

REPORT OF THE WORK SESSION ON THE PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2005  
CAPITAL BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS

Thursday, September 25, 2003  
Greenwood

The Board of Education of Baltimore County, Maryland, met in open session at 7:03 p.m. at Greenwood. Vice President Ms. Janese Murray and the following Board members were present: Mr. Donald L. Arnold, Ms. Francesca Cirincione, Ms. Phyllis E. Ettinger, Mr. Thomas Grzymiski, and Mr. James E. Walker. In addition, Dr. Joe A. Hairston, Superintendent of Schools; staff members; as well as the media were present.

Ms. Murray reviewed the purpose of tonight's meeting. Staff was thanked for its work in preparing the information presented at tonight's meeting.

Mr. Michael Kennedy entered at 7:04 p.m.

Ms. Burnopp, Executive Director of Fiscal Services, remarked that tonight's work session was a follow-up to the presentation made to the Board on September 23<sup>rd</sup>. Ms. Burnopp commented that in FY2003 BCPS asked for \$31M and received \$11M. She stated that current requests are based on items that were previously State, County and Board priorities with the concern being enrollment needs then systemic needs. She stated that for the first time systemic renovations include an additional \$1.5M per school for program renovations.

Mr. Goodhues explained the next steps of the process. He noted to the Board that the IAC (Interagency Committee on School Construction) has not provided information regarding school projects or the allocation to Baltimore County. Instead there is a list of items that will be used to determine the State's funding position. They are:

- High school science rooms
- Long-term needs to address full-day kindergarten
- Systemic renovations

Mr. Goodhues informed the Board that the budget is due to the State by October 15<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Jung entered the room at 7:10 p.m.

Mr. Arnold inquired about how the \$1.5M has changed the County mix related to the \$1.407M. Ms. Burnopp clarified that the mix has shifted; meaning the County will provide less funding because the State should provide more funding. Mr. Arnold's concern is that the State will not have additional dollars. Ms. Burnopp stated that in addition to systemic renovations, we would complete program needs. Mr. Goodhues indicated the State possibly might not provide additional dollars.

Mr. Kennedy expressed his concern regarding full-day kindergarten. Ms. Burnopp responded that his concerns would be addressed as part of the operating budget.

Responding to a question by Ms. Ettinger, Ms. Burnopp replied that the IAC has committed to the funding changes and that the State is in favor towards our looking at program changes. However, this does not imply we will get the necessary funding.

Ms. Ettinger inquired about the process for prioritizing projects. She recommended we restate our process of prioritizing projects and communicate this information to our communities. Dr. Krempel reported that he consistently keeps the community and schools informed via telephone inquiries and meetings.

With regard to a study question from Ms. Ettinger, Dr. Krempel reminded the Board that the systemic renovations at 105 elementary schools were completed using Perks-Reutter. Middle schools reflected in the budget are also following that format. Dr. Krempel remarked the State would prefer that we include program issues.

Dr. Krempel provided an example of State requirements increasing school square footage allowances for specific programs in schools and the impact on decreasing other available space in the schools.

Ms. Ettinger noted the public's concern about windows, doors, and HVAC in the schools. She inquired as to whether a HVAC feasibility study was conducted for the school system. Dr. Krempel responded that a feasibility study was completed and the cost would be \$80 M to air condition every school within the system. Ms. Ettinger requested that the feasibility study again be reviewed even though it is not in the 2003-04 budget cost. Dr. Krempel added that roughly one-third of our schools are air-conditioned.

Ms. Ettinger summarized two concerns:

- Finding money or funding for the projects
- Explaining the process to the community

Responding to a question by Mr. Kennedy, Dr. Krempel stated that a feasibility study including cost was completed on schools that do not have auditoriums along with cost. Dr. Krempel will again provide the Board a copy of that study.

With regard to Mr. Kennedy's question, Dr. Krempel responded that a State taskforce makes the decision of what are considered program issues.

Responding to a question by Mr. Grzynski, Dr. Krempel responded that every middle school has program adjustments that could be made to meet the guidelines of the State. Dr. Krempel noted that State participation is crucial to the process and that the State requires program adjustments in addition to systemic renovations.

Mr. Grzynski reiterated the need to convey the process to the community. He believes that program issues are bigger than systemic issues.

Mr. Arnold suggested that a presentation be given at a Board meeting. He voiced his concern that the State is requiring full-day kindergarten by 2007, however, not providing the dollars to assist the County. He stated we needed to move forward in the best fashion possible.

With regard to Ms. Cirincione's question, Dr. Krempel responded that replacement windows and doors would be completed at those systemic middle schools listed on the proposed capital budget as needed.

Ms. Jung stated the need to educate the public (e.g. PTA newsletters, TABCO newsletters). She asked the Board to think about different ways to keep the public informed of the progress.

With regards to full-day kindergarten, Ms. Ettinger voiced her concern that this is a quality of life issue for schools that do not have the appropriate space in the buildings. Perhaps we can look into placing an inquiry with the State Board. Dr. Krempel responded that BCPS is still in the formation of plans with full-day kindergarten. At this time, it is uncertain what monies the school system will receive from the State.

Mr. Walker voiced his concern about the communication breakdown between the school system and the public.

Ms. Burnopp reminded the Board that some full-day kindergarten issues would be addressed in the Operating Budget.

Ms. Fromm reviewed the student population and elementary school enrollments and projections in the Northwest area, including updated enrollment figures surrounding the Woodholme Site/New Town Vicinity. Ms. Fromm also reviewed the prospective Windsor Mill Middle School vicinity and looked at enrollment figures in the northwest and southwest areas. Ms. Fromm explained the 2003/04 Pre-K and kindergarten status for the BCPS system.

Mr. Arnold inquired as to how many schools are currently set up for pre-K and full-day kindergarten. Ms. Fromm stated 38 schools remain to be set up for full-day kindergarten.

Responding to a question by Ms. Cirincione, Mr. Haines stated that schools are ranked from greatest need to least need. He stated that ranking deals with the student necessity not geographic location.

Ms. Jung asked whether certain schools may or may not necessarily have pre-K. Mr. Haines responded that we need to go with the data provide to us as far as demographics and population and that any attempt to project beyond the five-year plan would be soft numbers.

Ms. Murray inquired of Mr. Haines how often we re-evaluate the demographics and shift of the population. Mr. Haines stated that an evaluation is completed on an annual basis and there is often movement. However, school rankings move very little. Mr. Haines noted there is a methodology in place for the rankings and that schools continue to move up the list. Mr. Shah, Planning Administrator in the Office of Strategic Planning, re-emphasized Mr. Haines' comments about school ranking according to needs.

Mr. Kennedy inquired about the figures for overcrowding in the Perry Hall High School area. Ms. Fromm stated DeJong and Associates is five months into a survey for all high schools.

Ms. Ettinger inquired as to what might be available to us as far as a contingency plan for overcrowding due to full-day kindergarten. Ms. Fromm responded BCPS is looking at every possible solution that would be available over the next few years. Ms. Ettinger requested a presentation to the Board when a contingency plan or possible redistricting becomes available.

Mr. Walker inquired about a high school in the White Marsh area. Ms. Fromm stated the school system is working with DeJong and Associates on a high school study, and a final report would be available in November.

Ms. Ettinger recommended that key points emerging from this work session be shared with the public at the October 9<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

The hearing was concluded at 8:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Joe A. Hairston  
Secretary-Treasurer

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