

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HOWARD COUNTY

December 8, 2005

The Board of Education of Howard County held a regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, December 8, 2005, at 4:00 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 (arrived at 5:26 p.m.)
Patti Caplan, Director, Public Relations
Arlene Conway, Recording Secretary

The Board welcomed a visiting delegation of educators from China.

Chairman Courtney Watson called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m., and Mr. Lasser led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Election of Officers

Mrs. Watson cited Maryland school law, which indicates that a Board Chairman and Vice Chairman must be elected at the first meeting in December of every year.

Mrs. Watson nominated Mr. Kaufman as Chairman of the Board of Education of Howard County. Since there was only one person nominated, the Superintendent cast a ballot for the group and declared Joshua Kaufman duly elected to be Chairman of the Board of Education.

Ms. Gordon nominated Mrs. Mikulis for Vice Chairman of the Howard County Board of Education. Since there was only one person nominated, the Superintendent cast a ballot for the group and declared Diane Mikulis duly elected to be Vice Chairman of the Board of Education.

Public Forum

There was no one present to address the Board.

Approved – January 12, 3006

Approval of Agenda

The following changes were recommended:

- Add: Item IX.J. – SF 894 – Superintendent’s Certification of Reporting Requirements – Action.
- Add: Item IX.K. – Right-of-Entry Agreement – Action.
- Add: Item X.C. – Operating Budget Review Committee Membership – Action.
- Move: Item XVI. - Bridge to Excellence Annual Report from evening to afternoon session (new Item XI.C).
- Add: Item XVI.B. - Scheduling.
- Delete: Item XVIII.D. - Fund Raising and Donations Report – Information Item.

Action: Mrs. Mikulis moved approval of the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Watson and approved by the members of the Board (5/0). Mr. Lasser supported the motion.

County Executive’s Revenue Update Report

Presenter: Mr. Jonathan Seeman, Budget Administrator.

Dr. Cousin introduced Mr. Seeman, the new Budget Administrator for Howard County, and welcomed him to his first Board meeting.

Mr. Seeman reported that all county revenue sources are running above projections this year. He noted that as of October 2005, revenues were nearly 6 percent above the planned level and 11.6 percent above the level reported for October 2004. While still early in the year, the FY 2006 revenues appear to be off to a good start. Property taxes (except corporate), building permits, income tax, planning and zoning fees, and hotel/motel tax continue to perform above expected levels.

Discussion:

In response to Mrs. Watson, Mr. Seeman agreed to provide information regarding the large increase in planned revenue from building permits. Mr. Seeman also agreed to provide information regarding funds related to the building excise tax, including the amount available and the amount being generated.

Regarding transfer tax, Mr. Seeman indicated a need to monitor the revenue to determine if a trend of lower growth is developing. He also indicated that the county is projecting long-term revenue growth of approximately 6 to 7 percent.

Superintendent’s Report

Dr. Cousin deferred his report due to the heavy afternoon agenda.

Student Member's Report

Mr. Lasser reported that the Howard County Association of Student Councils (HCASC) is making progress in planning its middle and high school combined leadership conference. In addition, the planning committee for student member voting rights had its first meeting last week.

Consent Agenda

Staff Personnel (Revised); Bids and Contracts; Operating Budget Monthly Report; School Construction Monthly Report; Impact Aid (PL 81-874) Representative; School Bus Contracts Elimination; School Bus Contracts Transfer; Donations; Minutes of November 3, 2005, AAA Work Session I; November 10, 2005, Regular Meeting; November 15, 2005, AAA Work Session II; November 17, 2005, AAA Work Session III; and November 22, 2005, Closed Official and Confidential Minutes; SB 894 – Superintendent's Certification of Reporting Requirements; and Right-of-Entry Agreement.

The following items were pulled for discussion: Bids P-3, P-4, and P-5; Minutes of November 17 and November 22, 2005; and the Right-of-Entry Agreement.

Action: Ms. Gordon moved approval of the Consent Agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Watson and approved by the members of the Board (5/0). Mr. Lasser supported the motion.

