BOARD OF EDUCATION

BALTIMORE COUNTY

PUBLIC MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

BROADCAST VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

March 1, 2023

Transcribed by:

CRC Salomon
BOARD MEMBERS:
  Jane Lichter, Board Chair
  Robin Harvey, Vice Chair
  Erin R. Hager (Absent)
  Julie C. Henn (Absent)
  Moalie S. Jose (Absent)
  Russell T. Kuehn (Absent)
  Rodney R. McMillion (Absent)
  John H. Offerman, Jr. (Absent)
  Maggie Domanowski (Absent)
  Christina Pumphrey
  Brenda Savoy
  Roah Hassan, Student Member

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PROCEEDINGS
MS. LICHER:  Good evening. I call to order
the Baltimore County Board of Education public hearing on
the proposed Deer Park Middle Magnet School capacity
relief recommendation. The public sign-up sheet for
speakers was made available prior to the hearing. Each
speaker will be allotted three minutes to express his or
her views on the proposed relief strategies.

As your name is called, kindly come to the
front microphone to speak. At my right, you will see the
Board’s timekeeper. The timer lights will turn red to
let you know when you have one minute remaining and then
sound when your time is up. If you wish to have your
written comments or other relevant information to be
considered by Board members, kindly give that information
to the Board’s assistant, Ms. Gover, and she will see
that it’s distributed.

I would like to call our first speaker, Ms.
Sherie Williams. She’s also our only speaker, so we
appreciate you being here and speaking on behalf of the
whole --

(Applause.)

MS. LICHER:  Right. You got us. We won’t
even use the timer.

MS. WILLIAMS:  Thank you, and I appreciate this
opportunity. Again, my name is Sherie Williams. I am
here as a teacher, as a community member. Kings Point,
yay, and I did have two students who graduated from
Baltimore County Public Schools. I have worked at Deer
Park Middle Magnet for 18 years. I am so encouraged by
the boundary study. I participated in those meetings, as
well, along with some of my colleagues.

I will be more encouraged if this boundary
study members look at the future of the Northwest
corridor. Last year, Deer Park Middle Magnet had a
population of 1,600-plus students in a one-floor
building. We were given seven trailers out in the back
of the school. Deer Park was understaffed. The students
were well aware of this. They took full advantage of the
situation, unfortunately. Fighting, vandalism,
especially of the restrooms; students stampeding through
the halls; staff and students getting hurt because of
this behavior; staff emotionally stressed; physically
stressed. I might also add, I am the TABCO rep for my
building, so I heard a lot of personal issues from the
staff at Deer Park.

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

My big question is, has the boundary committee
and the government officials, Board of Ed, whomever, in
our area considered the next 5 to 10 years of the
Northwest corridor? And have they driven down Lyons Mill
Road? Right. Have they driven up Reisterstown Road
going from Painters Mill to Franklin Middle School?
Okay. There are a lot of homes -- single-family homes --
townhomes being built. Where are those kids and those --
you know, where are those kids going to go in the next 5
or 10 years?

That's going to put Deer Park back at where we
were last year, if something is not done right now. Such
as, if the community does not build a new middle school
in the Northwest corridor, Deer Park Middle Magnet's
population will be right back where it was last year. We
will be in the same situation.

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

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

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

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

Right.

We have seven trailers, again, 1,600 students
last year. We were given seven trailers to put in the
back of our school. That's not -- it's not an answer.
It's not an answer to the situation. What it leads to,
having seven trailers in the back, they -- I don't know
about other trailers and situations at school. Ours do
not have a restroom where the students can stay in that
trailer. You know, they don't have to come out. They
can stay in for the whole instructional time. Ours,
however, do not. That means students need to return to
the building. Of course, they're leaving the building to
go out of the -- to go to their classes. That leads to a
safety -- a huge safety issue.

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

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

(Applause.)

MS. LICHTER: I'd also like to thank my colleagues for coming tonight to hear the public. The Board of Education is scheduled to vote on the proposed Deer Park Middle Magnet School capacity relief recommendation on Tuesday, March 14, 2023. Again, if anyone has additional comments that you would like the Board to consider, you may send them to us at boe@bcps.org. Or you may contact the Board office so that the information can be forwarded to Board members.

This public hearing is now adjourned. Thank you.

(Meeting adjourned.)

TRANSCRIBER’S CERTIFICATE

I, Vivian Saxe, hereby certify that I transcribed from audio file the proceedings to the best of my ability in the foregoing-entitled matter; and I further certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct transcript of the audio files produced.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have subscribed my name on February 7, 2023.

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