

APPROVED
2-2004

Rockville, Maryland
January 14, 2004

The Board of Education of Montgomery County met in special session at the Carver Educational Services Center, Rockville, Maryland, on Wednesday, January 14, 2004, at 7:05 p.m.

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

Absent: Mr. Kermit V. Burnett
 Mr. Sagar Sanghvi, Student Board Member

Re: **FY 2005 OPERATING BUDGET HEARING**

The following people testified before the Board of Education:

1. Robert Hartman and Jennifer Salisbury, Head Start Policy Council
2. Jerry Klobukowski, Commissioner of Poolesville
3. Michelle Yu, President of MCCPTA
4. Lilo Mitz, Churchill Cluster
5. Kate Savage, Richard Montgomery Cluster
6. Lydia Taghavi, Rockville Cluster
7. Richard Edelman, Wootton Cluster
8. Geri Ginsberg, Northeast Consortium
9. Sharon St. Pierre, Sherwood Cluster
10. Brian Shilling, Outdoor Education Association (OEA)
11. Joan Karasik, ARC
12. Nick Petrick, Individual
13. Kathy Ramsperger, Individual
14. Carla Satinsky, The League of Women Voters
15. Patty Winters, Co-Chair, Playground Task Force Committee, Maryvale ES
16. Ruby Rubens, Blacks United for Excellence in Education (BUEE)
17. Bonnie Cullison, MCEA

The Board of Education asked the following questions:

1. Dr. Haughey asked for additional information about the use of substitutes and the

incidents of absences of teachers from classrooms in terms of the instructional and resources implications of those substitutes.

2. Regarding the Churchill Cluster's testimony, Mr. Romero asked about the cut of 37 middle school teachers and 45 elementary school teachers. He confirmed that the reduction was due to the overall enrollment decline.
3. In the Rockville testimony, Mr. Lange noted services for special education and the reduction of aides for transportation. He asked for information addressing that issue.
4. Richard Montgomery's testimony spoke about the coverage for paraeducators when they are absent and the impact on various special education classrooms. Mr. Lange asked for information on that issue.
5. Mr. Felton asked about substitutes and full-day training. He asked for the actual savings and cost of full training days versus use of subs.
6. Mr. Felton asked what the instructional expectations for a special education class are when the paraprofessional is absent.
7. Mr. Felton asked about the "Working Together" publication and the publishing cost. The point had been made that the publication had been done to engage minority parents, but all parents need the document.
8. Mrs. O'Neill stated that the Board continues to hear about substitutes for teachers who are attending staff development training. One of the purposes of the staff development teachers was for side-by-side training in the classrooms. Is there a cost-benefit analysis or are teachers still pulled out for training?
9. Ms. Cox asked if the connections course that was developed for use in the areas of the county that are instituting academies is available for use in other high schools.
10. Mr. Felton wanted to encourage the Northeast Consortium to look at programs to assist schools in which parents are not active. He volunteered to help them with options for those schools.
11. Mr. Lange asked for information about the Sherwood Cluster's middle school that does not have a computer lab. Mr. Romero asked how much it would cost to have a viable computer lab. When would it be available? Is it already scheduled?
12. Mr. Romero stated that the Northeast Consortium testimony was concerned about the proposal to eliminate math support teachers. He wanted information about the impact

on the classroom and the cost.

13. Dr. Haughey had heard about the concern about changes in the availability of math instructors and math resource teachers. What changes are proposed for next year in both the middle and high schools?
14. Mr. Lange asked about the adequacy of staff development for students of diverse capabilities and learning styles (Karasik and Rubens testimony). He asked for a summary picture of all staff development activities that are going on and how MCPS is meeting those staff development needs. This question is tied to an early question about teachers being out of the classroom for staff development.
15. Mr. Lange asked for a summary of the impact of the two Chinese Immersion options presented by Mr. Petrick.
16. Mr. Felton noted that many schools are looking for options and support as suggested by the Playground Task Force Committee (Maryvale). Could staff identify some other means of meeting those needs?
17. Mrs. O'Neill asked if the report from the Work Group on Middle School Foreign Languages had been sent to principals. Is there a cost associated with offering Chinese? What would be the cost of starting a program?
18. Dr. Haughey thought there should be a comprehensive study on immersion programs and the costs associated with expanding and sustaining these programs. He hoped this topic could be put on an agenda to develop a study on what the school system is doing, what it ought to be doing, and what it can afford to do.
19. Dr. Haughey noted Ms. Karasik's testimony on the reading issue. What changes have there been in the availability of reading specialists in schools this year, and to what extent is there a move to complete staffing? What about progress in reducing the ratio for speech/language specialists?
20. Dr. Haughey asked about the reduction in elementary school staffing. He asked if there was enough flexibility in staffing to accommodate an increased enrollment if the projections underestimate enrollment.

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY

JDW:gr