Staff Personnel - Approved by the Board.

Resignations-Violation of Contract

Name	School	Grade or Subject	Reason	Howard County	Years in Effective Date
Rose, Tonia	LRHS	ESOL	Personal	10 days	06/16/05

Resignations

Name	School	Grade or Subject	Reason	Howard County	Years in Effective Date
Kavanagh, Kelly	GCES	Spec. Ed.	Relocation	2.4	12/31/05
Kvech, Michelle	MHMS	Reading	Personal	2 months	11/03/05
Miller, Miriam	GHS	Spec. Ed.	Personal Illness	2.2	11/11/05
Rosenstein, Jeannette	HAMS	Science	Personal Illness	8.1	09/23/05
Pinkard, Toni	BBES	Rgd. Spec.	Relocation	6.2	11/04/05
Sasson, Lori	Fr. Leave	Spec. Ed.	Relocation	8.0	10/27/05

Contracts

Name	Grade or School	Subject	Place of Last Teaching Assignment	Grade / Step	Effective Date
Burke, Jr. Sterlind	WLMS	MAT		A-01	11/07/05
Collins, Rachelle	AHS	SCI		E-01	11/04/05

Grasser, Michelle	GHS	SST		A-01	11/01/05
Moore, Diana Fay	LOES	MUS		A-01	10/25/05
Riley-Newell, Elizabeth	MHMS	ENG	Reynoldsburg, Ohio	C-05	11/03/05
Williams, Kathryn	LoES/ SWES	ECE	Baltimore County	A-04	11/14/05

Leaves of Absence

Name	School	Grade or Subject	Reason	Years in Howard County	Effective Date
Blum, Ilana	GMS	Counselor	Childbearing	5.5	02/08/06
Colella, Antonella	ARL	Res. Teacher	Childbearing	8.3	11/17/05
Gottlieb, Lisa	C.O.	Res. Teacher	Childbearing	4.5	01/24/06
Hill, Megan	MVMS	Reading	Childbearing	5.5	01/18/06
Jacobs, Kristine	JHES	Spec. Ed.	Personal Illness	3.3	11/17/05
Kochanek, Wanda	DRES	SLP	Childrearing	8.4	12/12/05
Kinnear, Kimberly	MWMS	FCS	Childbearing	11.3	11/17/05
Miller, Lori	FRC	ESOL Coun.	Childrearing	3.2	10/28/05
Tipp, Sonia	WVES	Occ. Therp.	Childbearing	1.5	11/16/05
Wade, Emily	CLES	Spec. Ed.	Childbearing	8.5	02/03/06

Retirements

Name	School	Grade or Subject	Years in Howard County	Effective Date
Ferguson, Joanne	WVES	Principal	31.4	01/01/06
Metz, Nancy	C.O.	Cood., Math/Science	5.5	12/01/05
Silber, Suzanne	DMS	Counselor	34.2	01/01/05

Bids and Contracts

P-1	Technology Education Lumber		
	Louis J. Grasmick Lumber Company	\$	301.75 (est.)
	O'Shea Lumber		2,295.43 (est.)
	Lafferty Co., Inc.		3,557.93 (est.)
	Pikesville Lumber		8,074.92 (est.)
	Mann & Parker		<u>15,769.97 (est.)</u>
	TOTAL		\$30,000.00 (est.)
P-2	Technology Replacement Plan: Phase 1 – Computer Supplies		
	N-Synch Technologies	\$	31,375.00
	Network Communication Technology, Inc.		<u>87,194.70</u>
	TOTAL		\$118,569.70

FY 2006 Operating Budget Monthly Financial Report – Accepted by the Board.

FY 2006 School Construction Financial Report – Accepted by the Board.

Impact Aid (PL 81-874) Representative – Approved by the Board.

Mr. Raymond Brown, Chief Operating Officer, was reappointed as the HCPSS PL 81-874 (Impact Aid) representative.

School Bus Contract Elimination – Approved by the Board.

