

Southwest Area Educational Advisory Council
Pre-Budget Hearing
Woodlawn High School
Wednesday, October 21, 2009
Brian S. Bailey & Beverly C. Lindsey, Co-Chairs

Board Members in Attendance: Joe Pallozzi, Rodger Janssen

Speakers – in order of delivery

1. Brenda Harney, Community Leader (See attachment #1)
 2. Michelle Carroll, Employee at Catonsville Elementary School and Parent (See attachment #4)
 3. Stacey Enty, Board of Directors, District 1, Board of Directors, Teachers Association of Baltimore County (TABCo) – delivered remarks on behalf of Cheryl Bost, TABCo President (See attachment #2)
 4. Deborah Bittner, Principal, Catonsville High School (see below)
 5. Paul Foster, BCPS Career & Technology Education Advisory Council (submitted written comments – See attachment #3)
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4. Deborah Bittner, Principal of Catonsville High School
 - a. Thanked the Board of Education for its support of the school's recent facilities update. CHS is the first in the county to be renovated.

Special thanks to Brian Scriven, Principal, Woodlawn High School, and his leadership team for hosting this meeting.

Attachment # 1

SOUTHWEST AREA EDUCATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

RIVERVIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL/SOUTHWEST AREA SCHOOLS:

1. Air Conditioning or an alternative of quiet ceiling fans with mist system to cool off the rooms and various large areas throughout the school.

Most fans are so noisy students cannot hear the teacher and it is just hot air blowing around with no true relief.

Back to School nite was so hot, even though fans were blowing, you could not hear the principle or members of the staff. Most parents did not stay for the entire presentation and missed some important information. Especially the logistics of volunteering at the school.

I have been advised that BC is finished with rehabbing the elementary schools. Now finishing up the middle schools and moving on to the high schools. The elementary schools will not be rediscussed for capital improvement projects for approximately another 10-years? 10-years is such a long time. I am positive BC can be more creative than this and not continue to allow the children to attend school under these circumstances. Most elementary schools without air conditioning are in the older communities struggling to past state tests. The better the atmosphere for the children the better.

2. Additional parking. There is a large grass plot in the front of the school that could accommodate extra parking for the staff, parents and visitors. Maybe even redesigned in some way to relieve the congestion of parents dropping off and picking up their children in the morning and afternoon.
3. Joint Usage Agreement between schools and recs and parks is truly not being honored in the southwest area schools. Appears schools allow outside groups usage before the recs and parks programs. When you discuss this issue with school staff, they comment they do not know much if anything about the agreement. This agreement should be reviewed, evaluated and discussed between them.

If the schools are utilizing the common space full time, maybe it is time for all schools to have community centers run by both so the kids of the community can have activities to keep them busy and out of trouble - this is the goal!!

4. The Title 1 Funds bring in additional staff, both part-time and full time, but this failing school still needs additional aids, teachers, incentives, etc. to provide the stability the kids of the community truly need.

RES has failed the state tests for 2-years in a row. Even though they have brought in additional staff, these teachers need incentives to encourage them to stay at the school past their 2-year interim.

Everyone talks about the "No Child Left Behind" law, but there are plenty of kids being left behind at this school.

Attachment # 2

**Operating Budget Message for FY11
Area Advisory Councils**

**Submitted by Cheryl Bost
TABCO President**

Good evening and thank you for taking time each month to solicit input from the community on educational issues. As we consistently work to educate over 104,000 students and at the same time make schools the focus of community involvement and growth, it is critical to gain insights from everyone. I applaud your commitment to education and our students.

Tonight I want to share budget suggestions of educators around the county serving varied levels of students on a daily basis. We are all well aware of the turbulent fiscal times our country, our state, and our county are facing. We all are doing our part to be fiscally wise and we expect the same of our school system leaders. You will notice we are not only providing a list of items we believe necessary to continue to make education achievement and teacher retention top priorities, but we also provide suggestions on ways to save money within the school system. Neither list is exhaustive, so we are willing to provide more ideas at any time.

We are requesting the following either through the operating budget or through grants and stimulus funding resources:

- additional kindergarten helpers especially in our most needy schools;
- differentiated staff positions in our most needy schools to address students living in poverty, coming from group homes, needs related to ESOL and special education, etc.;
- step and longevity increases, and reasonable salary increases for all employees;
- increased allocation of clerical assistance for data collection, duplicating materials, etc.;
- additional tech support personnel to service clusters of schools to utilize the millions spent on technology;
- funds to offset the cost of field trips and experiential learning opportunities;
- positions allocated for schools to assist with assessments, recordkeeping and other tasks to better service and stay in compliance with special education students.

