

APPROVED  
2-2007

Rockville, Maryland  
January 10, 2007

The Board of Education of Montgomery County met in special session at the Carver Educational Services Center, Rockville, Maryland, on Wednesday, January 10, 2007, at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Mrs. Nancy Navarro, President  
in the Chair  
Mr. Steve Abrams  
Mr. Christopher Barclay  
Ms. Shirley Brandman  
Ms. Sharon Cox  
Dr. Judy Docca  
Mrs. Patricia O'Neill  
Dr. Jerry Weast, Secretary/Treasurer

Absent: Ms. Sarah Horvitz

Re: **FY 2008 OPERATING BUDGET HEARING**

The following people testified before the Board of Education:

1. Jane de Winter, President of MCCPTA
2. Liza Durant, Churchill Cluster
3. Elizabeth Enders, Richard Montgomery Cluster
4. Caitlin Hendel, Rockville Cluster
5. Gloria Kos, Blake Cluster
6. Aaron Campbell, Springbrook Cluster
7. Deborah Stevens-Panzer, Sherwood Cluster
8. Jamie Jacobson, Clarksburg Cluster
9. Leslie Cuneo, Damascus Cluster
10. Carroll Lovelace, Gaithersburg Cluster
11. Ted Willard, Magruder Cluster
12. Lon Hamann, Watkins Mill Cluster
13. Jeanne Taylor
14. Bob Astrove
15. Lyda Astrove
16. Beth Wagner
17. Anthony Wagner
18. Joan Wittan
19. Mark Schiffman
20. Margaret Keck
21. Victoria Pursell

22. Josh Snider
23. Karen Snyder
24. Bradley R. Stokes
25. James Link
26. Karen Woeste
27. Michelle Frazer
28. Mary Robinson
29. Diane Foulkner
30. Beth Munro
31. Edward Meyer
32. John Surr
33. Michael Kravitz
34. Teresa Schlee
35. Cathy Jewell
36. Lee Paul
37. Lynnlee Jewell
38. John Carothers
39. Lillian Goldman
40. Mary Carothers
41. Diana Conway
42. Madeleine Will
43. Mark Hogan

The Board of Education asked the following questions:

1. Mr. Barclay asked for the criteria for the placement of parent community coordinators at schools and a list of schools that have met the criteria but do not have parent community coordinators.
2. Mr. Barclay inquired about middle school counselors in the Richard Montgomery Cluster testimony. What is the ideal ratio of students to counselors? What does MCPS use now?
3. Mr. Barclay asked for information on providing transportation for Lincoln Park students.
4. Ms. Cox asked for a list of potential school strategies to address the attendance of Lincoln Park students. Is there a budget impact?
5. Mrs. O'Neill wanted to know the initial impact of starting up JV lacrosse and the ongoing costs. Could it be supported through an increase in the activity fee as a start-up?
6. Mrs. O'Neill asked if the Lincoln Park situation had been evaluated by the School Transportation, Engineering and Planning (STEP) committee.
7. Mr. Abrams asked for the number of all full-time-equivalent positions (FTEs) requested in testimony based on the format of the Churchill Cluster.
8. Mrs. Brandman inquired about the reduction in the curriculum writing stipend. Could staff provide background information?

9. Mrs. Brandman requested the cost of parent community coordinators, such as the level of compensation based on seven positions or other options.
10. Mrs. Brandman asked if there were playground standards in terms of ratios of student to staff. Is that ratio staffed?
11. Mrs. Brandman inquired about the translation services. Are there reserved positions? How are requests accommodated?
12. Ms. Navarro noted that last year the Board added four ESOL parent community coordinators. She asked for a brief synopsis of the scope of their work, and how those positions are used to provide outreach to parents in the school.
13. Ms. Navarro wanted information on the rate of requests for translation services. How are they handled, and what is the use of translation equipment?
14. Mr. Barclay inquired about the time frame between a request for translation services and delivery of the service.
15. Ms. Cox referred to Mr. Campbell's testimony, and she asked for information on the NEC Office to ensure balance (marketing) and it how it relates to Item 2 (equity) and Item 4 (summary).
16. Mrs. Brandman inquired about the increase of funding for study circles last year, and she asked for information on how that was working. Is there a backlog of requests and adequate staff?
17. Ms. Brandman asked for a copy of the class size report. Where is MCPS this year?
18. Mr. Barclay inquired on how the needs of special education students will be met if the home school cannot address the Individualized Education Program (IEP). What would happen?
19. Mrs. O'Neill wanted the number of students at Kingsley Wilderness Program for the past four years. What is the graduation rate? What is the demographic profile of the students? What is the total operating expense of the program? Where will these students be relocated?
20. Regarding the learning centers, Mrs. O'Neill asked how many students will return to each high school and middle school. What are the training plans for the teachers in those schools?
21. Dr. Docca asked for information on how the decision on the learning centers was made and if there was input from the Special Education Staffing Committee or any other advisory group.
22. Mr. Abrams inquired about the research, legal aspects, and models for the learning centers. Why is MCPS moving in this direction? Why is it recommended? What is the basis for the recommendation based on other jurisdictions? Why are other jurisdictions moving in this direction? Have other jurisdictions had a fully developed model of learning centers? What is the research/model regionally and nationally? What is the decision for the Board? How is the rationale communicated? He requested a chronicle of the process followed.
23. Mrs. Brandman asked for data on hours-based staffing. What has staff looked at with other models and jurisdictions? In the GT/LD program, what is the capacity? What is the history and enrollment over the past five years? What resources are needed in the home school, such as class-size reductions?

24. Mrs. O'Neill wanted to know how the system reassures parents that the IEP will be followed and all the needs met for special education students if the learning centers are closed.
25. Mr. Barclay asked for the graduation rates for the Kingsley Wilderness Program, especially for those students who continue through their senior year.
26. Mrs. Brandman asked for the rationale on the full-time lead teacher for the Chinese Immersion Program at Potomac Elementary School as compared to College Gardens Elementary School.
27. Ms. Navarro wanted an update on where the system is in regard to pre-kindergarten education as the deadline requiring pre-kindergarten education is 2007. What are the resources? What is the need?
28. Ms. Navarro wanted information on how counselors or the system communicates the availability of the Kingsley Wilderness Program.

The meeting adjourned at 10:50 p.m.

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PRESIDENT

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SECRETARY

JDW:gr