Elimination of contract for Route 396 (no longer needed) effective August 25, 2005.

School Bus Contract Transfer – Approved by the Board.

<u>Current Contractor</u>	<u>Recommended Contractor</u>	<u>Number of the Bus Contract Recommended For Transfer</u>
Shin Transportation Co., Inc. (0)	Bowen's Bus Service (27)	299, 367, 369, 405, 410, and 455
() Number of contracts if transfer is approved.		

Donations – Approved by the Board.

An anonymous donation of \$1,000 to Long Reach HS to support the orchestra program.

A donation of \$792 from the River Hill HS PTSA to fund Teacher Web pages for staff.

Minutes – Approved by the Board.

Minutes of November 3, 2005, AAA Work Session I; November 10, 2005, Regular Meeting; and November 15, 2005, AAA Work Session II.

Purchasing Bid P-3

P-3	Technology Replacement Plan: Phase 1 – Lease Agreement Apple Financial Services	\$1,598,841.64/yr.
-----	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------

Mr. Doug Pindell, Purchasing Officer, explained that this bid is part of the Technology Replacement Plan – Phase One – Standardization. It allows for a zero-percent financing rate over four years with a \$1 buyout with Apple Financing. The buyout allows the school system to purchase each piece of equipment for \$1 at the end of the lease period. Mr. Pindell noted that a chart is included in the report listing all other bids. Bids were presented for both a fair-market value and the \$1 buyout. It is expected that the equipment will be instructionally valid for at least five years and possibly more, depending on the standards that are developed in Phase 2.

Dr. Cousin pointed out that this bid provides the opportunity for the school system to acquire many more computers at a lower price than with an outright purchase. The savings have been estimated to be approximately 17 percent, and a laptop computer will be provided for each teacher in the school system. In addition, at least one mobile computer lab for each school will be provided.

Action: Mrs. Watson moved approval of Bid P-3. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Mikulis and approved by the members of the Board (5/0). Mr. Lasser supported the motion.

Purchasing Bids P-4 and P-5

P-4	Renovation of Clarksville ES No bids were received for this project.	
P-5	Renovation of Centennial Lane ES Whiting-Turner Contracting, Inc.	\$9,777,500

Mr. Pindell identified a need to reexamine the way bids are being requested in order to attract more bidders. These bids asked for a large amount of work to be done over a very short period of time. No bids were received for the Clarksville project, and only two were received for Centennial. A protest was received for P-5, and Mr. Pindell asked that the Board table the recommendation until he had a chance to provide a response to the protester and present additional information to the Board.

Dr. Cousin noted that the state formula increased by 22 percent prior to the recent hurricanes in the Gulf States and before the petroleum crises. Bids received for the Centennial renovation were \$2 million over the budget that was set a year ago. Market conditions are remarkably different than in the past, and the bidding process must be reviewed.

Minutes of November 17, 2005, AAA Work Session

Board members agreed to table approval of the minutes pending clarification of discussion on Option E for Fulton ES. A reference to Greenbridge was also changed to reflect more than one polygon in that area.

Minutes of November 22, 2005, Official Closed/Confidential

Mrs. Mikulis requested abstention from the vote because she was not present at the meeting.

Action: Mrs. Watson moved approval of the minutes of November 22, 2005, Official Closed/Confidential. The motion was seconded by Ms. Sigaty and approved by the members of the Board (4/0), with Mrs. Mikulis abstaining.

Right-of-Entry Agreement Between Landowner and the Board of Education

Dr. Cousin explained that this agreement will allow staff to enter a privately owned site to perform geotechnical and other analyses to determine school site feasibility. A legal right of entry onto the property must be signed by the property owners and Board Chairman. Legal procedure allows that the property not be named because it is part of the site acquisition process and involves pending negotiations.

Motion: Mrs. Watson moved approval of the Right-of-Entry Agreement. The motion was seconded by Ms. Gordon.

Ms. Sigaty requested abstention from the vote because she had not had an opportunity to read through the agreement.

