

APPROVED
34-2011

Rockville, Maryland
December 8, 2011

The Board of Education of Montgomery County met in special session at the Carver Educational Services Center, Rockville, Maryland, on December 8, 2011, at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Ms. Shirley Brandman, President
in the Chair
Mr. Christopher Barclay
Dr. Judy Docca
Mr. Michael Durso
Mr. Philip Kauffman
Mrs. Patricia O'Neill
Mr. Alan Xie
Dr. Joshua Starr, Secretary/Treasurer

Absent: Ms. Laura Berthiaume

The Board of Education held its annual meeting with the Montgomery County Region of the Maryland Association of Student Councils, the Montgomery County Junior Council/Montgomery County Region, and the representatives of Student Government Associations.

Several topics were brought up by students, and the Board and staff commented, offered suggestions, and asked for follow-up.

Students were interested in **communication** throughout the year. It was suggested that students could communicate with the Board through public comments, hearings, emails, tweets, MCPS television, and advisory groups as well as the traditional opportunities.

There was concern about **loss of credit** and whether there was a standard form for appeals. The superintendent noted that students need to be in class to learn. The administration is working to support students, develop a new process, and provide standard forms.

There was a remark about consistency in **technology** throughout the school system. Board members pointed out that the emphasis is in middle and high schools where curriculum will be accessed by computer. The superintendent mentioned that he has asked staff to accelerate technology and work with the schools to assess what is needed.

The student leadership requested continued funding of **student government** and its annual conference. Transportation to the conference has been an issue. The student member of the board stated that there is a need to stretch the funds as much as possible. However, the conferences are important to students since it changes their perspectives.

The students were interested in changes in **middle school**. The Board replied that they are concerned about middle school in general, and there is a need to focus on instruction.

The **operating budget** was discussed and how it will impact students and instruction. The superintendent explained that there would be reductions in staff, but the instructional program for students will remain consistent with past years. Board members encouraged the students to attend work sessions, hearings, and County Council meetings to advocate for full funding of the budget.

The subject of hazing and **bullying** was placed on the table for discussion. The superintendent stated that bullying is unacceptable, and students should seek adult help with any incidents. Everyone plays a part in stopping inappropriate behavior. Furthermore, students can model proper behavior and attitude.

Other topics:

- Substitute teacher
- Class placement
- Use of cell phones
- Safety and security
- Redistricting

Submitted followup questions

- Activity buses
- Access to cable
- Internet connectivity

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY

JPS:gr