

Minutes  
SW Educational Advisory Meeting  
Pre-Budget – October 15, 2003

Council Attendees:

Linda Blackwell	Dr. Richard Milbourne
Nick Camp	Lisa Orens (chair)
Sharon Loving	Joseph Pallozi
Sam Macer	

Public Meeting called to order at 7:17 pm by Dr. Richard Milbourne.

Attendance: Approx 30

Speakers: 12

Reports: 1

Introductions made to Michael Kennedy, County Board of Education; Diane G; Barbara Burns; Jan Thomas, County Council; Doug Neilson, Office of Communications; Deb Phelps, Southwest Area Office, Janice Murray, County Board of Education.

Purpose of Meeting Stated at 7:19 by Lisa Orens.

Thanks extended to Principal Sholl for hosting the meeting. Stated speaker time limit of 3 minutes; speakers to be called in order of sign in.

Speaker: Elizabeth Piel – Teacher on Gold Team, Arbutus Middle School

Request to introduce mainstreaming programs for emotionally disturbed children at other schools to allow students to remain at their districted “home” school; not all schools have programs to mainstream. Emotionally disturbed children are not just behavior problems but loose emotional control. Majority of these students live in either group or foster homes. Arbutus has 46 students, many from other home schools including Catonsville and Landsdowne Middle Schools. Students from other home schools incur 45-60 minute bus ride one way to Arbutus and therefore are being set up for an unsuccessful day by requirement to be on the bus so long. Programs in home school would allow shorter travel time and smaller class size. Ideal class size 8-12 with teacher and aid to allow for more individualized attention.

Speaker: Michael Behrens – Professional Staff Nurses Association/Chadwick ES

Request to increase salaries of school nurses over and above the contracted minimum. Insurance premiums have increased but salaries for nurses have not kept pace. One in seven hospitals have 13% vacancy rate. Number of national licensure exams for nurses on the decline. One South Carolina report notes 1/3 of current nurses eligible to retire. To properly address healthcare issues to comply with No Child Left Behind Act therefore requires a salary increase for nurses.

Speaker: Kerrie J Lagon, Edmonson Heights ES PTA News Librarian

Request for funding to provide functioning library. Last year the library functioned as a classroom to combat overcrowding issues. Needed are new shelves, computers, projectors, and furniture. A functioning library would encourage reading as currently children cannot take books home.

Speaker: Yvonne Nelson, Edmonson Heights ES PTA Vice President

Request for additional space, new windows, and gifted program. School currently has five (5) trailers so overcrowding is not an issue but there is no space for instrumental music. Building is over 50 years old and trailers were to be temporary. Several rooms were painted by about 30 parents during the summer. Reiterated concern that No Child Left Behind Act requires need for updated library which would help encourage children to read at home.

Speaker: Jody Wallace – Southwest Area Southern Cluster VP PTA Council

Request for funding for mentorship program to help student achieve. MSA scores indicate many students are not doing well. Instructional assistants should be employed. Class size and payment to teachers are also important.

Speaker: Fred Ludwig – Career and Technology Advisory Council and Employee

Request to support of the full baseline budget of \$837,000 with additional \$18,000 for this budget, with increase to baseline in 2005. Program impacts 65,000 Baltimore County students; additional 7,000 students this year (12% increase) with no increase in funding. Ability to replace equipment and uniforms reduced due to loss of government funding; only half of schools have adequate computer labs. Need to develop website and improve labs. Cited recent full page ad in *USA Today* indicating Career and Technology receiving national attention. Speaking to success of program, several students have been hired out of program; one success story to follow.

Speaker: Evangeline Labador – Career and Technology Alumnus

Speaking to success of Career and Technology Education program, request to continue support of program with increase to budget restated. As a student, program allowed for tour of Federal Reserve Bank and an internship at Provident Bank in addition to college level coursework. Out of program, made contacts necessary to be awarded \$20,000 Coca-Cola scholarship followed by internship with Coke in Atlanta, GA for last two years of college. Currently employed by Social Security Administration.

