

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21

BOARD OF EDUCATION
BALTIMORE COUNTY

PUBLIC MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
BROADCAST VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

March 1, 2023

Transcribed by:
CRC Salomon

Page 2

1 **BOARD MEMBERS:**
 2 Jane Lichter, Board Chair
 3 Robin Harvey, Vice Chair
 4 Erin R. Hager (Absent)
 5 Julie C. Henn (Absent)
 6 Moalie S. Jose (Absent)
 7 Russell T. Kuehn (Absent)
 8 Rodney R. McMillion (Absent)
 9 John H. Offerman, Jr. (Absent)
 10 Maggie Domanowski (Absent)
 11 Christina Pumphrey
 12 Brenda Savoy
 13 Roah Hassan, Student Member
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Page 4

1 PROCEEDINGS
 2 MS. LICHTER: Good evening. I call to order
 3 the Baltimore County Board of Education public hearing on
 4 the proposed Deer Park Middle Magnet School capacity
 5 relief recommendation. The public sign-up sheet for
 6 speakers was made available prior to the hearing. Each
 7 speaker will be allotted three minutes to express his or
 8 her views on the proposed relief strategies.
 9 As your name is called, kindly come to the
 10 front microphone to speak. At my right, you will see the
 11 Board's timekeeper. The timer lights will turn red to
 12 let you know when you have one minute remaining and then
 13 sound when your time is up. If you wish to have your
 14 written comments or other relevant information to be
 15 considered by Board members, kindly give that information
 16 to the Board's assistant, Ms. Gover, and she will see
 17 that it's distributed.
 18 I would like to call our first speaker, Ms.
 19 Sherie Williams. She's also our only speaker, so we
 20 appreciate you being here and speaking on behalf of the
 21 whole --

Page 3

1 I N D E X
 2 Call to Order 4
 3 General Public Comment 4
 4 Sherie Williams 5
 5 Adjournment 10
 6
 7
 8
 9
 10
 11
 12
 13
 14
 15
 16
 17
 18
 19
 20
 21

Page 5

1 (Applause.)
 2 MS. LICHTER: Right. You got us. We won't
 3 even use the timer.
 4 MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you, and I appreciate this
 5 opportunity. Again, my name is Sherie Williams. I am
 6 here as a teacher, as a community member. Kings Point,
 7 yay, and I did have two students who graduated from
 8 Baltimore County Public Schools. I have worked at Deer
 9 Park Middle Magnet for 18 years. I am so encouraged by
 10 the boundary study. I participated in those meetings, as
 11 well, along with some of my colleagues.
 12 I will be more encouraged if this boundary
 13 study members look at the future of the Northwest
 14 corridor. Last year, Deer Park Middle Magnet had a
 15 population of 1,600-plus students in a one-floor
 16 building. We were given seven trailers out in the back
 17 of the school. Deer Park was understaffed. The students
 18 were well aware of this. They took full advantage of the
 19 situation, unfortunately. Fighting, vandalism,
 20 especially of the restrooms; students stampeding through
 21 the halls; staff and students getting hurt because of

Page 6

1 this behavior; staff emotionally stressed; physically
 2 stressed. I might also add, I am the TABCO rep for my
 3 building, so I heard a lot of personal issues from the
 4 staff at Deer Park.

5 This year, Deer Park's population is at
 6 approximately 1,100 students, staffed but not fully
 7 staffed. Because of the drop in our population, our
 8 student population this year, we are losing staff.
 9 That's understandable, but -- and no staff have been
 10 given priority transfers.

11 My big question is, has the boundary committee
 12 and the government officials, Board of Ed, whomever, in
 13 our area considered the next 5 to 10 years of the
 14 Northwest corridor? And have they driven down Lyons Mill
 15 Road? Right. Have they driven up Reisterstown Road
 16 going from Painters Mill to Franklin Middle School?
 17 Okay. There are a lot of homes -- single-family homes --
 18 townhomes being built. Where are those kids and those --
 19 you know, where are those kids going to go in the next 5
 20 or 10 years?
 21 That's going to put Deer Park back at where we

Page 7

1 were last year, if something is not done right now. Such
 2 as, if the community does not build a new middle school
 3 in the Northwest corridor, Deer Park Middle Magnet's
 4 population will be right back where it was last year. We
 5 will be in the same situation.

6 Let's talk about Deer Park itself. Deer Park
 7 needs rebuilding. Some of the bathrooms -- we have an
 8 awesome -- I can't think of what I want to say. Building
 9 service cleaners, I'm sorry. Building service workers,
 10 sorry. We have an awesome building service workers team.
 11 They do their thing. They clean our building, don't get
 12 me wrong. They do their thing daily; hourly.

