

Southwest Advisory Council
<http://myschoolonline.com/md/swadvisory>
Meeting Minutes - October, 2001
Topic: Pre-Budget
Woodlawn Middle School



In Attendance:

Dawn Baker
Jane Davis
Carl Klein
Samuel Macer
Deray McKesson
Anita Newkirk
Lisa Orens (Vice Chair)
Joseph Pallozzi (Chair)
Alana Wase
Tracey Weinkam

Absent:

Marquita Saunders
Sabria Smith

Meeting Opened by Joseph Pallozzi at 7:17pm.

Dr. Milbourne – Welcome and Introduction of Board of Education Members

1st Speaker: Mrs. Colleen Mitchell, Westowne Elementary, Topic: Paid Parent Helpers

- For all kindergarten classes – funded at county level.
- Westowne Elementary has one, works very well, but is paid from school budget.
- Invitation to board members to visit classroom.

2nd Speaker: Mr. Fred Ludwig, Topic: Career and Technology Education (CTE)

- CTE is integrated in every high school and middle school in the County – services 58,000 students.
- Program encompasses over 50 career completers that prepare students academically and technically for college and career. Diverse fields such as engineering, child care, finance and computer information technology.
- Employers are eager to hire CTE graduates.
- 56% of CTE graduates were in college one year after graduation. 60% of CTE graduates were working one year after graduation.
- Baseline budget request: \$835,000 (\$14.40 per student). No increase for 8 years.
- Above baseline request: \$700,000 (\$12.00 per student).
- 2002 funds devoted to modernizing four computer labs (outdated hardware and repairs no longer cost effective).
- Invitation to board members to visit Western Technology.

3rd Speaker: Ms. Stephanie Wilson, Topic: Safety at Featherbed Elementary

- Dead end street – single access.
- No sidewalks.
- Too many portables.
- Children must cross street to enter main bldg. (bathrooms and nurse).
- Inadequate parking (double/triple parking).
- Insufficient lighting (vandalism problem). Detective has surveyed school.
- Additional school counselor. Currently only one per 450 students.

4th Speaker: Ms. Joanne Armstrong, Topic: Library Media Centers

- Twenty-three high school media specialists approved in budget – none hired.
- Staff school libraries according to the recommended Maryland State Department of Education Standards for School Library Media Programs at all levels.
- Library media specialists should be equitably accessible to all students and should not be part of the staffing formula used to determine student/teacher ratios.
- Library facilities should not be used as an alternate classroom space.
- Staff the Office of Library Information Services with two additional Resource Teacher positions.
- 10.529 million dollars (2000-2001) used to replace outdated book collections in secondary schools. Impact statements are available on the BCPS Library Facts website (www.bcpl.net).

5th Speaker: Mr. John Holland, Topic: Special Education

- Related personal story of how far we have come in the area of special education.

6th Speaker: Ms. Karen Hanger, Topic: Additional Health Assistant

- Complexity of students health needs have significantly increased – some due to advances in medical care.
- Landsdowne Middle 2000-2001: 760 students, 316 have reported health problems (diabetics, hemophiliac, anaphylactic allergies, spina bifida (requires twice a day catheterization), cardiac problems (one has a pacemaker), seizures, ADD/ADHD, asthma, emotional problems. Dispensed 7,670 medications, performed 1,374 health procedures and oversaw 5,993 student health visits.
- Assistants have a broad duty range: maintain student health folders and behavior checks lists, coordinate information between parents, students and staff, student triage, dispense prescribed medications, coverage while nurse attends meetings.
- Need a full-time Health Assistant in every school.

7th Speaker: Ms. Paulette Hendricks, Topic: Woodlawn Middle

- Classes held in library – need portables.
- Better lighting – conditions unsafe.
- Building not easily accessible.
- Windows won't open.
- Classrooms without blackboards.

8th Speaker: Mr. Rodell Carter, Topic: Featherbed Elementary

- School overcrowded – designed for 425, current enrollment over 800.
- More homes being built.
- No sidewalk and cars coming over a hill directly in front of school are a safety concern.
- Wants another school built.

9th Speaker: Mr. Karl Klein, Topic: Speech and Debate

- Teams in existence for 3 or more years be given \$5,000.
- Children currently raise own funds through various and many fundraisers.
- Speech and debate teams travel the east coast for competitions.
- Catonsville High School team has won more awards than all sport teams combined.

10th Speaker: Mrs. Tracey Weinkam, Topic: Special Education

- Thankful child no longer must be taken to Parkville to attend hearing impaired preschool. Program now available at Hillcrest Elementary.
- SW audiologist does not see children under the age of three.
- SW audiologist inadequate – insufficient technology available.

11th Speaker: Mrs. Lisa Orens, Topic: Staffing Levels and Safety

- Teacher staffing ratios inadequate.
- Some schools have security issues (no buzzer systems, doors left open).

12th Speaker: Mrs. Dawn Baker, Topic: Westowne Elementary

- Teacher staffing ratios inadequate – continually taking a teacher or two every year (or even a percentage) will eventually lead to a troubled school.
- State of Maryland has provided half funding for new windows and blinds – please do not eliminate. Current condition of windows and blinds gives a very poor impression to passersby and new members of the school community.

Open session ends, advisory meets alone:

- Joint Advisory Meeting, December 6th, 7:00pm Cockeysville Middle School.
- Still need more members. Preferably from southern section.
- Jane Davis voiced concern regarding no school crossing sign at Westowne Elementary. *Action Item: Dawn Baker to investigate. Resolved: Mr. Reed of Traffic and Control reports that there are currently four signs within 150 feet of the school. Two of the signs which depict the parent/child with two lines are for the crosswalks. The two signs depicting parent/child without the two lines signify a “school.” An inquiry as to whether a separate sign could be attached to the same pole spelling out the word “School” was negatively received. Note: Data compiled since 1993 reflects no traffic problems/accidents near the school.*

Next Meeting: November 14, 2001, Arbutus Elementary School, Topic: New Reading Series.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Dawn Baker, Secretary

cc: All Meeting Attendees

Messrs. Kennedy
Milbourne

Ms. Zepp