

APPROVED
7-2007

Rockville, Maryland
February 26, 2007

The Board of Education of Montgomery County met in regular session at the Carver Educational Services Center, Rockville, Maryland, on Monday, February 26, 2007, at 7:30 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
Ms. Sarah Horvitz
Mrs. Patricia O'Neill
Dr. Jerry Weast, Secretary/Treasurer

Absent: None

or () indicates student vote does not count. Four votes needed for adoption.

RESOLUTION NO. 79-07 Re: **RESOLUTION FOR CLOSED SESSION**

On recommendation of the superintendent and on motion of Mrs. O'Neill seconded by Ms. Cox, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

WHEREAS, The Board of Education of Montgomery County is authorized by the *Education Article* and *State Government Article* of the *Annotated Code of Maryland* to conduct certain meetings or portions of its meetings in closed sessions; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board of Education of Montgomery County conduct a closed session on February 26, 2007, in Room 120 from 6:30 to 7:00 p.m. to discuss the Human Resources Appointment, as permitted under Section 10-508(a)(1) of the *State Government Article*; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board of Education of Montgomery County receive legal advice as permitted under Section 10-508(a)(7) of the *State Government Article*; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board of Education of Montgomery County dedicate part of the closed session on February 26, 2006, to acquit its administrative functions and to adjudicate and review appeals, which is a quasi-judicial function outside the purview of the Open Meetings Act under Section 10-503(a) of the *State Government Article*; and be it further

Resolved, That the meeting continue in closed session until the completion of business.

Re: **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

RESOLUTION NO. 80-07 Re: **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

On recommendation of the superintendent and on motion of Ms. Cox seconded by Dr. Docca, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

Resolved, That the Board of Education approve its agenda for February 26, 2007.

RESOLUTION NO. 81-07 Re: **WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH**

On recommendation of the superintendent and on motion of Ms. Cox seconded by Mr. Barclay, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

WHEREAS, In 1987, the United States Congress passed a resolution proclaiming the month of March as "National Women's History Month"; and

WHEREAS, The Maryland Women's History Project has selected the theme, *Generations of Women Moving History Forward*, to commemorate Women's History Month in 2007; and

WHEREAS, Maryland women have a rich heritage of accomplishments and contributions that has been an inspiration to their families, communities, and country; and

WHEREAS, Women have helped to shape our nation's history and inspired change; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Education takes pride in its efforts to create an awareness of the often unrecognized contributions of women; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Education and the superintendent of schools are committed to providing learning and working environments that encourage the pursuit of academic and career opportunities for women; now therefore be it

Resolved, That on behalf of the superintendent of schools, as well as staff, students, and parents of the Montgomery County Public Schools, the members of the Board of Education hereby declare the month of March 2007 to be observed as "Women's History Month"; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board of Education and the superintendent of schools recognize and honor our female students, staff, parents, business community members, and community leaders who, by their hard work, vision, and achievements are creating a better tomorrow.

RESOLUTION NO. 82-07 Re: **ITEM OF LEGISLATION**

On motion of Mr. Abrams and seconded by Ms. Cox, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

Resolved, That the Board of Education oppose **SB 496/HB 906—Procurement—Public Schools and Facilities—Preference for Locally Grown Foods** which would provide a percentage price preference for locally grown foods under defined circumstances and require each county board of education to adopt specified regulations concerning the establishment of a percentage price preference; to the extent possible, the bill would require the use of a percentage price preference in the purchase of food.

RESOLUTION NO. 83-07 Re: **ITEM OF LEGISLATION**

On motion of Mr. Abrams and seconded by Mr. Barclay, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

Resolved, That the Board of Education oppose **SB 586/HB 923—Secondary School—Graduation Requirements—Weighted Numerical Assessment System** which calls for the restructuring of Maryland's high school graduation requirement into a system of weighted categories, of which the High School Assessments (HSAs) could comprise one weighted category counting for not more than 25 percent of the total score required for graduation; and the goal would be to give less weight to the HSAs as a requirement than the current requirement mandates.

RESOLUTION NO. 84-07 Re: **ITEM OF LEGISLATION**

On motion of Mr. Abrams and seconded by Mr. Barclay, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

Resolved, That the Board of Education support **SB 633—Food Containing Artificial Trans Fat—Prohibition** which would require food service operations to eliminate the use of ingredients containing trans fat in the preparation of food items for sale to customers. Food service operations would need to retain labels and other information from manufacturers to document that no product with trans fat was used in the preparation of food items.

RESOLUTION NO. 85-07 Re: **ITEM OF LEGISLATION**

On motion of Mr. Abrams and seconded by Ms. Cox, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

Resolved, That the Board of Education oppose **SB 688—High School—Compulsory**

Attendance—Diploma by Examination which would call for all children who leave public or private school after reaching age 16 but before they become 18, to take the next available examination for a high school diploma (GED). If the student does not pass, the child would need to be re-enrolled full-time in school or a work force development program.

RESOLUTION NO. 86-07 Re: **ITEM OF LEGISLATION**

On motion of Mr. Abrams and seconded by Mr. Barclay, the following resolution was adopted with Mr. Abrams, Mr. Barclay, Ms. Cox, Dr. Docca, Ms. Horvitz, and Mrs. O'Neill voting in the affirmative; Ms. Brandman and Ms. Navarro abstained:

Resolved, That the Board of Education oppose **HB 439/SB 478—Education—Reporting Requirement—Class Size** which would require the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) to develop a uniform data collection system to track the number of students who regularly participate in a classroom teacher's class. County boards would have to implement the system and report regularly to MSDE on class size information.

