Sagar Sanghvi, Student Board Member
 Dr. Jerry Weast, Secretary/Treasurer

Absent: Mr. Kermit V. Burnett

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

The following people testified before the Board of Education:

1. Merle Cuttitta, President, Local 500, SEIU
2. Sharon St. Pierre, Sherwood Cluster
3. Leslie Ridgeway, Springbrook Cluster
4. Anne Carson, Paint Branch Cluster
5. Phil Kauffman, Blake Cluster
6. Shirley Brandman, Whitman Cluster
7. Dan Shepherdson, Walter Johnson Cluster
8. Therese Salus, Bethesda-Chevy Chase Cluster
9. Allyson Morrison, Watkins Mill Cluster
10. Karen Fritz and Susie Scofield, Magruder Cluster
11. Linda Dutka, Gaithersburg Cluster
12. Renee Mullen, Damascus Cluster
13. Lorri Veidenheimer
14. Jane Rice
15. Ruth Silverstein
16. Jeanne Philbin
17. Ole Varmer
18. Stan Freeman
19. Joyce Ramsburg

20. Susann Haskins
21. Howard Wolf-Rodda, Indian Spring Civic Association

The Board of Education asked the following questions:

1. Mr. Felton asked about the impact on the cultural arts program at Cresthaven Elementary School. What other options/alternatives exist to help the issue?
2. Mr. Lange inquired about the state of the fire alarm system at Farquhar Middle School.
3. Mr. Romero asked if the interior painting at Sherwood High School could be done through the state program. Mr. Hawes noted that in the past the federal school renovation funds to carry out interior/exterior painting. Depending on the amount of funding this year, painting the interior of the school could be considered.
4. Regarding Cresthaven, Mr. Romero asked staff to meet with the community about the K-2 pairing. Mr. Lavorgna commented that the community is involved in the process for the design of the new school.
5. Regarding Blake, Dr. Haughey inquired about the shortage of lab space. Is that shortage related to the capacity issue, and is it a long-term or short-term need?
6. Mrs. O'Neill noted the continuing concerns about the access to the stadium. Mr. Hawes responded that there is a need to install a sidewalk from the main parking lot to the stadium.
7. Dr. Haughey asked if there had been a safety survey at Pyle Middle School to ascertain that the location portables is as safe as possible. Mr. Hawes replied that staff has twice looked at vehicular/pedestrian circulation. The real issue is the work of the county on Wilson Lane (sidewalks and gutter improvements).
8. Dr. Haughey asked about the placement of the Garrett Park Elementary School renovation. Why has staff chosen this particular phasing? Mr. Lavorgna explained that the site is a problem, and the gym will be placed where the present building is located.
9. Mr. Romero asked about overcapacity at Luxmanor Elementary School. Mr. Crispell stated that the school is overcapacity and will continue to be monitored. Mr. Lavorgna commented that recommendations for an addition are based on the slope of the projected enrollment curve.
10. Mr. Lange inquired about middle schools that were built as "open space" schools. He

understood that the FACT assessments do not take into consideration the open space. Instructional locations are defined whether or not there are walls. Have there been estimates for short-term fixtures with sound baffling? Mr. Hawes explained that Redland Middle School has additional problems with mechanical systems, and there is not a short-term fix.

11. Mr. Felton asked about the lower level space (five classrooms) at Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School. Mr. Hawes stated that the additional five classrooms are in the CIP. The community recommendation to build out the five classrooms during modernization was not possible because (1) there was difficulty in completing the project and (2) more work could not be added at that time and it was not funded.
12. Mr. Romero asked about the renovation of the second floor corridor at Damascus High School. Mr. Hawes replied that the work had been done last summer along with improvement of the science labs.
13. Mr. Romero inquired about the six-room addition to Baker Middle School, and whether or not more space is required. Mr. Lavorgna responded that the enrollment projections do not indicate that the school will require more than six classrooms.
14. Mrs. O'Neill asked about the renovation funds for the auditorium at Silver Spring International Middle School. Mr. Hawes replied that there are two levels – (1) a full performance theater (\$3 million) and (2) bring to code with cosmetic changes (\$1.4 million).
15. Regarding Pyle, Mrs. O'Neill asked if the safety issue and the portables considered in the renovation schedule. Mr. Lavorgna replied that the school is scheduled on the slope of the enrollment projections and funding.
16. Ms. Cox asked for information on the fire safety/stairwell issue at Farmland Elementary School. Mr. Hawes replied that the issue is the regulations for existing buildings and new construction.
17. Mr. Lange asked if funding was included in the CIP for renovation of the all-purpose room at SSIMS. Mr. Hawes stated that the issue of reopening the auditorium has evolved through interest in the community that wanted state participation to create a theater, and that funding is not included in the money to deal with capacity issues.
18. Dr. Haughey asked if MCPS had considered ways to get county funding for SSIMS. Mrs. O'Neill stated that the county did not have the matching funds to get state money.

The hearing adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

RESOLUTION NO. 579-03 Re: **CLOSED SESSION**

On recommendation of the Superintendent and on motion of Ms. Cox seconded by Mr. Lange, 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 November 13, 2003, in Room 120 from 8:50 to 9:45 p.m. to consult with staff and counsel about pending litigation under Section 10-508(a)(8); and be it further

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

RESOLUTION NO. 580-03 Re: **ADJOURNMENT**

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

Resolved, That the Board of Education adjourn closed session of November 13, 2003, at 9:35 p.m.

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY

JDW:gr