

# MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HOWARD COUNTY

February 1, 2007

The Board of Education of Howard County held a Public Hearing on the Superintendent's Proposed Operating Budget on Thursday, February 1, 2007, at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the Department of Education, located at 10910 Route 108, Ellicott City, Maryland. The following were present:

Diane Mikulis, Chairman  
Frank Aquino, Vice Chairman  
Lawrence Cohen  
Sandra French  
Ellen Giles  
Patricia Gordon  
Wossen Ayele, Student Member

Sydney L. Cousin, Superintendent, Secretary/Treasurer  
Sandra Erickson, Deputy Superintendent  
Raymond Brown, Chief Operating Officer  
Patti Caplan, Director, Public Relations  
Florence Jackson, Recording Secretary

## Mr. Zac Moore, Student, Murray Hill Middle School

- Requested funding for a third guidance counselor.
- Discussed need due to high influx of new students.
- Third counselor would allow for more one-on-one time with new students.

## Ms. Keilana Ellison, Student, Murray Hill Middle School

- Stated need for a third guidance counselor.
- Concerned that present number of counselors cannot give students individual attention in a timely manner.
- Another counselor is needed especially for conflict situations.

## Mr. Darian Cooper, Student, Murray Hill Middle School

- Requested funding for a third Guidance Counselor.
- More manpower is needed to give one-on-one attention to eighth-grade students who are completing high school registration.

## Mr. Phillip Sandborn, Student, Wilde Lake HS; Representative, Science Advisory Committee (SAC)

- Spoke in support of the Superintendent's Budget that allows for the hiring of more computer technology teachers in the elementary schools. Testified that implementation will encourage more students to pursue STEM careers.
- SAC supports the initiative – Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) which will encourage students to become interested in the sciences.

Approved – March 8, 2007

Ms. Baawaah Amoh, Student, Reservoir HS, Member G/T Advisory Steering Committee

- Requested full funding of Superintendent's proposed budget.
- Especially interested in benefits to advanced level students.
- Discussed benefits received from G/T program as an ESOL student.

Ms. Seajin Yoon, Student, River Hill HS

- Supports the International Student and Family Services Program and asked for funding to increase services.
- Discussed ways the program helped her to transition as a Korean student.

Mr. Usamah Siddiqui, Student, Wilde Lake HS

- Testified to the importance of online databases and media collections in county schools and asked for specific funding for these materials.

Mr. Ned Brokloff, Library Media Advisory Committee

- Encouraged approval for the 2008 Budget, which fully supports the entire media and educational technology budget.
- Discussed three specific areas in the budget that stress technology and media centers.

Mr. Chris Wertman, Technology Advisory Committee

- Discussed importance of the National Education Technology Plan objectives.
- Challenged the Board to move beyond meeting standards to setting the standards.

Mr. Kevin Lee, Guidance Counselor, Murray Hill Middle School

- Requested funding for a third guidance counselor.
- Concerned that large caseloads and population with special needs prevent counselors from providing needed services.

Mr. Ann DeLacy, President, Howard County Education Association

- Requested additional funding to the superintendent's budget request.
- Among areas that need to be addressed are:
  - Salaries.
  - System-embedded mentoring program.
  - Poor physical condition of several schools.
  - Overcrowded classrooms.
  - Additional staffing.

Ms. Linda Packman, Guidance Counselor, Murray Hill Middle School

- Requested funding for a third guidance counselor.
- Discussed inability of two counselors to successfully meet needs of diverse and growing student population.

Ms. Diane Matuszak, School Health Council

- Thanked the Board for past support of Health Services Staffing Model and asked for ongoing support by approving proposed budget.
- Supported funding to add several positions and to restore custodial services to ensure a healthy school environment.

Dr. Russell Poch, Chairperson, Science Advisory Committee

- Asked Board to approve proposed budget, which will increase science book and instructional materials funding.
- Discussed need for dedicated lab classrooms and limited class sizes to address safety as well as student achievement.

Ms. Tara DeCapite, former Guidance Counselor, Murray Hill Middle School

- Supported need for third guidance counselor.
- Discussed ability of counselors to be available for conflict resolution situations.

Ms. Feli Carter, Conexiones

- Conexiones promotes academic success among Hispanic students.
- Encourages support of the superintendent's proposed budget.

Dr. Steve Kramer, Mathematics Advisory Committee

- Thanked the Board for past support and discussed positive impact of past funding.
- Asked for continued support and funding for the Math Instructional Support Teachers (MIST) program, increased staffing of math teachers for Algebra, and portable computer labs.

Ms. Peggy Alexander, Student Services Advisory Committee

- Spoke in support of the superintendent's proposed budget for psychological services specifically supporting additional staffing.
- Psychologists focus on supporting students in learning, improving academic achievement, and developing appropriate behavior.

Ms. Sarita Chawla, Parent

- Spoke about Ms. Catherine Chapman, pupil personnel worker, and all the assistance they received from her as they relocated to Howard County after Hurricane Katrina.

Dr. Steward Frazier, Student Services Advisory Committee

- Supported proposed budget to continue funding pupil personnel workers.
- Gave examples of PPW's positive contributions.