RESOLUTION NO. 87-07 Re: **ITEM OF LEGISLATION**

On motion of Mr. Abrams and seconded by Ms. Cox, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

Resolved, That the Board of Education support **SB 468—Task Force to Study Free College Tuition for Low-Income Students** which would establish a task force to study the topic of free college tuition for low-income students. The task force would be required to examine and develop certain data and issue a report to the governor and General Assembly by December 31, 2007, and the task force would: examine and compare the financial aid policies of public colleges and universities within Maryland and those in other states as they relate to low-income and disadvantaged students; identify whether there are impediments to full participation in financial aid programs by low-income and disadvantaged students; and develop data for the estimated cost of providing free tuition at public colleges and universities in Maryland for low-income and disadvantaged students who qualify for federal Pell Grants.

RESOLUTION NO. 88-07 Re: **ITEM OF LEGISLATION**

On motion of Ms. Cox and seconded by Mr. Barclay, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

Resolved, That the Board of Education strongly support **SB 616—Land Preservation and School Construction Assistance Act of 2007** which would impose recordation and transfer taxes on the transfer of a controlling interest in certain businesses that own real property in Maryland and dedicate a portion of that tax to supplement school construction

funding for local jurisdictions.

RESOLUTION NO. 89-07 Re: **ITEM OF LEGISLATION**

On motion of Mr. Abrams and seconded by Ms. Cox, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

Resolved, That the Board of Education support with amendments **SB 907—Budget Accountability—Master Plan—Submission** which would require county boards of education to submit comprehensive master plans to the State Department of Education on or before October 1, 2008, and every 5 years thereafter; and would clarify that comprehensive master plans extend for a five-year period.

Re: **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

The following people testified before the Board of Education:

<u>Person</u>	<u>Topic</u>
1. David Fishback	Health Education Revisions
2. Mickey Parel	Health Education Curriculum
3. Josh Parel	Discrimination
4. Alies Muskin	IB Program at Einstein HS
5. Kelly Giblin	IB Program at Einstein HS
6. Pat Wigginton	Physical Education
7. Susan Loftus	Physical Education

Regarding public comments, Mr. Abrams inquired about increasing physical activity in schools. Is there a plan to address this issue? Ms. Cox wanted to know how Carroll, Howard, and Anne Arundel counties increased time for PE. What was the impact on other classes? Ms. Navarro asked if there was collaboration with the Department of Recreation for added opportunities for physical exercise.

Regarding public comments, Mr. Abrams asked if there was a mechanism in place to accommodate vacancies in the IB program.

Re: **BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS**

Dr. Weast commented that students in the Class of 2009 and beyond are expected to pass the four state High School Assessments in order to graduate. There is academic support for students, such as High School Plus. However, he did not agree with the state's testing, and Maryland has not seen fit to give an proper test to students with English as a second language.

Dr. Docca said she attended the Lunar New Year at Lakeforest; African American History Month celebration; Asian American Employees' Lunar New Year celebration; Asian American League dinner; Montgomery County Region of Maryland Association of Student Councils at Seneca Valley High School; and Annual United Basketball Game for Junior and Intermediate Special Olympics Athletes.

Dr. Docca requested the "islands" study before the next Board meeting.

Mr. Abrams noted that there could be federal and uniform testing since it has been put on the table by Governor Thompson.

Ms. Navarro noted that she attended the new education orientation, and she attended the Seneca Valley Cluster meeting. In lobbying the state for funding, MCPS has unique needs, especially since its red area is bigger than that of Washington D.C. Public Schools.

RESOLUTION NO. 90-07 Re: **CONTRACTS OF \$25,000 OR MORE**

On recommendation of the superintendent and on motion of Mr. Abrams seconded by Ms. Cox, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:#

WHEREAS, Funds have been budgeted for the purchase of equipment, supplies, and contractual services; and

WHEREAS, Funds have been budgeted and/or identified for the purchase of desktop computers, printers, peripherals, parts, and services through the Maryland State Contract No. DBM2020; and

WHEREAS, The acquisition of desktop computers, printers, peripherals, parts, and services has been reviewed by legal counsel; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the purchase of desktop computers, printers, peripherals, parts, and services through the Maryland State Contract No. DBM2020 in the amount of \$12,804,195 be leased/purchased for a four-year term under the Master Lease/Purchase Agreement with Carlyle Financial Services; and be it further

Resolved, That the proceeds from the financing be used to reimburse Montgomery County Public Schools' accounts to the extent that such equipment will be acquired before closing; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board president and superintendent be authorized to execute the documents necessary for these transactions; and be it further

Resolved, That having been duly advertised, the following contracts will be awarded to the low bidders meeting specifications as shown below:

**DBM Desktop Computers, Printers, Peripherals, Parts, and Services—Extension
2020**

Awardee (See note)

**Apple Computer
Compaq Computers, Inc.
Daly Computers*
Data Networks of America, Inc.
Hartford Computer Group
Total \$12,804,195**

**GS-35F- Translation Management and Communications System
0779J**

Awardee

Idiom Technologies, Inc. \$ 110,200

**1. Enterprise Wide Electronic Grading and Reporting
System—Extension**

Awardee

Excelsior Software, Inc. \$ 101,000

4. Office Furniture

Awardees

**Douron, Inc.* \$ 277,429
Glover Equipment, Inc. 39,717
MDM Office Systems, Inc.* 119,544
Total \$ 436,690**

1. Student Data Systems

Awardee

Performance Matters, LLC \$ 275,000

3. Installation of Carpeting, Resilient Flooring**

Awardee

Carpet Experts, Inc.* \$ 540,600

TOTAL PROCUREMENT CONTRACTS EXCEEDING \$25,000 \$14,267,685

* Denotes Minority-, Female-, or Disabled-owned Business

** Planned Life-cycle Asset Replacement Bid (PLAR)

Note: Contract amounts will be based on individual requirements.

