Southwest Area Educational Council
Meeting January 15, 2003
Woodmoor Elementary School

Meeting called to order at 7:35 p.m.

Advisory council members present:
Brian Bailey
Jane Davis
Sam Macer
Richard Milbourne
Anita Newkirk
Lisa Orens
Joe Pallozzi
Amanda Smith

Guest Speaker: Dr. Joe Hairston

I. Budget Priorities Which make this budget align with the Blueprint for Progress and the No Child Left Behind Act
a. Students
b. Employees

II. Highlights From Budget
a. 10 schools will get Full-day Kindergarten
b. Expand professional development programs
c. Plan to invest heavily in primary (K-2) education
   i. Encourage Community involvement (reinforcement at home)
   ii. Planning time provisions
d. Junior ROTC at Patapsco High School
e. Research issues related to aging schools and air quality
f. Maximize quality of Special Education

III. Challenges is the Southwest Area
a. Woodlawn Middle School
   i. Commitment of community and administrators
   ii. Must continue dialogue on pertinent issues
   iii. Overcrowding at Featherbed and Edmondson Heights

IV. Questions from The Audience
a. Sam Macer asked about Woodlawn Middle School
   i. Mr. Smith’s new agenda contained a request for state funding for Windsor Mill Middle School
   ii. Delegation going to Annapolis to appeal for funding
   iii. Windsor Mill Middle School will alleviate overcrowding at Southwest Academy
   iv. Rita Fromm from Strategic planning says annexing is being considered to alleviate overcrowding at Dogwood elementary School

b. A parent raised a concern about overcrowding and handicap access at Woodlawn Middle School.
   i. Dr. Hairston stated that the Southwest Area had 2028 work orders issued and 1313 had been completed.
   ii. Bathroom test: check a school’s bathrooms in September, December and March. If Bathrooms are still clean, community is involved and committed,
iii. Clean school building teaches students to take care of property and take pride in their community.

iv. The state asks the BCPS what they are doing with the funding they’ve been given: Is he community willing to join BCPS in changing the behavior of the community?

c. A Parent from Woodmoor Elementary asked about the extremes of weather that we experience in this region.
   i. Dr. Hairston responded that installing Air Conditioning system wide would be prohibitively expensive.
   ii. During periods of high heat, BCPS has to consider closing schools.

d. Amanda Smith asked if transportation could be provided for Magnet school students who participate in extracurricular activities.
   i. Magnet students sing a form accepting responsibility for extracurricular activity transportation.
   ii. BCPS’ fleet of 800 buses are needed for specific routes, and aren’t available for this kind of transportation

e. A Woodlawn High School Parent pointed out that Woodlawn High School is still overcrowded despite the new 600-seat addition.
   i. The strategic planning office looks at enrollment at every school every year.

f. A question was raised regarding bringing more magnet school seats to the Southwest Area.
   i. Dr. Hairston explained that Delegate Burns explained that he feels we should have Magnet school programming in every school. The No Child Left Behind Act requires that all students get Quality programming.
   ii. An evaluation of the Magnet programs has been commissioned.

g. A parent expressed disappointment with the change of cutoff date for the 3 and 4-year-old preschool program.
   i. There cannot be exceptions made because of overcrowding

h. A question was raised regarding how the problem of non-resident students will be addressed.
   i. At Woodlawn High School, 300 cases were investigated and 10 were found to be legitimately illegal students.
   ii. Our legislators are aware of the problem and trying to close the loophole in the law.
   iii. The monitoring process needs to be strengthened

i. A Woodlawn High School parent expressed concerns about a 9th grade class with no teacher for a week, and discipline issues. The parent asked if the problems were being addressed.
   i. Dr. Hairston, Dr. Milbourne and the principal will look at the issues, since it is beyond the scope of the Advisory Council.

j. A Woodmoor parent described problems with windows and boilers.
   i. Dr. Hairston explained that of the $31 million that BCPS requested from the state for system repairs (boilers, roofs etc.), only $2 million was awarded. A delegation will go to Annapolis on January 22 to appeal for more State funding

General meeting Adjourned at 8:40 p.m.
Business meeting called to order at 8:45 p.m.

I. Mr. Gerald Judd, parent from Southwest Academy, expressed concerns regarding overcrowding at Southwest Academy
   a. Projections for construction of feeder schools has a margin of error of 25%
   b. Southwest Academy currently has 1350 students, capacity is 1030 students
   c. May need another portable next year to help reduce the overcrowding
   d. Mr. Judd asked for help to get some relief for the overcrowding at Southwest Academy
   e. Dr. Milbourne provide statistics on overcrowded schools in the Southwest Area:
      i. 5 elementary schools are over capacity
      ii. 22 middle schools are over capacity
         1. Southwest Academy by 256 students
            a. Magnet students put them over capacity
            b. Suggested that we need more magnet school programs in Southwest area
         2. Catonsville Middle School by 70 students
      iii. Southwest Area has the fewest number of magnet schools

II. Next meeting: Arbutus Middle School, Wednesday February 18, 2003
    a. Topics: Financial aid and scholarships
    b. Athletic scholarships
    c. New Program being introduced for 7th graders called “College Ed”

III. April Meeting Topic: Should we invite the strategic planning team to discuss overcrowding?

IV. Suggested topic for a future meeting: High School Assessments, Dr. Wynn Grant

V. Sam expressed a concern that there is no newsletter for parents at Edmondson Heights Elementary School.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:20 p.m.