

APPROVED  
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Rockville, Maryland  
January 15, 2004

The Board of Education of Montgomery County met in special session at the Carver Educational Services Center, Rockville, Maryland, on Thursday, January 15, 2004, at 7:05 p.m.

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

Absent:                   Mr. Kermit V. Burnett  
  Mr. Reginald M. Felton

Re:    **FY 2005 OPERATING BUDGET HEARING**

The following people testified before the Board of Education:

1.     Renee Mullen, Damascus Cluster
2.     Susie Scofield, Magruder Cluster
3.     Allyson Morrison, Watkins Mill Cluster
4.     Lauren Haven, Northwest Cluster
5.     Link Hoewing, Poolesville Cluster
6.     Jim Keenan, Ounce Orchard Cluster
7.     Meredith Walters, Seneca Valley Cluster
8.     Ivy Leichman, Montgomery County Pupil Personnel Workers Association
9.     Audene Harvey, Montgomery County School Psychologists Association
10.    Dr. Cynthia Sung, CCACS (Chinese Culture and Community Services)
11.    Robert Monsheimer and Marvin Weinman, Taxpayers League
12.    Merle Cuttitta, President, Local 500, SEIU
13.    Peter Hardesty, Individual
14.    Jonathan Bishop, Individual
15.    Judy Docca, NAACP
16.    Sue Gunether, Community Action Board

The Board of Education asked the following questions:

1.     Mr. Sanghvi asked what the recommended student/counselor ratio was for MCPS.

2. Ms. Cox asked what the enrollment was for staffing assistant principals.
3. Dr. Haughey noted the Damascus Cluster's testimony about accountability and information about the decision-making process. Has MCPS done an adequate job of informing all interested parties about the conversations with MCCPTA and community leaders about the likelihood of changing the budget process?
4. Mr. Romero requested information on the staffing ratio for paraeducators.
5. Mr. Lange noted that the Magruder Cluster's testimony stated that textbooks are lacking for the fourth grade reading/language arts program. He asked for a summary report about why that is the case, and what is being used in place of textbooks. Ms. Cox asked for specific information on which textbooks are paid for by the countywide budget as MCPS rolls out the new curriculum, and which textbooks are the responsibility of the local schools through its textbook allocation. What is the allocation versus the responsibility to provide textbooks for the new curriculum? If there have been delays, what has been done to mitigate that situation?
6. Regarding the Magruder Cluster's testimony, Mr. Lange asked for a report on PA systems as they relate to safety.
7. Mr. Lange requested a summary report of the backlog of maintenance work orders referred to in the testimony of the Seneca Valley Cluster. What are the priorities? What is the response time?
8. Mr. Romero asked how much additional funds would be needed to add another maintenance team.
9. Mr. Romero noted that the Seneca Valley Cluster asked for a dean-of-students position. What would it take to add that position to the budget?
10. Dr. Haughey noted the continuing concern of substitute teachers in the classroom. When teachers are out of the classroom, how many teachers are in the building? How many are out of the building?
11. Dr. Haughey asked about copiers. Is there a common contract for procurement and maintenance? How successful is this process in keeping the machines up and running?
12. Mrs. O'Neill noted the testimony about accountability. She thought that some of the programmatic review may not be obvious to people outside of central office. She thought it might be appropriate to set up a meeting with MCCPTA and other

stakeholders to have a dialogue.

13. Mr. Lange asked about the 43 pupil personnel workers in MCPS. How has that changed over the years? Have the needs been identified in order to provide appropriate services in the future?
14. Mr. Lange noted that the psychologists testified that they had obsolete computers. Is there a way to realign equipment to support their needs?
15. In the testimony of the Taxpayers' League, Mr. Lange pointed out that there was a suggestion to save funds through telecommunications and supplies procurement. What is MCPS doing currently? Would the proposal save money?
16. Mr. Lange asked about the alignment of paraeducators, maintenance, and security personnel to meet current needs. Traditionally there has been a formula approach. Has that kept up with the changing demographic and facility needs?
17. Mr. Lange asked about staff development for supporting services employees. What additional training funds for supporting services employees would be necessary to implement a maintenance program identified in testimony?
18. Mr. Romero asked for an analysis of the cost savings through replacement of the regular security system with temporary workers for this year.
19. Dr. Haughey was concerned with the amount of turnover on a regular basis with maintenance workers. How quickly does the system need to replenish people in the skilled trades? Ms. Cox asked how the system recruits and trains to meet the demands of the job.

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

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PRESIDENT

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SECRETARY

JDW:gr