RESOLUTION NO. 91-07

Re: **AWARD OF CONTRACTS—ENERGY
CONSULTANT AND SUPPLY SERVICES
DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY TO COMMIT TO
ENERGY SUPPLY PURCHASES**

On recommendation of the superintendent and on motion of Mr. Abrams seconded by Ms. Cox, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:#

WHEREAS, The Board of Education has participated in a countywide joint procurement group to procure deregulated energy supply contracts since 1999; and

WHEREAS, This joint procurement has been very beneficial providing a total savings of \$3.3 million to the participants, of which Montgomery County Public Schools received \$1.5 million in savings; and

WHEREAS, Montgomery County Public Schools staff feels that a different procurement strategy accessing the wholesale electricity market can secure lower rates and has proposed buying energy through this strategy; and

WHEREAS, The effectiveness of an electricity procurement methodology that accesses the wholesale market has been demonstrated by a consortium of Maryland state and local agencies known as the Baltimore Regional Cooperative Purchasing Committee; and

WHEREAS, Montgomery County Public Schools staff has coordinated with the Montgomery County Chief Administrative Officer regarding the proposal to pursue a wholesale electricity procurement methodology; and

WHEREAS, Baltimore Regional Cooperative Purchasing Committee contracts for consulting services and electricity supply were competitively procured and can be bridged by other Maryland local education agencies; and

WHEREAS, There is a very short duration for analyzing and accepting energy supply offers due to market volatility; and

WHEREAS, A limited delegation of authority is needed to execute energy supply purchases under the wholesale electricity procurement proposal due to market volatility that shortens the timeframe for analyzing and accepting energy supply offers; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Education's legal counsel has reviewed this matter and concurs that utilizing the Baltimore Regional Cooperative Purchasing Committee contracts and issuing a limited delegation of authority is within the Board's purview; and

WHEREAS, A similar delegation of authority was approved by the Board of Education on February 23, 2004, February 14, 2006, and October 10, 2006; now therefore be it

Resolved, That a contract be awarded to South River Consulting, LLC, for energy consultant services in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Baltimore Regional Cooperative Purchasing Committee contract dated December 2, 2005, for the negotiated fee; and be it further

Resolved, That a contract be awarded to PEPCO Energy Services, Inc., for electricity supply services in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Baltimore Regional Cooperative Purchasing Committee contract of December 2, 2005, for the negotiated fee; and be it further

Resolved, That the authority to commit Montgomery County Public Schools to electricity or natural gas supply purchases be delegated to Mr. Larry Bowers, chief operating officer, or Mr. Richard Hawes, director, Department of Facilities Management; and be it further

Resolved, That the delegation of authority is limited to the energy purchases through existing energy supply contracts and contracts awarded by this action, and is effective on the date of this resolution and expires on May 30, 2008; and be it further

Resolved, That periodic reports be submitted to the Board of Education on the energy rates procured under the delegation of authority.

RESOLUTION NO. 92-07

Re: **UTILIZATION OF THE FY 2007 PROVISION
FOR FUTURE SUPPORTED PROJECTS FUNDS**

On recommendation of the superintendent and on motion of Mr. Abrams seconded by Ms. Cox, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:#

WHEREAS, The grants qualify for a transfer of appropriation from the Provision for Future Supported Projects, pursuant to the provisions of County Council Resolution No. 15-631, approved May 27, 2006; and

WHEREAS, The projects do not require any present or future county funds; and
WHEREAS, Sufficient appropriation is available, within the FY 2007 Provision for Future Supported Projects, to permit the transfers within state categories; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the superintendent of schools be authorized to receive and expend, within the FY 2007 Provision for Future Supported Projects, as specified below:

<u>Project</u>	
<u>Amount</u>	
American Indian Education Program	\$ 37
Maryland Model for School Readiness (MMSR) Program	145,498
Middle School Tobacco Use Prevention	
15,624	
Program for Neglected, Delinquent, or At-Risk Children	—
<u>40,035</u>	
Total	<u>\$ 201,194</u>

and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be sent to the county executive and County Council.

RESOLUTION NO. 93-07 Re: **HUMAN RESOURCES APPOINTMENT**

On recommendation of the Superintendent and on motion of Ms. Cox seconded by Mr. Abrams, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present:

Resolved, That the following personnel appointment be approved effective February 27, 2007:

<u>Appointment</u>	<u>Current Position</u>	<u>As</u>
Robert Hellmuth	Acting Director, School Safety and Security	Director, School Safety and Security

**Mr. Abrams temporarily left the meeting.

Re: **FINAL ACTION ON POLICY IEB, *MIDDLE SCHOOL EDUCATION***

On recommendation of the superintendent and on motion of Mrs. O'Neill seconded by Mr. Barclay, the following resolution was placed on the table:

WHEREAS, The Board of Education is committed to produce a challenging and comprehensive middle school program that includes high expectations for academic achievement for all students; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Education recognizes that the middle years are pivotal in defining each child's academic, social, physical, and emotional development and determining his or her future success; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Education Policy Committee has considered and recommended revisions to Policy IEB: *Middle School Education*; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Education has received the Policy Committee's recommendation; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board of Education adopt Policy IEB: *Middle School Education*.

RESOLUTION NO. 94-07

Re: **AN AMENDMENT TO THE FINAL ACTION ON POLICY IEB, *MIDDLE SCHOOL EDUCATION***

On recommendation of Ms. Cox and seconded by Mrs. O'Neill, the following resolution was adopted with Mr. Barclay, Ms. Brandman, Ms. Cox, Dr. Docca, Mrs. Navarro, and Mrs. O'Neill voting in the affirmative; Mr. Abrams and Ms. Horvitz were not at the table:

Resolved, That the Board of Education amend the policy at C.2.b.4) to read:

Differentiated instructional practices will include acceleration, supports for improving student performance, enrichment, and other strategies as needed to foster intellectual growth **and help each child to meet his or her academic potential.**

RESOLUTION NO. 95-07

Re: **AN AMENDMENT TO THE FINAL ACTION ON POLICY IEB, *MIDDLE SCHOOL EDUCATION***

On motion of Ms. Brandman and seconded by Ms. Cox, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present:

Resolved, That the Board of Education amend the policy at C.5.d. to read:

Building internal capacities that strengthen the school staff's ability to meet its vision, goals, and action plans **and to establish high expectations for all learners.**

RESOLUTION NO. 96-07

Re: **AN AMENDMENT TO THE FINAL ACTION ON POLICY IEB, *MIDDLE SCHOOL EDUCATION***

On motion of Ms. Brandman and seconded by Ms. Cox, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present:

Resolved, That the Board of Education amend the policy at C.5.f. to read:

Providing professional development for school staff to deepen their knowledge of content, skills, the use of **technology**, differentiation and the delivery of instruction.