13 However, some of the bathrooms, for whatever
 14 reason, from time to time, have a sewage smell. What is
 15 that about? It needs to be looked into, please. The
 16 AC/heat, winter, summer, okay, are not distributed evenly
 17 throughout the building. In the wintertime, this past
 18 year, I, my students, my coworkers, we should not have
 19 had to have -- I don't have on my winter coat. I took it
 20 off. We should not have had to have our winter coats on,
 21 our gloves, our hats still on throughout the school

Page 8

1 building -- throughout the school building and throughout
 2 the day while we're teaching. Our students should not be
 3 exposed to that.

4 In the summer, our students shouldn't be -- or
 5 -- and/or even right now, because, again, it's not evenly
 6 distributed. The buildings -- the classrooms should not
 7 be so hot that students cannot focus on instruction.
 8 They cannot engage in instruction, and that's what's
 9 going on at Deer Park Middle Magnet.

10 And again, I can't speak highly enough of my
 11 principal, Mr. Hughes. I can't speak enough about our
 12 building service worker, Mr. Lee, our other building
 13 service workers who take care of our building, but that's
 14 what's going on in the -- it's a building situation.
 15 Right.

16 We have seven trailers, again, 1,600 students
 17 last year. We were given seven trailers to put in the
 18 back of our school. That's not -- it's not an answer.
 19 It's not an answer to the situation. What it leads to,
 20 having seven trailers in the back, they -- I don't know
 21 about other trailers and situations at school. Ours do

Page 9

1 not have a restroom where the students can stay in that
 2 trailer. You know, they don't have to come out. They
 3 can stay in for the whole instructional time. Ours,
 4 however, do not. That means students need to return to
 5 the building. Of course, they're leaving the building to
 6 go out of the -- to go to their classes. That leads to a
 7 safety -- a huge safety issue.

8 They're adolescents. They're not really
 9 thinking. Okay? So they leave the door open. Oh, the
 10 next person's going to close it. Doesn't happen all the
 11 time. And guess what? Our building is exposed to anyone
 12 with whatever thoughts on their mind can come into our
 13 building. They're -- and our staff -- our students and
 14 staff are exposed to that possibility. It's really
 15 scary, you know, in today's climate.

16 And to end, and again, I thank you for your
 17 time and this opportunity. Deer Park Middle Magnet needs
 18 a huge overhaul. What we need is a new building. The
 19 Northwest corridor needs a new middle school in that area
 20 to divert but we're here for is the overpopulation of
 21 Deer Park Middle Magnet. Thank you for your time.

Page 10

1 MS. LICHTER: Thank you, again, for coming.
 2 (Applause.)
 3 MS. LICHTER: I'd also like to thank my
 4 colleagues for coming tonight to hear the public. The
 5 Board of Education is scheduled to vote on the proposed
 6 Deer Park Middle Magnet School capacity relief
 7 recommendation on Tuesday, March 14, 2023. Again, if
 8 anyone has additional comments that you would like the
 9 Board to consider, you may send them to us at
 10 boe@bcps.org. Or you may contact the Board office so
 11 that the information can be forwarded to Board members.
 12 This public hearing is now adjourned. Thank
 13 you.
 14 (Meeting adjourned.)
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Page 11

1 TRANSCRIBER'S CERTIFICATE
 2 I, Vivian Saxe, hereby certify that I transcribed
 3 from audio file the proceedings to the best of my ability
 4 in the foregoing-entitled matter; and I further certify
 5 that the foregoing is a full, true and correct transcript
 6 of the audio files produced.
 7
 8 IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have subscribed my name on
 9 February 7, 2023.
 10
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 12
 13 Vivian Saxe
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 20
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WORD INDEX

