

**Southwest Area Educational Advisory Council (SWAEAC)
to the Baltimore County Public Schools (BCPS) Board of Education**

Meeting Minutes
December 13, 2006

Hillcrest Elementary School
1500 Frederick Road
Catonsville, MD 21228

Opening:

The regular meeting of the SWAEAC was convened at 7:05 PM on Wednesday, December 13, 2006 at Hillcrest Elementary School by Rob Lesnevich, Chair.

Council Members in attendance:

Brian Bailey, Rob Lesnevich, Beverly Lindsey, Lisa Orens, Christina Parr, and Jean-Marc O'Connor.

A. Guest Speakers:

1. Chris Davis, Assistant to Representative Elijah Cummings:

Mr. Davis read a letter from Representative Cummings expressing regret that he could not join us. Representative Cummings listed his plans to support public education in the following ways on the federal level:

a. Re-authorize the No Child Left Behind Act.

The Law must be fully funded.

Statistics must be reported consistently

Issues surrounding diversity must be addressed

Promote parent/community involvement: amend law to improve outreach programs and encourage parental involvement.

b. Focus on Math, Reading and Science

c. Facilities must be renovated or rebuilt to provide Adequate Public Facilities for students.

d. Support the development of after school programs

e. Encourage systems to attract, train and retain highly qualified teachers and principals.

- f. Support the upgrading of technology in Education, and keeping current.
- g. Serving on the Government Reform and Criminal Justice Committee's Education and the Workforce subcommittee.
- h. Encouraging participation in the PTA night planned for 2/12/07 in Annapolis.
- i. Congress added time to their schedule so they are working 4 full days per week during their session.

B. Joe Pallozzi, Councilmanic District 1 representative, BCPS Board of Education

1. Update on projects in the Southwest Area:

- a. Hillcrest Elementary School addition is in the planning stages.
- b. Roof replacement at Maiden Choice School
- c. Catonsville High School Cafeteria Addition and new boiler.
- d. Arbutus Middle School and Lansdowne Middle School are currently under renovation.

2. Budget Process:

- a. The Superintendent prepares the budget.
- b. The Board of Education edits the budget.
- c. The County Executive adds or subtracts from the budget.
- d. The County Council approves or cuts funding from the Budget.
- e. Parents and Community Members can comment on the proposed budget

in the following ways:

- 1. Attend local area pre-budget hearings conducting by the Area Educational Advisory Councils.
- 2. Contact the County Council
- 3. Contact the County Executive.

3. Questions from the audience:

- a. What is the process for the addition at Hillcrest Elementary School?

1. The addition was approved in the Capital budget. The decision making requires a bidding process at each step of the project.

- b. Ms. Julia Alexander expressed concern about security when school use relocatables. Can a covered walkup be built in between the school and the relocatables? Mr. Pallozzi said that The Board of Education is looking into fencing the area to make them more secure.

The public program was adjourned at 7:25 PM.

The business meeting of the SWAEAC was called to order by Rob Lesnevich at 7:35 PM.

Parents in attendance: Jo Ellen O'Dell and Doug Azarian

Rob introduced our newest member, Jean-Marc O'Connor.

Rob had a question from a parent about a bus route, and another parent concerned about the dangerous sidewalks on Bloomsbury Avenue.

Brian asked Mr. Pallozzi about the curriculum Audit. Mr. Pallozzi explained Dr. Hairston requested it and that it should be complete in about 90 days.

Brian asked if an audit could be done to explore the issue of residency. Mr. Pallozzi said the Board of Education is considering requiring more proof of residency for students.

Mr. Pallozzi stated that this year's capital funding wish list has been completed and that more funding may be available for last years' capital funding requests. County Executive Jim Smith is moving some projects ahead and planning to get retroactive funding.

Mr. Pallozzi said that the appointment process for Board members may change. There are concerns that an elected Board of Education may not result in a committed Board of Education.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Orens