RESOLUTION NO. 97-07

Re: **AN AMENDMENT TO THE FINAL ACTION ON POLICY IEB, *MIDDLE SCHOOL EDUCATION***

On motion of Ms. Brandman and seconded by Ms. Cox, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present:

Resolved, That the Board of Education amend the policy at C.7.a. to read:

Be highly qualified in core academic subjects and able to **deliver** content with **effective** instructional methods.

RESOLUTION NO. 98-07

Re: **FINAL ACTION ON POLICY IEB, *MIDDLE SCHOOL EDUCATION***

On recommendation of the superintendent and on motion of Mrs. O'Neill seconded by Mr. Barclay, the following resolution was adopted, as amended, unanimously by members present:

WHEREAS, The Board of Education is committed to produce a challenging and comprehensive middle school program that includes high expectations for academic achievement for all students; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Education recognizes that the middle years are pivotal in defining each child's academic, social, physical, and emotional development and determining his or her future success; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Education Policy Committee has considered and recommended revisions to Policy IEB: *Middle School Education*; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Education has received the Policy Committee's recommendation; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board of Education adopt Policy IEB: *Middle School Education*.

Middle School Education

A. PURPOSE

The middle years are pivotal in defining each child's academic, social, and emotional development and determining their future success. As such, the Board of Education is committed to producing a challenging and comprehensive middle school program that provides the basis for continuous improvement in teaching and learning. Such a program includes high expectations for academic achievement for all students and an environment supportive of the social, emotional, and physical development of students in Grades 6, 7, and 8.

Middle school is an opportunity for students to develop confidence, competence, and independent decision-making skills in a culture that supports students being willing to challenge themselves academically and explore their interests. With a rigorous curriculum, instruction designed for adolescents, and extracurricular activities, the middle school program can maximize success for students as they prepare for rigorous high school standards and the transitions to high school, postsecondary education, and the world of work.

Parents and families are the primary stakeholders in each child's academic achievement; and the Board considers partnerships with parents, families, and the community vital components of the educational process. It recognizes that enhancing and maintaining such partnerships, particularly with groups reflecting the diversity of the community, is an effective way to promote academic achievement as well as support the intellectual, social, emotional, and physical growth of students in their middle learning years.

B. ISSUE

Middle school is a critical juncture in the process in which students develop an academically challenging, appropriate, and comprehensive plan that meets high school graduation requirements and reflects postsecondary goal setting. Therefore, a middle school

program that includes a comprehensive curriculum; a rigorous, differentiated instructional program; a highly qualified and committed staff and leadership; a collaborative yet flexible organizational structure; extracurricular activities; and opportunities for an engaged parental and stakeholder community is essential to ensuring success for every student in the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS). MCPS must accomplish this goal within the context of its diverse community with a variety of educational needs.

C. POSITION

The following elements are necessary for establishing and maintaining a rigorous instructional program that meets the needs of adolescent learners:

1. School Culture

To develop a culture that fosters intellectual development, citizenship, responsibility, and mutual respect, schools will collaborate with parents and other members of the community to do the following:

- a. Provide a stimulating and supportive environment in which students are expected, encouraged, and given opportunities to learn and succeed at high levels.
- b. Encourage all students to pursue intellectually challenging courses and participate in extracurricular activities.
- c. Maintain a well-managed, safe, and nurturing environment, which encourages positive relationships among students and between adults and students.
- d. In alignment with Policy ACA, Human Relations, promote cultural competence among students, staff, and school community regarding individual differences such as race, color, gender, religion, ancestry, national origin, marital status, age, disability, or sexual orientation.
- E. Facilitate communication with the community, whenever feasible, in the languages spoken in the community.
- f. Engage parents in meaningful ways that support learning, emphasize the necessity of long-range educational planning, and result in higher levels of student achievement.
- g. Work to support and ensure equitable opportunities for all students to benefit from all academic programs and school activities.

Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment

The MCPS approach to curriculum, instruction, and assessment will ensure a high level of challenge for all middle school students and meet the unique needs of the adolescent learner. Technology will be integrated into curriculum, instruction, and assessment to build or strengthen students' interest and skills in the use of technology.

- a. The middle school curriculum will be consistent with Policy IFA, Curriculum and Regulation IFA-RA, Curriculum, and will include the following:
 - 1) The written curriculum as presented in the curriculum framework and in the curriculum guides.
 - 2) The taught curriculum as implemented by teachers with students.
 - 3) The learned curriculum as demonstrated by assessments of student performance.
 - 4) The ongoing professional development needed to ensure consistent implementation, monitoring, and supervision.
 - 5) The monitoring of curriculum implementation by all teachers, administrators, and central services staff.
- b. Instructional practices will incorporate a variety of methods, strategies, and resources, such as technology, that encourage students to be active and engaged learners and will align with relevant MCPS policies and regulations, such as IKA, Grading and Reporting; IOA, Gifted and Talented Education; IOD, Education of English Language Learners; IOB, Education of Students with Disabilities; and IHB-RA, School Academic Grouping Practices.
 - 1) Programmatic and instructional decisions will lead to a long-term plan for a comprehensive high school education and will be based on a variety of factors, including, but not limited to, the students' academically challenging comprehensive plan, student and parent interests, student motivation, and analysis of student performance data in relation to established benchmarks.