Ms. Colleen Morris, Teacher, Guilford Elementary School

- Discussed need for increased planning time allotted to teachers.
- Asked for higher teacher salaries in order to recruit and retain teachers.
- Would like funding for related arts team leaders in elementary schools.

Ms. Karen Kreitzer, School Psychologist

- Supported the psychologist position requested in the proposed budget.
- Discussed importance of the school psychologist.

Ms. Rosa Kang, Korean PTSA President, MHHS (Interpreter)

- Expressed gratitude for the support of International Student Services.

Ms. Lisa Katzen, Teacher, Murray Hill Middle School

- Supported funding of third guidance counselor
- Discussed increasing enrollment and the many responsibilities of the counselors.

Mr. Murray Simon, President, Conexiones

- Hispanic student enrollment is growing in the county.
- Pleased that the Board hired a Latin American specialist and will be working out of an office of Hispanic achievement.

Mr. Nehemiah Spence, Parent and School Voluneer

- Discussed responsibilities performed by PPW's and asked for continued support of Pupil Personnel Services.

Ms. Sue Webster, Principal, Triadelphia Ridge Elementary School

- As president of Howard County Administrators' Association, asked for support of the proposed budget.
- Noted that administrators are pleased to see the addition of at least 23 technology teachers, media assistants at all elementary schools, positions for growth, increase of technicians, and additional custodial positions.

Ms. Lisa Feinberg, PTA President, Triadelphia Ridge Elementary School

- Stated affirmation of proposed budget.
- Pointed out ways the funds will benefit elementary schools.

Ms. Ilana Flores, Parent

- Spoke in support of the superintendent's budget specifically for the Office of International Student Service and ESOL.
- Bilingual community liaison was helpful in bridging the communication gap.

Dr. Ben Dorman, Special Education Citizens Advisory Committee

- Addressed need for more coordinated programs for children with moderate to severe disabilities.
- Asked support to keep up the quality of inclusive education.

Ms. Ellen Warsaw, G/T Advisory Steering Committee

- Noted her support for the proposed budget as it relates to G/T programs.
- Spoke about the benefits provided by this program through staff and an advanced-level curriculum

Ms. Renee Howard and Ms. Shanda Johnson, Parents

- Spoke in support of the additional pupil personnel worker and how helpful the PPW was to her family.

Ms. Zarga Soubiane, Parent

- Office of PPWs helped her and her family settle into the school system.
- Requested funding for more PPWs to help similar families.

Mr. Sean Martin, Principal, Bryant Woods ES

- Requested funding approval to expand the Alternative Education Program to Bryant Woods ES.

Mr. Stanley Daniello, Parent

- Discussed the value of the Therapeutic Recreation Extended Care (TREC) program as an excellent after-school program for students who cannot transport themselves home or to other activities.
- Asked that this program as well as transportation be continued.

Ms. Jean Daniello, Parent

- Supportd the continuation of the TREC program which is operated by the Department of Recreation and Parks.
- Requested age-appropriate materials in special education classes.

Ms. Carol Loshiavo, Parent

- Spoke in support of the TREC program along with transportation.
- Spoke about the safe, organized, and well supervised environment for special education students after school.

Ms. Linda Turner, Parent

- Spoke about children with learning disabilities.
- Noted that the number of African American children in special education is large.

Mr. Robert Gordon, Parents Council for Black Students, Centennial HS

- Testified to the need for a Black Student Achievement Program (BSAP) Specialist at Centennial HS.
- Cited slight improvement in High School Assessment exam results for African American students.

Ms. Mingjin Jing, Parent (interpreter)

- Discussed importance of the Office of International Student Services.
- Asked for funding necessary for continuation of these services.

Mr. Carl Bess, Volunteer

- Spoke in support of the superintendent's budget.
- Testified about the advantages of senior citizens as school volunteers.

- Asked for support in having more senior citizens involved in educating children.

Ms. Millie Ribeiro, Parent

- Supported the effort of Conexiones in securing funding for programs specifically for Latino students and parent clubs.

Mr. Jeffrey Smith, Parent

- Strongly advocated for continuation of the TREC program with transportation.

Mr. Gary Toller, Howard County Science Advisory Committee

- Commended proposed funding in the area of elementary science and supported approval of the proposed budget.
- Spoke in support of the proposal to add twenty-three technology teaching positions in elementary schools.

Ms. Trish Budd, Founder, Individual Differences in Learning (IDL)

- Testified on the need for a Learning Disabilities and Attention Deficit/Hyper Activity Disorder Specialist for the HCPSS.

Ms. Nanette Schweitzer, Learning Disabilities Association

- Supported the need to add the position of a LD/ADHD Specialist in the proposed budget.
- Cited concerns such as the lack of a central resource location for HCPSS services on LD/ADHD, transition services are often found lacking, and waiting is too long to identify a child's LD.

Mr. John Hannay, Parent, Running Brook PTA

- Spoke in support of increasing the number of media assistants.
- Requested funding for parking lot improvement and expansion.

Mr. Gabe Terrasa, Conexiones

- Help is needed for students to bridge the gap.
- Suggested tutoring of Latino students.

**Adjournment:** The chairman adjourned the public hearing at 9:45 p.m.

