

TENTATIVE MINUTES

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND

Wednesday, May 14, 2003

The Board of Education of Baltimore County, Maryland, met in open session at 6:42 p.m. at New Town Elementary School. President Donald L. Arnold and the following Board members were in attendance: Ms. Phyllis E. Ettinger, Mr. Thomas G. Grzyski, Ms. Jean M. H. Jung, Mr. Michael P. Kennedy, Ms. Janese Murray, Mr. James R. Sasiadek, Mr. Sanford V. Teplitzky, and Mr. James E. Walker. In addition, Dr. Joe A. Hairston, Superintendent of Schools, and staff members were present.

Mr. Sasiadek immediately moved the Board go into closed session to discuss personnel matters pursuant to the Annotated Code of Maryland, State Government Article, §10-508(a)(1). The motion was seconded by Mr. Walker and unanimously approved by the Board.

CLOSED SESSION MINUTES

Dr. Hairston noted a few situations that have come to light recently and asked Ms. Johns and Mr. Haines to provide additional detail.

Mr. Hayden entered the room at 6:45 p.m.

Ms. Johns and Mr. Haines described the situations within their divisions, how they occurred, and implications for specific employees.

Dr. Hayman entered the room at 6:52 p.m.

At 7:28 p.m., Mr. Sasiadek moved to adjourn the closed session. The motion was seconded by Ms. Murray and approved by the Board.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION HEARING ON THE NEW TOWN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ANNEXATION PLANS

The hearing was called to order by President Donald L. Arnold at 7:33 p.m. In addition to President Arnold, the following Board members were in attendance: Ms. Phyllis E. Ettinger, Mr. Thomas G. Grzyski, Mr. John A. Hayden, III, Dr. Warren C. Hayman, Ms. Jean M. H. Jung, Mr. Michael P. Kennedy, Ms. Janese Murray, Mr. James R. Sasiadek, Mr. Sanford V. Teplitzky, and Mr. James E. Walker. In addition, Dr. Joe A. Hairston, Superintendent of Schools, and staff members were present.

The following citizens addressed the Board:

1. Connie Sumpter, a New Town Elementary School parent, voiced her hope that after her child is annexed to Summit Park, there will not be another move in the near future. This will be the second move for her child in recent years.
2. Ms. Gersha Porter, a New Town Elementary School parent, suggested changing boundary lines and maintaining an enrollment cap at New Town of 707 students. She stated she supports the annexing and requested redistricting be completed by 2005.
3. Ms. Marsha White, board member of the New Town Master Association, supports annexing students who do not live west of I-795. She noted a potential of 120 kindergarten students in the fall and expressed concern about swelling enrollment over the summer before the start of school.
4. Ms. Joan White McCain, a New Town Elementary School parent, stated that it is crucial to maintain an enrollment cap of around 707. She voiced her support of the annexing plans and urged the Board to begin redistricting now for the 2005-2006 school year. Ms. McCain also stated the need for a moratorium on residential development.
5. Ms. Anne Badin, a New Town Elementary School parent, asked the Board not to remove the enrollment cap. She stated teachers need smaller class sizes. Ms. Badin urged the Board to think about the effect of overcrowding on the children. She expressed the need for a moratorium to halt residential development in the area. Ms. Badin encouraged the audience to sign a petition available outside the cafeteria. Finally, Ms. Badin spoke of the need for a new school in the area.
6. Ms. Ilene Chupnick, a New Town Elementary School teacher, expressed her appreciation to the Board for its efforts thus far. She stated that with the current enrollment cap, the number of students in her classroom has dropped from 26 to 20. Ms. Chupnick urged Board members to consider what's best for children.
7. Ms. Erin Waller, a New Town Elementary School parent, stated how pleased she is with New Town's staff and administration. She is, however, unhappy with the large student enrollment. Ms. Waller indicated more students need to be annexed from New Town. She spoke of the numerous lunch shifts beginning at 10:45 a.m. and the lack of adequate recess time for the children.