- 2) Students will utilize technology across the curriculum to demonstrate mastery and monitor their own academic progress.
 - 3) In order to enable students to function and compete in a global society and prepare them for using technology across the curriculum, all students, particularly those who reflect the diversity of the community, must have access to and instruction in technology.
 - 4) Differentiated instructional practices will include acceleration, supports for improving student performance, enrichment, and other strategies as needed to foster intellectual growth and help each child to meet his or her academic potential. Such practices will address learning styles as well as physical, social, and emotional differences among students.
 - 5) In both the planning and implementation of instruction, middle schools will utilize the special skills of all general, alternative, English Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), and special education staff members.
 - 6) Instructional practices should provide leadership opportunities for students as well as promote student discourse and effective self-expression.
 - 7) Student service learning requirements will provide students with the opportunity to learn in community and other nonschool settings.
- c. Assessment practices, as explained in Policy IKA, Grading and Reporting, are an important aspect of the instructional cycle and include the following:
- 1) Pre-assessments and formative assessments, as well as summative assessments, which are used to communicate achievement standards to students, plan and deliver instruction to meet learning goals, provide timely feedback to students on their performance, and offer additional opportunities for students to learn and demonstrate learning.
 - 2) A comprehensive assessment program, which is aligned with county, state, and national standards, will include the following:

- (a) Fair representation of a student's performance on a variety of measures over time.
 - (b) Evidence of student learning, which teachers collect over time using a variety of methods.
 - (c) Meaningful feedback on student achievement to students, parents, teachers, administrators, and the school system.
 - (d) Clear and timely communication to parents and students as to the grading criteria.
 - (e) Consistency within and among schools.
- 3) Reteaching and reassessment are an integral part of a rigorous instructional cycle that promotes learning. Reassessment procedures are fair, promote effective teaching and learning, and are manageable within the instructional cycle.

3. Organizational Structure

Organizational structures designed to promote and maintain high-achieving middle schools optimize time for learning and facilitate opportunities to build positive relationships among students, staff, parents, and community members and facilitate student transition, placement, and program continuity at each level. Effective, flexible, and collaborative organizational structures shall include the following:

- a. Opportunities for teachers across grade-level teams, subject areas, and elective courses to collaborate.
- b. Opportunities for staff to meet with parents to discuss student progress.
- c. Intervention and enrichment programs as well as interest-based elective courses.
- d. The ability to reconfigure schedules to support unique interdisciplinary units and/or enhanced educational opportunities.
- e. Smaller learning communities.

f. Comprehensive and consistent articulation plans.

4. Extended Learning Opportunities

Middle schools can provide coordinated instructional support through academic programs that assist students in meeting standards as well as providing opportunities for acceleration. Such programs must be built upon positive relationships between students and staff and presented in a way that engages students and meets the needs of diverse learners.

Middle schools' academic extended learning opportunities should be aligned with the curriculum and assist students with meeting or exceeding on-or above-grade-level course expectations.

Additionally, extracurricular activities should provide students opportunities to explore their interests, in accordance with Policy IQD, Academic Eligibility for Extracurricular Activities and Regulation IQD-RB, Academic Eligibility for Middle School Students Who Participate in Extracurricular Activities. These extracurricular activities, such as participation in the arts and competitive and noncompetitive athletics and other clubs, will enhance students' social and emotional development and encourage a more complete engagement in school.

5. Leadership and Professional Development

The MCPS professional growth systems include regular and systematic opportunities for all administrators, teachers, and support services staff to increase their knowledge, skills, and capacity to continuously improve the teaching and learning process. Central office will support processes that must be established at the school level for the following:

- a. Monitoring and communicating the school or classroom's vision, mission, goals, and action plans.
- b. Working with stakeholders to help create a vision and implement strategies that will support a high-performing organization focused on continuous improvement.
- c. Identifying potential leaders to participate in professional growth opportunities designed to enhance the teaching and learning process.
- d. Building internal capacities that strengthen the school staff's ability to meet its vision, goals, and action plans and to establish high

expectations for all learners.

- e. Providing professional development for school staff on effective strategies for communicating with and engaging all parents to promote increased student achievement.
- f. Providing professional development for school staff to deepen their knowledge of content, skills, the use of technology, differentiation and the delivery of instruction.

6. Parent and Community Engagement and Communication

Consistent with Policy ABA, Community Involvement; Policy ABC, Parental Involvement; and Regulation ABC-RA, Parent Involvement, parents and community members are critical partners in the social and intellectual development of students. This partnership will benefit from the following:

- a. Opportunities for parents and families to increase their ability to support the academic achievement of their children.
- b. Opportunities for parents to provide input, feedback, and involvement in decision making regarding the academic, social, and co-curricular programs.
- c. Frequent two-way communication between families and schools to provide information and solicit feedback regarding an individual child's progress, as well as local and systemwide policies, regulations, and practices in the languages spoken in the community, whenever feasible.
- d. Varied opportunities for families and community members to be involved in student and school projects, activities, and events.
- e. Collaborative relationships with local businesses, community organizations, other agencies, and institutions of higher learning to support student success and parent involvement.

7. Human Resources

It is critical that middle school staff possess the knowledge, skills, and content expertise required to meet the needs of middle school students. Practices to recruit, attract, and retain highly qualified middle school teachers must be implemented to address academic performance and the individual needs of schools. Such needs may include, but are not limited to, Free and

Reduced-Price Meals System participation, mobility, students with disabilities, and English language learners.

At each individual school, staff will do the following:

- a. Be highly qualified in core academic subjects and able to deliver content with effective instructional methods.
- b. Communicate high expectations for all students.
- c. Create opportunities for professional learning communities to improve teaching and learning.
- d. Be knowledgeable about the developmental characteristics of adolescents and be committed to the concept that all students can learn.
- e. Develop relationships with students that will engage them in the learning process.
- f. Develop relationships between parents and staff to support the educational process.
- g. Reflect, to the extent possible, the diverse population of MCPS.

