

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HOWARD COUNTY

February 17, 2009

The Board of Education of Howard County held Public Work Session III on the Superintendent's Proposed FY 2010 Operating Budget on Tuesday, February 17, 2009, 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:

Frank J. Aquino, Esq. Chairman
Ellen Flynn Giles, Vice Chairman
Lawrence H. Cohen
Allen Dyer, Esq.
Sandra H. French
Patricia S. Gordon
Janet Siddiqui, M.D.
Adejire Bademosi, Student Member

Sydney L. Cousin, Superintendent, Secretary/Treasurer
Sandra Erickson, Deputy Superintendent
Patti Caplan, Director, Public Relations
Kathleen Hanks, Recording Secretary

Chairman Frank Aquino called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m., and Mr. Dyer led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

WORK SESSION III

Pupil Personnel Summary

Program 6101 - Pupil Personnel Services

- Concerns were expressed about increased intervention data and the ability to continue to serve the population without increasing the number of Pupil Personnel Workers (PPWs).
- In FY 2009, one 10-month paraeducator position was upgraded to a 12-month secretarial position to provide necessary summer coverage.
- The increase in contracted-consultant fees reflects services required to upgrade File Maker Pro systems. This amount should decrease in future years. In addition, the school system generally requests access to the source code from computer consultants so that future updates can be accomplished efficiently.

- The offices of Pupil Personnel and Student Services works closely with other county agencies to support families in crises.
- The number of caseloads assigned to PPWs varies based on the particular needs of a school, which provides a more equitable distribution of workload.
- Staff agreed to provide data on the number of students being served per caseload as well as the number of homeless families being served.

Program 6103 – Teenage Parenting and Child Care

- This program also provides services to roughly 35 to 50 young women each year, in addition to the students who are served by the teen parenting program at Wilde Lake HS.
- There are currently three students on a waiting list to attend the program at Wilde Lake HS, which operates on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Partial funding of this program by Social Services was withdrawn three years ago. HCPSS currently funds the entire program.
- Students pay a fee of \$50 per month, which goes towards the purchase of incidental supplies and materials that are needed to raise infants and toddlers. Experience has shown that students are more likely to succeed when they have some financial investment in the program.
- Approximately 95 – 97 percent of students in this program graduate from high school.

Health

Program 6401 – Health Services

- FY 2009 was the first year of full implementation of the cluster model, with one nurse serving two schools.
- The number of treatments provided to students is greatly increasing each year.
- Funding for Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs) is contained in the budget for the Risk Management office.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Program 3320 – Countywide Services

- The Vision Program provides two types of services: one with a vision teacher for the blind and visually impaired and another for orientation and mobility services to help students traverse in the school and community.

- Computer-based vision therapy is not part of the school system's vision program, but some therapy components may be used if educationally warranted.
- Funding in this budget provides services to children from birth to age 21.
- The importance of early intervention was noted. Services are provided in the home environment for very young children, and a preschool program provides services in the community.
- Mileage is reimbursed for work-related travel for countywide services itinerant staff.

Program 3321 – Special Education School-Based Services

- This budget adds one teacher, two paraeducators, and two student assistants for elementary primary learner classes for students with Autism.
- Additional personnel are required due to students moving up from MINC-EL (Multiple Intense Needs Classes – Early Learner) programs.

Program 3322 – Cedar Lane Program

- Currently, HCPSS is addressing social work needs at the school with existing personnel and some federal funding.

Program 3323 – Bridges Program at Homewood

- Therapeutic rewards are specialized rewards given to students for certain types of behavioral changes, outside of the schoolwide behavior program.
- This program provides special education and therapeutic services to middle and high school students who are emotionally disabled and in need of a restrictive program.

Program 3324 – Regional Early Childhood Services

- The majority of children served by this program are receiving Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) services in MINC programs. Some children still require ABA services then they move to kindergarten classes.
- An error was noted in the number of students projected for Extended School Year (ESY) programs for FY 2010. Enrollment is not expected to increase much over last summer, which was 840 students.
- Year-round services are provided for all children from birth to age three.

Program 3325 – Speech, Language, & Hearing Services

- Requirements for speech assistance range from very mild to severe.
- Most children with Autism require services from a speech pathologist.
- The success rate of students receiving speech and language services is very high.
- ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) training packets have been developed for schools, and training has been scheduled for guidance counselors and school psychologists regarding changes in ADA requirements and the impact at the school level.

Program 3326 – Special Education Summer Services

- This budget adds three ESY (Extended School Year) teachers and seven paraeducators for more intensive and extended programming for students with emotional disturbances and children with autism.
- An additional program is being added in FY 2010 for students who are currently in the primary learner classroom.

Program 3328 – Nonpublic and Community Intervention

- Currently, 153 students are served by 28 facilities, and costs are increasing.
- A change in the Governor's budget necessitates an increase in this program by \$1,252,000 (due to a change in the funding formula from an 80/20 split to a 50/50 split with the state).
- Almost one-third of students served by this program are autistic.
- Students generally stay in this program between 18 months and 2 years, but particularly those with autism are staying in nonpublic programs much longer.
- Strawbridge and Norbel schools are contained in this program. There are six students currently at Strawbridge and two at Norbel.

Program 3330 – Special Education Central Office

No discussion.

Program 3390 – Home & Hospital

- It is projected that this program will serve approximately 340 students in FY 2010.
- The average length of service is six to eight weeks, with a minimum of three weeks for eligibility. A few students (three or four) are permanently on Home & Hospital teaching.
- Reviews are performed every 30 days to determine when students should return to the regular classroom or if they would be better served by another facility if their situation worsens.

- The largest growing population is the chronic health-impaired student.
- The greater portion of students served are in high school.
- Contracted labor pays for services to students who are hospitalized outside the county in Baltimore City and Washington, DC.
- Pregnant students are also referred to the Teen Parenting and Outreach program.

The Board will hold a final public work session on the budget on Thursday, February 19, 2009, at 1:00 p.m. The Operating Budget Review Committee (OBRC) will present a report, and the capital budget will be discussed. The Board is scheduled to vote on the proposed budget on Tuesday, February 24, at 9:00 a.m.

Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned by the Chairman at 8:14 p.m.