

APPROVED  
4-2004

Rockville, Maryland  
January 21, 2004

The Board of Education of Montgomery County met in special session at the Carver Educational Services Center, Rockville, Maryland, on Wednesday, January 21, 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.    Lauren Morando Rhim, Bethesda-Chevy Chase Cluster
2.    Ellen Paul, Walter Johnson Cluster
3.    Shirley Brandman, Whitman Cluster
4.    Nick Farson, Wheaton Cluster
5.    Will Rabinovich, Northwood Cluster
6.    Penny Lee, Kennedy Cluster
7.    Gail Melson, Einstein Cluster
8.    Chris Barclay, Blair Cluster
9.    Candie Villafana, Commission on Children and Youth
10.   Chris Neff, Educational Opportunities Group
11.   Kay Romero, Special Education Advisory Committee
12.   Joan Sabaka, McNeeds
13.   Barbara Fichman
14.   Janice Miller, Montgomery County Speech Pathologists
15.   Reda Sheinberg, Emotional Disability Action Group
16.   Ricki Sabia, Special Education Continuous Improvement Team
17.   Shonda Leonard
18.   Joyce Whang
19.   Robert Ladden
20.   Jay Larson, SpecialEdVoters.org
21.   Richard Huffman and Tina Burke, Montgomery County Educational Media

## Specialist Association (MCEMSA)

22. Ellen Liberman
23. Deborah Shulman
24. Rebecca Newman, Montgomery County Association of Administrative and Supervisory Personnel (MCAASP)
25. Joe Sacco, Secondary School Administrators Association
26. Adrienne Jackson and Michael Thomas, Co-Presidents, Elementary School Administrators Association
27. Myriam Schinazi
28. Jerry Heupel, Stephen Knolls School

The Board of Education asked the following questions:

1. Mr. Felton noted that the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Cluster testified about the summer scholars' program as a means to deal with students who are ineligible for extended learning opportunities. How many other schools are offering similar programs? Is supplemental funding provided to any other schools?
2. Mr. Felton asked if there was a way to establish a supplemental program to deal with schools in crisis due to needed bathrooms repairs and mold.
3. Mr. Lange added to the previous question on bathroom repairs. How timely are the work orders for maintenance?
4. Mr. Lange noted that there was a need for English courses for parents, as testified by the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Cluster. What percentage of the needs are being met currently?
5. Mr. Lange asked for the cost of copiers and paper for supplemental instructional material.
6. Mr. Lange noted that 30 percent of counselor time is devoted to administrative tasks. How could the system provide administrative support?
7. Mr. Lange wanted to know when the Belt middle school principal would be hired. Is there a timetable?
8. Mr. Romero noted in the Wheaton Cluster's testimony that there was a reduction in Algebra I, literacy, and staff development teachers. What was the reason for these reductions? Dr. Haughey added that he thought there was a process for justifying retention of people in special circumstances, and he requested that information.

9. Dr. Haughey asked about the equitable distribution of textbooks beyond this budget cycle.
10. Mr. Romero noted Northwood Cluster's testimony about maintenance issues, such as the roof leaks, the drainage in the fields, and the boys' locker rooms. Is the roof going to be replaced during renovation? Is that an add/alternate? When will the drainage of the fields be fixed?
11. Mr. Romero asked if the teacher ratio of 29:1 in Northwood's testimony is correct.
12. Mr. Lange wanted clarification on the Blair Cluster testimony regarding the changing criteria for Title I support from 50 percent to 55 percent FARMS. What are the assurances about the supports for Pine Crest Elementary School?
13. Mr. Lange asked about the eligibility issue. How will the grading and reporting policy affect eligibility?
14. Mr. Felton asked what options were available for Northwood to ensure staffing to meet a broader range of educational levels for the ninth graders. He wanted the community to understand the options.
15. Mrs. O'Neill wanted information about the staffing plans for next year as Northwood's full academic year unfolds. What is projected for each additional year as another grade is added to the school?
16. Mrs. O'Neill noted that she did not remember the Board taking action to promise Pine Crest that Title I would remain at the school. Is there documentation on this?
17. Regarding the Kennedy Cluster's testimony, Mrs. O'Neill asked about the cuts in middle school music programs. How do principals make these decisions?
18. Ms. Cox requested information about the bus route that was eliminated in the Kennedy Cluster's testimony. Was a safety review done? What is the history of that situation?
19. Ms. Cox noted the ninth grade academic eligibility issues raised by the Einstein and Blair clusters. She asked for specific information from the principals at those two schools about how they believe the academies are working and what the issues are in their schools.
20. Dr. Haughey asked staff to address Mr. Heupel's comments about the increases in state aid without increases in expenditures for special education students.

21. Regarding Chinese Immersion, Dr. Haughey asked about the progress that has been made in response to last year's Board action.
22. Regarding the comments about dyslexia, Dr. Haughey asked about Dr. Lyon and how his work relates to special education youngsters. What is the impact of his study?
23. Mrs. O'Neill wanted to know where there are assistant principals and what it costs to add one assistant principal.
24. Mr. Felton asked for clarification on the recruitment of speech pathologists.
25. Mr. Felton noted testimony on the formula for class size for students with disabilities. Why was that dropped? What are the national standards? What criteria have been identified?
26. Mr. Lange asked about the number of teachers per station for special education. What are the average and the maximum number of teachers for those stations?
27. Regarding Mr. Ladden's testimony, Mr. Lange noted testimony about autism training for teachers and aides. What is being provided to staff for autism awareness and training?
28. Regarding Ms. Sheinberg's testimony, Mr. Lange remarked about the transition services. He asked if the transition services Web site could be updated.
29. Mr. Lange asked if there was a justification for the computer-to-student ratio. How was the ratio identified?
30. Mr. Felton noted in the testimony that MCPS changed the definition of an administrator. He knew there were national and state guidelines. What is the definition for MCPS? National? State?
31. Dr. Haughey asked about the home school initiative and the changes in the staffing plan.
32. Dr. Haughey asked about speech pathologists. What is the caseload of staff? What are the number of student contact hours?
33. Ms. Cox asked for an explanation of the transition support staffing in middle schools. What benefit does the system anticipate for MSDE's proposal for a transition liaison position at the high school level?

34. Ms. Cox asked for specific examples of how teaching station staffing is determined other than using class size. What weight is given to those options?
35. Ms. Cox asked what the timeline and critical steps are to provide training and planning for complying with the state standards for LRE.
36. Ms. Cox asked about the training that is planned for general education teachers. How will that training address the needs of learning disabled students and autistic students?
37. Mrs. O'Neill asked staff to break out the speech pathologists at each level, including pre-school.

The meeting adjourned at 10:25 p.m.

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PRESIDENT

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SECRETARY

JDW:gr