D. DESIRED OUTCOMES

1. An educational program that emphasizes academic achievement.
2. Core subjects, elective courses, and special interest activities that are integrated into every aspect of the middle school program and accessible to all students.
3. Programs, courses, activities and learning experiences that prepare students to transition successfully to high school, postsecondary education, and the world of work.
4. Partnerships with students, staff, parents, and families that support and encourage academic achievement, and the intellectual, social, emotional, and physical growth of students in their middle learning years.
5. A culture that fosters intellectual development, as well as citizenship, responsibilities, and mutual respect among students.

E. **REVIEW AND REPORTING**

This policy will be reviewed in accordance with the Board of Education policy review process.

**Ms. Brandman left the meeting.

RESOLUTION NO. 99-07 Re: **RESCISSION OF POLICY GDA, PREEMPLOYMENT PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS**

On motion of the Policy Committee, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present.

WHEREAS, The Office of Human Resources identified Policy GDA, *Preemployment Physical Examinations*, for rescission; and

WHEREAS, Policy BFA, *Polycysetting*, requires a rationale for rescinding a policy; and

WHEREAS, The state law upon which the regulation was predicated has been rescinded; now therefore be it

Resolved, That Policy GDA, *Preemployment Physical Examinations*, be rescinded, effective immediately.

**Mr. Abrams returned to the meeting.

Re: **UPDATE ON FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

Dr. Weast invited the following people to the table: Ms. Grace Bestland, Financial Management System (FMS) project manager, Office of Information and Organizational Systems; Mr. Giles Benson, FMS project functional manager, and director, Department of Materials Management; and Mr. Robert J. Doody, controller, Department of Financial Services.

The implementation of the new FMS supports Board of Education Policy DAA, *Fiscal Responsibility and Control*. The FMS is an integrated financial solution that will help staff create and monitor budgets, comply with legal and regulatory requirements, and provide improved management information from a single system. Additionally, the system will support the efficient and effective operations of schools and offices through improved access to information consistent with the strategic plan, *Our Call to Action: Pursuit of Excellence*. The progress of the FMS implementation project continues to be on schedule and within budget.

The current financial system is rapidly approaching the end of its useful life. This system is

used for general ledger, capital project and grant accounting, accounts payable and receivable, procurement, and materials management. However, the existing materials management, procurement, and budget systems are not integrated into the current financial system. This limitation forces extensive duplication and reconciliation of records that limit productivity. A breakdown of the software or lack of maintenance support could result in the failure of the entire system. School staff will begin using the new FMS on May 30, 2007, for early ordering. The system will become fully operational on July 2, 2007, for all financial transactions.

Re: **DISCUSSION**

Mr. Abrams asked who can enter data and who has access to that data. Mr. Doody explained that the data is entered through purchase orders, and account managers can review the data in the system through user accounts with passwords.

Ms. Cox asked if the system had the capacity to include the other funds that principals have available to them. Mr. Doody stated that the next step will be to include independent activity funds.

Mr. Barclay asked if there was a description of the items purchased. Mr. Doody replied in the affirmative. Mr. Barclay inquired about how far back the data would be maintained. Mr. Doody replied that the system is required to maintain a minimum of seven years of financial information. More years of data will require the computer capacity and resources to store information.

Mrs. O'Neill inquired if there was an inventory function. Mr. Benson replied that the intent was to build to that capacity. Also, spending habits can be tracked. Mrs. O'Neill asked if the schools can purchase items not on the vendor lists. Mr. Benson explained there was a function to purchase non-catalog items.

Mr. Barclay thought the schedule for implementation was very aggressive. What is the level of training and support for the end users? Ms. Bestland stated there was an intense training plan with target groups slated for specific training.

RESOLUTION NO. 100-07Re: **PRESENTATION OF PRELIMINARY PLANS—CASHELL
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL MODERNIZATION**

On recommendation of the superintendent and on motion of Mrs. O'Neill seconded by Ms. Cox, the following resolution was adopted with Mr. Barclay, Ms. Cox, Dr. Docca, Mrs. Navarro, and Mrs. O'Neill voting in the affirmative; Mr. Abrams, Ms. Brandman and Ms. Horvitz were not at the table:

WHEREAS, The architect for the proposed modernization of Cashell Elementary School, Zavos Architecture + Design, has prepared a schematic design in accordance with the educational specifications; and

WHEREAS, The Cashell Elementary School Facility Advisory Committee has provided input for the proposed schematic design; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board of Education approve the preliminary plans report for the modernization of Cashell Elementary School developed by Zavos Architecture + Design.

RESOLUTION NO. 101-07Re: **PRESENTATION OF PRELIMINARY PLANS—BELLS MILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL MODERNIZATION**

On recommendation of the superintendent and on motion of Mrs. O'Neill seconded by Ms. Cox, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present:

WHEREAS, The architect for the proposed modernization of Bells Mill Elementary School, Walton + Madden + Cooper + Robinson + Pones, Inc., has prepared a schematic design in accordance with the educational specifications; and

WHEREAS, The Bells Mill Elementary School Facility Advisory Committee has provided input for the proposed schematic design; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board of Education approve the preliminary plans report for the modernization of Bells Mill Elementary School developed by Walton + Madden + Cooper + Robinson + Pones, Inc.

RESOLUTION NO. 102-07Re: **CLOSED SESSION RESOLUTION**

On recommendation of the superintendent and on motion of Ms. Cox seconded by Ms. Horvitz, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present:

WHEREAS, The Board of Education of Montgomery County is authorized by the *Education Article* and *State Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland* to conduct certain meetings or portions of its meetings in closed sessions; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board of Education of Montgomery County conduct a closed session on Tuesday, March 13, 2007, in Room 120 of the Carver Educational Services Center to meet from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. and 12:30 to 2:00 p.m. to discuss personnel matters, as permitted under Section 10-508(a)(1) of the *State Government Article*; consult with counsel to obtain legal advice, as permitted by Section 10-508(a)(7) of the *State Government Article*; review and adjudicate appeals in its quasi-judicial capacity; and discuss matters of an executive function outside the purview of the Open Meetings Act (Section 10-503(a) of the *State Government Article*); and be it further

Resolved, That such meetings shall continue in closed session until the completion of business.

