

TENTATIVE MINUTES

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND

Tuesday, May 20, 2003

The Board of Education of Baltimore County, Maryland, met in open session at 6:08 p.m. at Greenwood. President Donald L. Arnold and the following Board members were present: Ms. Phyllis E. Ettinger, Mr. John A. Hayden, III, Ms. Jean M. H. Jung, Mr. Michael P. Kennedy, Mr. James R. Sasiadek, and Mr. James E. Walker. In addition, Dr. Joe A. Hairston, Superintendent of Schools, and staff members were present.

Ms. Jung immediately moved that the Board go into closed session to discuss personnel matters and to discuss matters 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 and Mr. Capozzi provided the Board with a status report with regard to negotiations with a particular employee group. Board members discussed possible fiscal implications as it related to resolution of the issue.

Dr. Hayman entered the room at 6:18 p.m.; Ms. Johns entered the room at 6:33 p.m.

Mr. Haines briefed the Board on a specific negotiations issue for employee groups.

At 6:55 p.m., Mr. Sasiadek moved to adjourn the closed session. The motion was seconded by Ms. Ettinger and approved by the Board.

REPORT OF THE WORK SESSION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Board of Education of Baltimore County, Maryland, reconvened in open session at 7:05 p.m. at Greenwood. President Donald L. Arnold and the following Board members were present: Ms. Phyllis E. Ettinger, Mr. John A. Hayden, III, Dr. Warren C. Hayman, Mr. Michael P. Kennedy, Mr. James R. Sasiadek, and Mr. James E. Walker. In addition, Dr. Joe A. Hairston, Superintendent of Schools, and staff members were present.

Mr. Arnold reviewed the purpose of tonight's meeting and advised the public if they wished to share any comments with the Board about the recommendations to speak with a member after the meeting. Staff was thanked for its work in preparing the information presented on the 13th and tonight. Mr. Arnold also thanked staff for the excellent meeting with the County Council earlier this afternoon.

Mr. Shah, Planning Administrator in the Office of Strategic Planning, remarked that tonight's work session was a follow-up to the presentation made to the Board on May 13th. Proposed solutions to overcrowding in the Southwest Area include relocating Dogwood

Elementary School's ED program and capital improvements at Featherbed Lane Elementary School.

With regard to the situation at Dogwood Elementary School, Mr. Shah noted that the Strategic Planning staff worked closely with the Executive Director of Schools, the affected principals, and the Offices of Facilities and Special Education to develop workable recommendations. He explained why several alternatives were considered and rejected. Mr. Shah also stated the approximate cost for time-out rooms at Winfield and Hawthorne is \$73,000 (\$50,000 for construction and \$23,000 for design).

Ms. Satterfield, from the Office of Special Education, discussed the impact of the recommendation regarding the Special Education students being relocated to Winfield. Thirteen of the twenty-four students would move to Winfield. The teachers and instructional assistant for these 13 students would move with the program. She noted there would be significantly more space available at Winfield, where there are 3 classrooms and a crisis room as opposed to 2 classrooms and a crisis room at Dogwood. Students moving to Winfield would be eligible for the Title I Transfer Option. Ms. Satterfield also explained the impact on the sending school and the receiving school.

Responding to a question by Mr. Hayden, Ms. Carter responded the Dogwood area is still growing. When the recommendations are implemented, the school will gain back a room for vocal music and a science lab.

Mr. Kennedy inquired of Ms. Satterfield if she thought this move was in the best interest of the children. Ms. Satterfield stated everyone involved must do the appropriate preparation for this to work effectively.

Ms. Ettinger voiced her concern about the movement of these students into a school that is already facing significant challenges, although under capacity. Ms. Ettinger also shared her concern about the additional burden on staff at the receiving school created by the needs of the new students. She asked how many other schools within the system have as many as five (5) self-contained special education classrooms. Ms. Satterfield stated that while many secondary schools have as many as five (5) self-contained special education classrooms, she did not have the information at the elementary level available and promised to get back to Ms. Ettinger.

Mr. Sasiadek stated that it is important to keep in mind program needs when moving students. He voiced his opinion that parents would not be opposed to a longer bus ride to a different school for their children if they knew their children were in a quality program and were making progress.

Dr. Hayman asked for information about how the number of over capacity children at Dogwood (150) is distributed by grade level. He also noted that the enrollment projections will continue to place Dogwood over capacity over the next several years. Mr. Shah stated there is a 200-unit complex scheduled to be built in the Dogwood district as well as another 200-unit

development. He noted that these are non-build options, as the resources and sites are not available in this area as is the case with New Town.

Mr. Walker inquired about Dogwood's mobility rate. Ms. Cordell noted that Dogwood serves the largest cluster of apartments and rentals in the Woodlawn area. She noted her staff has worked diligently since the opening of the school to check residences to be certain that the school serves the children of the Dogwood community. Ms. Cordell also stated that every year since Dogwood opened, the school has enrolled more children than it has withdrawn.

Mr. Walker asked about community input. Mr. Shah reported that at present, the Office of Strategic Planning is working with the Executive Director of Schools, open houses are being planned, and there is discussion with principals about the transfer of students. Dr. Milbourne assured Mr. Walker that parents and students will be made to feel welcome and a part of the Winfield Elementary School family.

Mr. Walker also expressed the hope that Dogwood parents would not find out for the first time about the transfer of their students by letter and urged parent involvement at an earlier stage of the process. Ms. Satterfield explained that in another move this year, meetings were held with parents on site. Visits to the receiving school site were also scheduled and included guidance staff, speech staff, administration, etc.

Ms. Ettinger summarized the four major issues being discussed this evening:

- Whether the decision to move special education children is the only viable solution.
- With the Title I Transfer Option available at Winfield, it is uncertain as to where the new students may eventually wind up.
- Enrollment projections indicate a peak in 2005 and a drop in enrollment to the 2002 level in about 10 years.
- Parent/community input—There is a need to involve the communities as well as to have the PTA Council and the area advisory council involved in the discussion so parents feel they have been heard.

Ms. Ettinger inquired if staff had considered options involving Woodbridge, Westchester, and Westowne, since those schools are currently under capacity and, according to the projections, will be at or under capacity over the next few years, even with the mandated full-day kindergarten. She also inquired if there was any space at the Campfield Center to accommodate kindergarten or prekindergarten. Ms. Carter stated that staff looked at annexing grades to the closest facility. Going to Campfield would increase travel time for the youngest students. She also noted that most of the available seats are south of Route 40.

Ms. Ettinger stated the *No Child Left Behind Act* will have a significant fiscal impact on the school system. She asked if there has been any discussion with the County about possible new construction, if the State would consider new construction given there is still seat room, and if staff explored the possibility of multiroom additions. Ms. Carter stated many of the schools considered have modular additions and are overcrowded. She also stated that most schools offering prekindergarten and kindergarten have these children in regular classes.

Mr. Arnold stated redistricting a large portion of the county needs to be reviewed. He noted that redistricting would not be a long-term solution because of all the development taking place in various areas of the county. Mr. Arnold also stated that there is very little land set aside for the construction of new schools, and some of the school sites currently in the site bank are too small. He noted the need to work with local and State officials in order to acquire more capital funds to address this concern. The school system must also develop unique ideas about recycling properties.

At 8:28 p.m., Mr. Walker moved to adjourn the work session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sasiadek and approved by the Board.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe A. Hairston
Secretary-Treasurer