Identified areas for potential cost savings include :

- re-examining the administrative retreats outside of Baltimore County and look for a more cost effective forum to accomplish the same goal utilizing the resources in Baltimore County.
- re-examining the monthly meetings of administrators at Crowne Plaza that also includes lunches at an expensive rate and utilize our culinary schools for such purposes.
- re-examining the need to move departments and offices on a frequent basis causing expenses for not only renovations, but name plates, business cards, letterhead, etc.
- re-examining summer trips to China for administrators that don't offer the course at their school and determine the need for such trips during tight fiscal times.
- re-examining the removal of the *Language!* program and the new implementation of the new non-piloted linguistics program. Was its effectiveness evaluated before recommending removal?
- re-examining how grants are written and implemented that provide resource teachers for schools but removes their ability teach students directly i.e. GT Catalyst, Instructional Coach, STEM RT.
- re-examining the process for all curricula and assessment implementation to reduce the number of times curricula resources and assessments are duplicated and sent to schools only to be recalled because of errors.
- re-examine the purchase of *Science Weekly* supplemental magazines for all students since they are no longer aligned with the elementary science curriculum.

As previously stated, this list is not exhaustive and any school would be able to tell you what items they need in order to provide quality instruction and what items they may be able to do without. Just ask!

Baltimore County Public Schools
Area Council Pre-Budget Hearing
Southwest Area – Woodlawn High School

Wednesday, October 21, 2009

Good Evening

My name is Paul Foster. I serve as Vice President of the Printing and Graphics Association MidAtlantic (PGAMA).

- I am here tonight on behalf of the Career and Technology Education Advisory Council for Baltimore County Public Schools.
- I have been a public member of the Council for two years representing the graphic communications/printing industry.
- I feel that I bring a unique perspective to the conversation in that I worked in industry for 16 years, taught graphic communications/printing for seven years in Baltimore County, and now work for the industry association representing the 345 companies in the area. **The Industry has a continuing strong interest in Career and Technology Education.**
- While teaching at Sollers Point Technical High School, strong support from the office of career and technology education enabled me to build a program that was recognized at the local, state, and national level. Adequate funding allowed for the purchase of state-of-the-art equipment that prepared students participating in the program to either continue their education at the postsecondary level or to enter the industry upon graduating from high school.
- Rather than reciting statistics related to the proposed budget I would rather attach names to the success of CTE funding. Jennifer Willison graduated from my program in 2004 and has worked at The Frank Gumpert Printing Company of Annapolis in the prepress department since then. Sam Miloro graduated from the program in 2005 and was hired by Peabody Press after a successful internship and a capstone work

experience. After starting as a press helper, Sam quickly demonstrated his skill and today he is the youngest 4-color press operator that I am aware of. Megan 2005 from the program but took a different path. Megan was accepted to study design at MICA. Megan Pennington graduated in 2006 and is currently attending the Pennsylvania College of Technology in Williamsport Pennsylvania and majoring in design with a minor in graphic communications production. Recently Megan sent an e-mail to me informing me that she recently has become president of the events board on campus. These are just a few of the success stories that adequate CTE funding of my program made possible. I often wonder where these students would be today had I not been able to offer them such a rich experience.

- I have spoken in the past at Area Council Budget Hearings requesting support for proposed Career and Technology budgets. **I, and the Council, greatly appreciate your continued support of the Career and Technology Education budget.**
- **In these difficult economic times I encourage you to consider not only the dollars in the budget but also the success stories associated with CTE funding in the past. CTE and postsecondary education are not an either/or proposition for high school students as my examples demonstrate. The more choices we offer to students, the more of a chance they have to succeed.**

Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you this evening.

attachment #4

Southwest Area Education Advisory Council

Hello and thank you for allowing me to speak.

Tonight I will be speaking as a BCPS employee and a parent. I am the Administrative Secretary at Catonsville Elementary School (CES) in the SW Area and we have parking lot issues. We are in need of additional parking spaces. I have been with CES for more than 12 years and parking has been an issue and getting worse each school year. When we have activities, field trips, etc parking becomes a major problem. We have to carefully schedule many activities so that parking doesn't become a double nightmare. A few of the staff have to direct traffic and parking when we have activities for more than one grade level. CES is on a busy street and in a business district. We have just enough parking spaces for our staff and when if come in late or leave/return from BCPS meetings or lunch we don't have a place to park. We have to double park or block another employee in just to get back to work on time. We also receive calls from the businesses around CES that complain that our parents are taking up parking spaces for their store customers. The property owners have told us that they will hire tow companies to remove any cars that park in their business parking lots during their business hours. At least 3 or 4 times a year, we have to place information in our newsletter to remind parents not to park at the adjoining businesses parking lots.

Also, CES is in need of additional funds for technology at CES. There are funding for Title I, Stimulus and other funding sources that we don't have access to. We could also use the additional funding for additional staff to continue to help our students achieve and strive to better themselves.

As a parent of a student at Western School of Technology, I would like to ask that the school receive funding for a new intercom system and an Auditorium. For example, at Open House we had to sit in our child's classroom and listen over the intercom system regarding information about the school. The static in the tone of the intercom is not very good. We did not have a way of interacting with the Administration or PTA who were disseminating all of the information over the intercom. We were not able to ask questions or receive any additional information regarding information about the school, its policies and rules. As a new parent to the school I felt disconnected. To have to stand in a line to ask the administration questions about the information that was discussed turns away a lot of parents. This way of communicating is very outdated. The addition of an auditorium would allow us to receive information as one unit. An auditorium with seating would be a plus for all of the activities that Western students would have and be able to accommodate the students, parents and community.

Thank you for allowing me to voice my concerns with you.

Submitted by Michelle Carroll