

APPROVED
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Rockville, Maryland
November 16, 2006

The Board of Education of Montgomery County met with the Executive Board of the Montgomery County Education Association (MCEA) in special session at the Carver Educational Services Center, Rockville, Maryland, on Thursday, November 16, 2006, at 5:50 p.m.

Present: Dr. Charles Haughey, President
 in the Chair
 Ms. Shirley Brandman, Board Member-elect
 Ms. Sharon W. Cox
 Dr. Judy Docca, Board Member-elect
 Mrs. Nancy Navarro
 Mrs. Patricia O'Neill
 Ms. Sarah Horvitz, Student Board Member
 Mr. Larry Bowers, Acting Secretary/Treasurer

Absent: Mr. Steve Abrams
 Ms. Valerie Ervin
 Mr. Gabriel Romero
 Dr. Jerry Weast, Secretary/Treasurer

The following topics were discussed:

1. Secondary School Schedules
2. Narrowing of the Curriculum
3. Becoming Culturally Competent

The **secondary school schedules** could be different in each school since there is no one right way of doing things. There have been difficulties with block scheduling, but on the other hand it is difficult to teach a comprehensive lab in 50 minutes. The best practices could be replicated or modified for each school. An extended lunch time has worked in some schools with a "lunch and learn" program. The bottom line is that one size does not fit all. There are different needs throughout the school system. With the teachers' knowledge of the students, a customized schedule can be worked out. Double periods work for some schools, rotating schedules work for others, and unique school-based decisions work for others.

In adopting the school calendar, the Board provides enough instructional days to assure that students pass the required tests. It is imperative that students pass the High School Assessment tests. Community superintendents strive to allocate staff to the schools early in the year. The principals receive instructions on how to articulate improvement goals, and master schedules communicate priorities.

The Baldrige model functions on process and collaboration. The master scheduler must meet the needs of the school. It is good to share new ideas, work through the process, and evaluate to determine if it is working.

With *No Child Left Behind*, the **narrowing of the curriculum** has eliminated subjects in which some children excelled. Children who are below grade level in reading or math may not get social studies or music since they are pulled for extra help. It was agreed that there is no easy answer and an interdisciplinary approach could be the solution.

The school system is striving to close the gap and **become culturally competent**. The teachers saw no support for after-school activities to make school a fun place to be for children. There is not enough support for students trying accelerated courses. Also, there must be more strategies for classroom teachers.

The meeting ended at 6:55 p.m.

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY

JDW:gr