

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HOWARD COUNTY

October 27, 2005

The Board of Education of Howard County held a Work Session on Thursday, October 27, 2005, at 3:00 p.m., in the Board Room of the Department of Education, located at 10910 Route 108, Ellicott City, Maryland. The following were present:

Courtney Watson, Chairman
Patricia S. Gordon, Vice Chairman
Joshua Kaufman
Diane Mikulis
Mary Kay Sigaty
Jeff Lasser, Student Member

Sydney L. Cousin, Superintendent, Secretary/Treasurer
Sandra Erickson, Chief Academic and Administrative Officer
Raymond Brown, Chief Operating Officer
Mamie Perkins, Chief of Staff
Roger Plunkett, Business, Community, Government Relations Officer
Adrianna Abate, Technology Officer
Patti Caplan, Director, Public Relations
Brian Duvall, Webmaster
Florence Jackson, Recording Secretary
Arlene Conway, Recording Secretary

Mrs. Watson opened the meeting at 3:10 p.m. The first item discussed was e-mail. Mrs. Mikulis noted that a directory in CLC of staff members would be an effective tool for Board members to have access to, specifically, the addresses of principals of Board member's cluster groups.

Ms. Sigaty said she would like to be making the most effective use of technology. She also suggested that the student member have an e-mail account to encourage other students to contact the student member. Mrs. Watson questioned whether a student member should have access to Board e-mail. Mr. Plunkett stated that the student member in Anne Arundel County does not have access to e-mail due to confidentiality laws. Mrs. Abate said the student member could have a separate account. Mrs. Jackson was asked to forward to the student member e-mails that were not of a confidential nature.

Dr. Cousin spoke of the need to work on solutions to improve communications between staff and Board members. He noted the importance of two-way communication and the need for protocols. He agreed to send parameters and recommendations to the Board members in two weeks. Ms. Gordon said it would be helpful to have feedback regarding any instances where Board members have communicated inappropriately with

staff. Dr. Cousin suggested that the Board discuss this matter of communication at the next retreat.

Mrs. Caplan introduced Mr. Brian Duvall as the new Webmaster. Mr. Duvall said he is working on issues related to developing paperless Board meetings. Mrs. Abate discussed options in the design and budget needs related to wireless networking for the Board.

Ms. Sigaty indicated a desire for monthly administrative meetings with the Board and staff. Mrs. Watson suggested that a meeting be held in January due to heavy schedules in November and December.

The remainder of agenda items not addressed will be taken up at the Board's next retreat.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.