

**Central Area Educational Advisory Council  
2013 Operating Pre-Budget Hearing Minutes**

The 2013 Operating Pre-Budget hearing was held at Padonia Elementary School on October 13, 2011.

Approximately 20 attendees. Six people signed up to speak. BOE President Larry Schmidt was in attendance as well as BCPS staff.

Summary of Testimonies:

-Jessica Paffenbarger, chair of GTCAC. The GT program needs consistency and accountability to succeed. They ask the Board to take into consideration the needs of the county's GT students.

-Bridget Taylor, parent at Padonia Elementary School, spoke to the overcrowding and long term projections for the school in terms of teachers and classroom space. The 3<sup>rd</sup> grade alone has classes of 32 students while the approved state capacity of grades 1-5 is 23.

How can one teacher be expected to manage 32 students, including some with 504 Plans and IEP's?

Here is the root of the problem. Padonia is a cluster program for 4 Pre-K classes as well as 2 special education self-contained rooms. Why is Padonia drawing students from as far as Seventh District and Timonium when the 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grades desperately need the room space and teachers.

Two more parents from Padonia, Ann Bogdonowicz and Mitko Raychen spoke to the overcrowding issue at the school, which is at 139% capacity. Additionally there were at least six other parents from the school in attendance.

-John Redmond, vice-president of Tabco spoke that we are living in tough financial times and programs may need to be cut or even eliminated. However, cuts need to be kept as far away as possible from the schoolhouse. As the student population increases the teaching force cannot afford to be reduced. Sufficient numbers of teachers are imperative to maximize quality of instruction and student support.

-Marie Stockdale, parent is concerned about class sizes. The bottom range for Baltimore County is higher than the raised top range of Howard county. The higher class sizes put our children at a disadvantage in this competitive world. The Board needs to take action to lower our class sizes.