8. Delegate Robert (Bobby) Zirkin noted that the Board of Education does not appropriate funds. He thanked the Board for its support of a new elementary school in the area. The delegate acknowledged that the State has shirked its responsibility in providing funds to the counties. Delegate Zirkin stated everyone must work together to see that the County appropriates funds for the construction of this much needed school. He stated that if a tax increase is necessary, it would be a wise investment for school construction. The delegate further stated the County officials must be convinced to “step up to the plate” to forward funds for school construction. Delegate Zirkin also noted the large number of group homes located in the Southwest and Northwest Areas of the county and their impact on schools.
9. Mr. Leo O’Brien, a New Town Elementary School parent, stated that economic development in the area and the county could suffer without adequate schools providing a quality education for children. He reiterated a previous speaker’s comments about the need for two schools in the Northwest Area and expressed hope that the Board and the community could work together.
10. Ms. Roxanne Lucas, a New Town Elementary School parent, noted the wear and tear on the school because of the overcrowding. She noted that classes are being held in hallways, lunch shifts start before 11:00, and the discipline issues brought about by overcrowded classrooms. Ms. Lucas urged the Board to maintain a 707 enrollment cap.
11. Ms. Nicole Davis, a New Town Elementary School parent, noted the large kindergarten classes and stated how hard it is to keep a child’s attention with that size class. She noted her five-year-old eats lunch at 10:45 and that students eating on later lunch shifts may not have some of the same food options. Ms. Davis stated that two gym classes are held at one time in the gymnasium. The Board was urged to help New Town children learn in an environment that is not crowded.
12. Mr. Lindbergh Carpenter voiced his support of keeping the cap at 707 and redistricting by 2005-06 or until two new schools in the area are built. He stated children have a right to an equal, high-quality education. Mr. Carpenter noted the long lunch lines and large classes.
13. Ms. Paula White Harris, a New Town Elementary School parent, objected to her child being annexed to Glyndon because she lives in an apartment and is not part of a homeowners’ association. The proposed annexation to Glyndon would be the third move for her child in recent years. She asked

that if her child could not remain at New Town that he be able to return to Owings Mills Elementary School, which is closer to her home than Glyndon.

14. Ms. Paula Hendricks, a New Town Elementary School parent, requested the Board act immediately to reduce New Town's overcrowding. She asked that the 707 cap be maintained. Ms. Hendricks stated that the overcrowding situation at New Town is not fair to teachers, and it is not fair to send children outside of the community. She stated that parents want to work with the Board and be part of the solution.
15. Ms. Carrie Saiotilme, a New Town Elementary School grandparent, expressed concern about sending her grandchild to Chatsworth because of the distance and time on a bus. She asked that if her grandchild could not remain at New Town that the child go to a school closer than Chatsworth.
16. Ms. Kelli Nelson, a representative of the Citizens Advisory Committee for Special Education, voiced her support of the need to annex students and to maintain the enrollment cap. She did object to the removal of ED classes to Chatsworth, and stated she would like to see one of these classes remain. Ms. Nelson thanked Delegate Zirkin for attending and pointing out the issue of group homes. She stated students cannot be removed from their school because they have a disability.
17. Mr. Kevin Pope, a parent of a future New Town Elementary School student, shared his hope that when his child is ready to enter New Town, the overcrowding issue will have been resolved. He stated he is willing to make sacrifices now so his child will not be lost in the shuffle.
18. Ms. Aida Sellman, a New Town Elementary School parent, noted the great staff and administration at New Town. She expressed concern that these people may be lost if the overcrowding issue is not solved. Ms. Sellman commended the Board for the annexation plans and also asked that the cap be maintained. She also stated the construction of a new school in the area must be a priority.
19. Ms. Jeanette Key, a representative of the New Town Elementary School PTA, supported the annexation recommendations and shared her belief that the cap be lowered to 707. Ms. Key noted that children are in overcrowded classes and because teachers are frustrated, they may leave New Town. She suggested more children be moved out of New Town Elementary and urged discussions with County officials.

20. Ms. Deborah Montesino, a New Town Elementary School parent, stated that New Town teachers are overworked and kindergarten classes are large. She urged the Board to maintain the enrollment cap until new schools are built in the area.
21. Mr. Keith Brown, a Glyndon Elementary School parent, noted his daughter will continue to attend Glyndon next year. He asked the Board to reconsider providing transportation for his child.

The hearing was concluded at 8:45 p.m.

OPEN SESSION MINUTES

The Board of Education of Baltimore County, Maryland, met in open session at 8:58 p.m. President Donald L. Arnold and the following Board members were present: Ms. Phyllis E. Ettinger, Mr. Thomas G. Grzymiski, Mr. John A. Hayden, III, Ms. Jean M. H. Jung, Mr. Michael P. Kennedy, Mr. James R. Sasiadek, and Mr. Sanford V. Teplitzky. In addition, Dr. Joe A. Hairston, Superintendent of Schools, and staff members were present.

Ms. Ettinger immediately moved the Board go into closed session to discuss personnel matters and to discuss a matter relative to negotiations pursuant to the Annotated Code of Maryland, State Government Article, §10-508(a)(1) and (a)(9). The motion was seconded by Mr. Kennedy and unanimously approved by the Board.

CLOSED SESSION MINUTES

Mr. Grimsley described a meeting that took place earlier in the day between staff and union leadership to discuss a matter dealing with salary.

Mr. Walker entered the room at 9:00 p.m.; Ms. Murray and Dr. Hayman entered the room at 9:05 p.m.

Board members discussed possible solutions for Mr. Grimsley and Mr. Capozzi to take back to the employee group.

Members of the Board continued its earlier discussion of personnel issues.

At 10:12 p.m., Mr. Walker moved adjournment of the closed session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hayden and approved by the Board.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe A. Hairston
Secretary-Treasurer

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