RESOLUTION NO. 103-07Re: REPORT OF CLOSED SESSION

On recommendation of the superintendent and on motion of Ms. Cox seconded by Ms. Horvitz, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present:

On February 13, 2007, by unanimous vote of members present, the Board of Education voted to conduct a closed session as permitted under the *Education Article § 4-107* and *State Government Article § 10-501, et seq.*, of the *Annotated Code of Maryland*.

The Montgomery County Board of Education met in closed session on February 13, 2007, from 9:00 to 10:00 and 2:15 to 2:30 p.m. in Room 120 of the Carver Educational Services Center, Rockville, Maryland, and

3. Reviewed and considered the following appeals with a subsequent vote in open session in its quasi-judicial capacity outside the purview of the Open Meetings Act (Section 10-503(a) of the *State Government Article*): 2006-77, 2006-80, 2006-81, 2006-82, 2006-84, 2007-1, T-2006-90, and T-2006-91.
4. Reviewed and considered the following appeals in its quasi-judicial capacity outside the purview of the Open Meetings Act (Section 10-503(a) of the *State Government Article*): 2006-86.
5. Discussed the Human Resources Monthly Report and Appointments with a subsequent vote in open session, as permitted under Section 10-508(a)(1) of the *State Government Article*.
6. Received legal advice as permitted under Section 10-508(a)(7) of the *State Government Article*.
7. Discussed matters of an administrative function outside the purview of the Open Meetings Act (Section 10-503(a) of the *State Government Article*).

In attendance at the closed sessions were: Steve Abrams, Chris Barclay, Larry Bowers, Shirley Brandman, Patrick Clancy, Sharon Cox, Judy Docca, Marlene Hartzman, Sarah Horvitz, Roland Ikheloa, Don Kress, Frieda Lacey, Susan Marks, Nancy Navarro, Pat O'Neill, Brian Porter, John Q. Porter, Glenda Rose, and Jerry Weast.

RESOLUTION NO. 104-07Re: APPEAL

On motion of Ms. Cox and seconded by Ms. Horvitz, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present:

WHEREAS, The Board of Education has met in closed session, and deliberated on an appeal brought before its members acting in its quasi-judicial capacity under Section 10-503(a) of the *State Government Article*; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board of Education hereby affirm the decision of the superintendent in the following appeal. A written Decision and Order will be approved at a later date.

Appeal Number
T-2007-2

Type
Student Assignment

Disposition
Affirmed

RESOLUTION NO. 105-07Re: **NAMING OF DOWNCOUNTY CONSORTIUM ES #28**

On recommendation of the superintendent and on motion of Mr. Abrams seconded by Ms. Cox, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

WHEREAS, The deputy superintendent of schools has advised the Board of Education that she has asked the newly designated principal of Downcounty Consortium Elementary School #28 to begin the process for recommending to the Board a permanent name for the school; and

WHEREAS, Policy FFA, Naming School Facilities, provides for the Board to develop a listing of up to four names to be given to a school naming committee which shall recommend in priority order, its preference from among the listing of names provided by the Board of Education and up to two additional names recommended by the committee; and

WHEREAS, Pursuant to Policy FFA, the final responsibility for officially naming a school building rests with the Board of Education; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board of Education hereby submit the following names to the principal of Downcounty Consortium Elementary School #28 for consideration by the school naming committee:

Sandra Day O'Connor
Harriet Tubman
Frederick Douglass
Arcola

Re: **PROFESSIONAL GROWTH FRAMEWORK FOR
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
(Previous New Business Item)**

On motion of Ms. Cox and seconded by Mrs. O'Neill, the following resolution was placed on the table:

WHEREAS, The Montgomery County Board of Education hires a Superintendent of Schools to guide and manage our system of nearly 200 schools and 20,000 employees serving more than 137,000 students; and

WHEREAS, An MCPS Superintendent deploys nearly two billion tax dollars annually to achieve the goals and implement the policies of the Board of Education; and

WHEREAS, MCPS has implemented professional growth and development systems that

publicly identify a framework and criteria for supporting and evaluating the performance of teachers, administrators, and support service personnel and provide the basis for an individual employee's confidential professional growth plan, annual performance objectives, and review or evaluation; and

WHEREAS, A publicly identified professional growth and development framework for the position of Superintendent of Schools:

2. Responds to the public interest in accountability
3. Provides for continuous improvement in Board/Superintendent relations
4. Identifies the criteria for establishing annual performance goals and measures for a confidential evaluation of a Superintendent of Schools
5. Establishes a rubric for the hiring of a new Superintendent;

now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board of Education direct the Strategic Planning Committee to develop and present recommendations to the Board for a professional growth framework for the position of Superintendent by the end of May, 2007, and be it further;

Resolved, That the Committee's considerations include, but are not limited to, the Strategic Plan goals and measures, the Baldrige criteria (e.g. leadership, stakeholder involvement, etc.) and other pertinent concepts, such as professional learning opportunities; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board publicly discuss and adopt a professional growth framework for the position of Superintendent of Schools; and be it further

Resolved, That within the timeframe contractually stipulated, the Board, confidentially and in collaboration with the Superintendent, review the criteria, evaluate the current performance of the Superintendent, and establish performance goals, measures, and benchmarks with a timeline for discussion and evaluation of progress over the next fiscal year; and be it further

Resolved, That the Strategic Planning Committee recommend a process for regular review and updating of the Superintendent's Professional Growth Framework and Confidential Identification and Review of Annual Performance Goals and Measures.