<p>< 1 > 1 1:12 1,100 6:6 1,600 8:16 1,600-plus 5:15 10 3:5 6:13, 20 14 10:7 18 5:9</p> <p>< 2 > 2023 1:12 10:7 11:9</p> <p>< 4 > 4 3:2, 3</p> <p>< 5 > 5 3:4 6:13, 19</p> <p>< 7 > 7 11:9</p> <p>< A > ability 11:3 Absent 2:4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 AC/heat 7:16 add 6:2 additional 10:8 adjourned 10:12, 14 Adjournment 3:5 adolescents 9:8 advantage 5:18 allotted 4:7 and/or 8:5 answer 8:18, 19 Applause 5:1 10:2 appreciate 4:20 5:4 approximately 6:6 area 6:13 9:19 assistant 4:16 audio 11:3, 6</p>	<p>available 4:6 aware 5:18 awesome 7:8, 10</p> <p>< B > back 5:16 6:21 7:4 8:18, 20 BALTIMORE 1:2 4:3 5:8 bathrooms 7:7, 13 behalf 4:20 behavior 6:1 best 11:3 big 6:11 BOARD 1:1, 8 2:1, 2 4:3, 15 6:12 10:5, 9, 10, 11 Board's 4:11, 16 boe@bcps.org 10:10 boundary 5:10, 12 6:11 Brenda 2:12 BROADCAST 1:9 build 7:2 building 5:16 6:3 7:8, 9, 10, 11, 17 8:1, 12, 13, 14 9:5, 11, 13, 18 buildings 8:6 built 6:18</p> <p>< C > Call 3:2 4:2, 18 called 4:9 capacity 4:4 10:6 care 8:13 CERTIFICATE 11:1 certify 11:2, 4 Chair 2:2, 3 Christina 2:11 classes 9:6 classrooms 8:6</p>	<p>clean 7:11 cleaners 7:9 climate 9:15 close 9:10 coat 7:19 coats 7:20 colleagues 5:11 10:4 come 4:9 9:2, 12 coming 10:1, 4 Comment 3:3 comments 4:14 10:8 committee 6:11 community 5:6 7:2 consider 10:9 considered 4:15 6:13 contact 10:10 correct 11:5 corridor 5:14 6:14 7:3 9:19 COUNTY 1:2 4:3 5:8 course 9:5 coworkers 7:18 CRC 1:21</p> <p>< D > daily 7:12 day 8:2 Deer 4:4 5:8, 14, 17 6:4, 5, 21 7:3, 6 8:9 9:17, 21 10:6 distributed 4:17 7:16 8:6 divert 9:20 Domanowski 2:10 door 9:9 driven 6:14, 15 drop 6:7</p> <p>< E > Ed 6:12 EDUCATION</p>	<p>1:1, 8 4:3 10:5 emotionally 6:1 encouraged 5:9, 12 engage 8:8 Erin 2:4 especially 5:20 evening 4:2 evenly 7:16 8:5 exposed 8:3 9:11, 14 express 4:7</p> <p>< F > February 11:9 Fighting 5:19 file 11:3 files 11:6 first 4:18 focus 8:7 foregoing 11:5 foregoing- entitled 11:4 forwarded 10:11 Franklin 6:16 front 4:10 full 5:18 11:5 fully 6:6 further 11:4 future 5:13</p> <p>< G > General 3:3 getting 5:21 give 4:15 given 5:16 6:10 8:17 gloves 7:21 go 6:19 9:6 going 6:16, 19, 21 8:9, 14 9:10 Good 4:2 Gover 4:16 government 6:12 graduated 5:7 guess 9:11</p>	<p>< H > Hager 2:4 halls 5:21 happen 9:10 Harvey 2:3 Hassan 2:13 hats 7:21 hear 10:4 heard 6:3 hearing 4:3, 6 10:12 Henn 2:5 highly 8:10 homes 6:17 hot 8:7 hourly 7:12 huge 9:7, 18 Hughes 8:11 hurt 5:21</p> <p>< I > information 4:14, 15 10:11 instruction 8:7, 8 instructional 9:3 issue 9:7 issues 6:3</p> <p>< J > Jane 2:2 John 2:9 Jose 2:6 Jr 2:9 Julie 2:5</p> <p>< K > kids 6:18, 19 kindly 4:9, 15 Kings 5:6 know 4:12 6:19 8:20 9:2, 15 Kuehn 2:7</p> <p>< L > leads 8:19 9:6 leave 9:9</p>
---	---	---	--	---

leaving 9:5
Lee 8:12
Lichter 2:2
 4:2 5:2 10:1, 3
lights 4:11
look 5:13
looked 7:15
losing 6:8
lot 6:3, 17
Lyons 6:14

< M >
Maggie 2:10
Magnet 4:4
 5:9, 14 8:9
 9:17, 21 10:6
Magnet's 7:3
March 1:12
 10:7
matter 11:4
McMillion 2:8
means 9:4
MEETING 1:8
 10:14
meetings 5:10
Member 2:13
 5:6
MEMBERS
 2:1 4:15 5:13
 10:11
microphone
 4:10
MICROSOFT
 1:9
Middle 4:4 5:9,
 14 6:16 7:2, 3
 8:9 9:17, 19, 21
 10:6
Mill 6:14, 16
mind 9:12
minute 4:12
minutes 4:7
Moalie 2:6