Speaker: Laura LeMire – Arbutus Middle School PTA President

Request for multiple facilities improvements: media projectors at \$1000 each, furniture, assembly/auditorium room; additional request for crosswalk to be placed at Hilltop and Valley where bus stop was recently added. Believes school to be “cursed with being a solid average school” therefore not qualifying for needed attention. Currently, each room as well as the two computer labs has computers with internet connections. Thanks to assistance from Dr. Hairston, wiring was completed to allow for data projectors, but teachers are unable to take advantage of technology because of the lack of equipment. School has scrapped together enough to purchase seven (one for each lab, one in the library, and four to share among other classes) but would like more. To eliminate need to use Sudbrook for drama productions, assembly/auditorium room is needed.

Speaker: Stacey Morrison – Hillcrest Elementary School Parent

Request to increase number of resource professionals including teachers, to allow for reduction in class size. Current class size is 28-29 but ideal is 24-25 for each one teacher. Per test scored, students are showing that they are achieving overall but there are huge gaps in the subscores. To help ensure No Child Left Behind Act is met and reputation of quality Catonsville school is

maintained, need to provide resource professionals (general or specific), specialists, and/or aids to the classroom teachers.

Speaker: Marge Sholl – Arbutus Middle School Principal

Proposal that funding be available to all county school, not just those with PTA who can afford it, to ensure ability to provide technology to students which includes internet access in every classroom. To achieve access to technology, data projectors at \$1000 each are needed. Request made that Dr Hairston and Board put into effect a plan similar to that which was implemented when Dr Hairston first came to the county (provided for a move to Dell platform computers) which would outline specific plans for improvements.

Speaker: Michael Kennedy – County Board of Education

Addressed audience rather than Council members to suggest a change in format of hearings to ensure attendance of elected officials. His ninth year attending budget hearings, this will be his last year of service on the Board. Acknowledged all issues as valid. Personalized concerns by expressing that he taught for 32 years and now has grandchildren in Catonsville and Arbutus. Noted that Maryland is last in the country in paying for retirement plans for teachers; and while Maryland used to be highly ranked as top one or two states in teacher salary, it is now between thirteenth and fifteenth.

Speaker: Sharon Loving – Southwest Advisory/Woodbridge Elementary School Parent

Short-term request for adequate locks to be placed on storage rooms used for required lock down safety drills; long term request for consideration to revisit open space concern as Woodbridge is only school of purely open space design as reported by Strategic Planning.

Report Submitted: Veronica Magwood-Burton, Woodmoore Elementary PTA President

Request for new windows as also noted last year. Current windows have become a safety and health issue as many do not open and other do not close resulting in inadequate ventilation. Appearance is also an issue.

Public meeting closed by Lisa Orens at 8:05pm who thanked all speakers and attendees. Recap of the budget process was provided with comment that all information shared at the hearing goes to the Board of Education. While it may seem slow coming, the information does eventually make a difference. Reference *Baltimore Sun* article about Molly Shot. Encouraged everyone to find something good in the school system and promote it. Again reiterated, please be patient; input provided does make a difference.

Business meeting called to order at 8:34 pm by Lisa Orens

1. Member discussion:

- ⌚ Introduction made to Nick Camp, student member from Catonsville High School currently a junior and planning to serve two years.
- ⌚ Student members on council from Western and Woodlawn (each to serve one year) not present.
- ⌚ Student member still needed from Landsdowne; junior preferred.

2. Lisa noted that Sam Moxley would not be available for the next meeting scheduled for November 17 and questioned either moving the meeting again or changing the topic. It was discussed and agreed that Sam Moxley's office should be contacted to determine when he might be available and the preference would be to change the date of the meeting in accordance with his schedule.

3. Dr. Milbourne indicated that "State of the Area" address could be given every year. It was agreed that this would be the topic for an additional January meeting for this school year and would be the September topic beginning with the 2004-2005 school year.

Business meeting adjourned approximately 9:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Loving

Secretary, SW Education Advisory Council