**RESOLUTION NO. 106-07 Re: AN AMENDMENT TO THE PROFESSIONAL GROWTH
FRAMEWORK FOR SUPERINTENDENT OF
SCHOOLS**

On motion of Ms. Cox and seconded by Mr. Barclay, the following amendment was adopted unanimously by members present:

Supports the ability of future Boards to establish a rubric for the hiring of a new Superintendent

RESOLUTION NO. 107-07 Re: **PROFESSIONAL GROWTH FRAMEWORK FOR SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

On motion of Ms. Cox and seconded by Mrs. O'Neill, the following resolution was adopted unanimously, as amended, by members present:

WHEREAS, The Montgomery County Board of Education hires a Superintendent of Schools to guide and manage our system of nearly 200 schools and 20,000 employees serving more than 137,000 students; and

WHEREAS, An MCPS Superintendent deploys nearly two billion tax dollars annually to achieve the goals and implement the policies of the Board of Education; and

WHEREAS, MCPS has implemented professional growth and development systems that publicly identify a framework and criteria for supporting and evaluating the performance of teachers, administrators, and support service personnel and provide the basis for an individual employee's confidential professional growth plan, annual performance objectives, and review or evaluation; and

WHEREAS, A publicly identified professional growth and development framework for the position of Superintendent of Schools:

6. Responds to the public interest in accountability
7. Provides for continuous improvement in Board/Superintendent relations
8. Identifies the criteria for establishing annual performance goals and measures for a confidential evaluation of a Superintendent of Schools
9. Supports the ability of future Boards to establish a rubric for the hiring of a new Superintendent;

now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board of Education direct the Strategic Planning Committee to develop and present recommendations to the Board for a professional growth framework for the position of Superintendent by the end of May, 2007, and be it further;

Resolved, That the Committee's considerations include, but are not limited to, the Strategic Plan goals and measures, the Baldrige criteria (e.g. leadership, stakeholder involvement, etc.) and other pertinent concepts, such as professional learning opportunities; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board publicly discuss and adopt a professional growth framework for the position of Superintendent of Schools; and be it further

Resolved, That within the timeframe contractually stipulated, the Board, confidentially and in collaboration with the Superintendent, review the criteria, evaluate the current performance of the Superintendent, and establish performance goals, measures, and benchmarks with a timeline for discussion and evaluation of progress over the next fiscal year; and be it further

Resolved, That the Strategic Planning Committee recommend a process for regular review and updating of the Superintendent’s Professional Growth Framework and Confidential Identification and Review of Annual Performance Goals and Measures.

Re: **GRADUATION VENUES**
(Previous New Business)

On motion of Mrs. O’Neill and seconded by Ms. Brandman, the following resolution was withdrawn by the maker of the motion:

Resolved, That the Board of Education officers schedule an agenda discussion on graduation venue sites, and the discussion should include, but not be limited to, venue capacity, transportation factors, cost, possible options for large schools, and budgetary and policy implications.

RESOLUTION NO. 108-07 Re: **GRADUATION VENUES**

On motion of Ms. Cox and seconded by Mrs. O’Neill, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present:

Resolved, That the Board of Education direct the Policy Committee to look at policy implications for the use of religious venues for public school events.

Re: **NEW BUSINESS**

Mrs. Navarro moved and Mr. Barclay seconded the following:

WHEREAS, For the public hearings for the operating budget for FY 2008, the Montgomery County Council of PTAs; Montgomery County Education Association; Montgomery County Association of

Administrative and Supervisory Personnel; SEIU Local 500; municipalities and elected officials; Montgomery County Taxpayers Association; and the Montgomery County Civic Federation are each allotted five minutes for testimony; and

WHEREAS, The NAACP Parents' Council is a key stakeholder organization that represents a vital segment of the Montgomery County community; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board allot five minutes to the NAACP Parents' Council for testimony at the annual operating budget public hearings; and be it further

Resolved, That for all other opportunities for public testimony before the Board, the NAACP Parents' Council will be accorded the same deference as the aforementioned organizations.

Ms. Cox moved and Mr. Abrams seconded the following:

WHEREAS, The Montgomery County Public Schools allocates

significant funds for specific instructional programs and initiatives; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board of Education schedule a discussion of the school system=s processes for program/initiative evaluation, to include methods and appropriate opportunities for obtaining stakeholder input on the parameters of program/initiative evaluation.

Ms. Cox moved and Mr. Abrams seconded the following:

WHEREAS, Policy IJA, *School Counseling Programs and Services*, was revised in November, 2004, and the implementing Regulation IJA-RA was revised in November, 2005; and

WHEREAS, School Counselor Professional Standards, which delineate specific counselor skills that are intrinsic to effective program delivery, were introduced as part of the MCPS Professional Growth System; and

WHEREAS, The job description of counselors has not been revised since 1996; and

WHEREAS, Counselors function at the critical juncture of policy implementation and student achievement, playing a critical role in a student's being able to access special services and advanced coursework; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board of Education schedule a public discussion on the role of counselors in student achievement; and be it further

Resolved, That this public discussion include an analysis of the responsibilities, workload, and training of counselors for the purpose of identifying counselor effectiveness and possible improvements in how the position is allocated and utilized.

RESOLUTION NO. 109-07 Re: **ADJOURNMENT**

On recommendation of the Superintendent and on motion of Mrs. O'Neill seconded by Ms. Cox, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by members present:

Resolved, That the Board of Education adjourn its meeting of February 26, 2007, at 11:00 p.m.

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY

JDW:gr

Resolution	Abrams	Barclay	Brandman	Cox	Docca	Moskowitz	Navarro	O'Neill
Policy IEB, Middle School Education	O	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Rescission of Policy GDA	O	A	O	A	A	A	A	A
Professional Growth Framework for the Superintendent of Schools	A	A	O	A	A	A	A	A

A = affirmative; N = negative; O = absent; AB = abstain

MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION SUMMARY SHEET

February 26, 2007

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