< N >
name 4:9 5:5
 11:8
need 9:4, 18
needs 7:7, 15
 9:17, 19

new 7:2 9:18,
 19
Northwest 5:13
 6:14 7:3 9:19

< O >
Offerman 2:9
office 10:10
officials 6:12
Oh 9:9
Okay 6:17
 7:16 9:9
one-floor 5:15
open 9:9
opportunity
 5:5 9:17
Order 3:2 4:2
overhaul 9:18
overpopulation
 9:20

< P >
Painters 6:16
Park 4:4 5:9,
 14, 17 6:4, 21
 7:3, 6 8:9 9:17,
 21 10:6
Park's 6:5
participated
 5:10
personal 6:3
person's 9:10
physically 6:1
please 7:15
Point 5:6
population
 5:15 6:5, 7, 8
 7:4
possibility 9:14
principal 8:11
prior 4:6
priority 6:10

PROCEEDINGS
 4:1 11:3
produced 11:6
proposed 4:4, 8
 10:5

PUBLIC 1:8
 3:3 4:3, 5 5:8
 10:4, 12
Pumphrey 2:11
put 6:21 8:17

< Q >
question 6:11

< R >
really 9:8, 14
reason 7:14
rebuilding 7:7

recommendation
 4:5 10:7
red 4:11
Reisterstown
 6:15
relevant 4:14
relief 4:5, 8
 10:6
remaining 4:12
rep 6:2
restroom 9:1
restrooms 5:20
return 9:4
right 4:10 5:2
 6:15 7:1, 4 8:5,
 15
Road 6:15
Roah 2:13
Robin 2:3
Rodney 2:8
Russell 2:7

< S >
safety 9:7
Salomon 1:21
Savoy 2:12
Saxe 11:2, 13
scary 9:15
scheduled 10:5
School 4:4
 5:17 6:16 7:2,
 21 8:1, 18, 21
 9:19 10:6
Schools 5:8
see 4:10, 16
send 10:9

service 7:9, 10
 8:12, 13
seven 5:16
 8:16, 17, 20
sewage 7:14
sheet 4:5
Sherie 3:4
 4:19 5:5
sign-up 4:5
single-family
 6:17
situation 5:19
 7:5 8:14, 19
situations 8:21
smell 7:14
sorry 7:9, 10
sound 4:13
speak 4:10
 8:10, 11
speaker 4:7, 18,
 19
speakers 4:6
speaking 4:20
staff 5:21 6:1,
 4, 8, 9 9:13, 14
staffed 6:6, 7
stampeding
 5:20
stay 9:1, 3
strategies 4:8
stressed 6:1, 2
Student 2:13
 6:8
students 5:7, 15,
 17, 20, 21 6:6
 7:18 8:2, 4, 7,
 16 9:1, 4, 13
study 5:10, 13
subscribed 11:8
summer 7:16
 8:4

< T >
TABCO 6:2
take 8:13
talk 7:6
teacher 5:6
teaching 8:2
team 7:10
TEAMS 1:9

Thank 5:4
 9:16, 21 10:1, 3,
 12
THEREOF
 11:8
thing 7:11, 12
think 7:8
thinking 9:9
thoughts 9:12
three 4:7
time 4:13 7:14
 9:3, 11, 17, 21
timekeeper 4:11
timer 4:11 5:3
today's 9:15
tonight 10:4
townhomes 6:18
trailer 9:2
trailers 5:16
 8:16, 17, 20, 21
Transcribed
 1:20 11:2

TRANSCRIBER
 11:1
transcript 11:5
transfers 6:10
true 11:5
Tuesday 10:7
turn 4:11
two 5:7

< U >
understaffed
 5:17
understandable
 6:9
unfortunately
 5:19
use 5:3

< V >
vandalism 5:19
Vice 2:3
views 4:8
Vivian 11:2, 13
vote 10:5

< W >

want 7:8
well 5:11, 18
we're 8:2 9:20
Williams 3:4
4:19 5:4, 5
winter 7:16, 19,
20
wintertime 7:17
wish 4:13
WITNESS 11:8
worked 5:8
worker 8:12
workers 7:9, 10
8:13
written 4:14
wrong 7:12

< Y >

yay 5:7
year 5:14 6:5,
8 7:1, 4, 18
8:17
years 5:9 6:13,
20