Action: The motion was approved by the members of the Board (4/0), with Ms. Sigaty abstaining. Mr. Lasser supported the motion.

FY 2005 Audit Report

Presenter: Ms. Beverly Jones, Director of Finance.

Ms. Jones reported that Clifton Gunderson, LLP, performed the external audit of financial statements of the Board of Education of Howard County as of and for the year ending June 30, 2005 (FY 2005). Clifton Gunderson issued its Independent Auditor's Report to the Board on September 23, 2005. The Board received an unqualified opinion from Clifton Gunderson, LLP.

Clifton Gunderson also issued a management letter to the Board dated September 23, 2005, providing comments and recommendations for improvement. Staff recommended that the Board accept the FY 2005 Audit and Management Letter. Staff will provide the Board with a status report on the management letter comments in April 2006.

Ms. Jones reported on the recommendations and the action plan in place to address those recommendations.

Discussion:

Congratulations and appreciation were extended to staff for receiving an unqualified opinion. Staff was also commended for progress and improvements related to the audit report.

Ms. Jones explained that the Food and Nutrition Services Administrator will be assessing the recommendation of a food services prepayment card.

Action: Mrs. Watson moved that the Board accept the Audit and Management Letter. The motion was seconded by Ms. Gordon and approved by the members of the Board (5/0). Mr. Lasser supported the motion.

Howard County Legislation/2006 MD General Assembly

Presenter: Mr. Roger Plunkett, Business, Community, Government Relations Officer.

Mr. Plunkett provided the Board with a legislative platform for consideration, with action to be taken at the next Board meeting. This will provide the Board an opportunity to review and/or modify the recommendations.

Mr. Plunkett also reported on the Charter for the Revision of Policy 10200, which is necessary for the work of the Student Voting Rights Committee. Comments emailed by the Board have been incorporated in the charter.

Operating Budget Review Committee

Dr. Cousin explained that the committee's charge will be to review the operating budget and its process and make recommendations to the Board.

Mr. Kaufman asked that the Howard County Administrators' Association (HCAA) be added to the list of committee members and that Board members notify the Board's Executive Assistant of their appointments as soon as possible. Other organizations and groups will be contacted by letter and email for their submission of nominees. The committee may begin work after the Superintendent's budget presentation on January 5, 2006.

Mr. Kaufman noted that this committee was set up two years ago and has proven to be very valuable with the recommendations that have been adopted.

Action: Ms. Gordon moved approval of the membership and the start of operations of the Operating Budget Review Committee. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Watson and approved by the members of the Board (5/0). Mr. Lasser supported the motion.

Feasibility of Swimming in HCPSS

Presenter: Mr. Mike Williams, Coordinator of Athletics.

Mr. Williams reported that a study requested by the Board of Education concluded that it would be infeasible for the school system to add swimming to the Interscholastic Athletic Program. Mr. Williams cited cost, liability and risk, logistical problems, and limited availability of pools for practices and meets as factors that led to his decision.

Discussion:

In response to Ms. Gordon, Mr. Williams indicated that there are tremendous obstacles to overcome in order to implement swimming in HCPSS. The largest problem at this point is the lack of facilities.

Mr. Williams stated that the results of this study have been shared with advocates for the program in order to help them address issues and try to make progress towards establishing swimming as a program.

Mr. Williams explained the differences between the community proposal and the research that led to his decision. He noted that copies of the report are available to the public through the Public Information Office.

Mr. Kaufman expressed appreciation to staff for the report. He noted that additional discussion by the community will most likely take place during the operating budget process, and Board members will have more opportunities to ask further questions.

Quarterly Agenda – January – March 2005

The following changes were made to the agenda:

Add: February 9, 2006 – Redistricting Process Debriefing/Discussion.

Add: Bullet Item – Work Session on Student Member Voting Rights.

Motion: Mrs. Watson moved approval of the Quarterly Agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Ms. Gordon.

After further discussion, the following changes were also suggested:

Add: Notation of Board Meetings with County Council.

Move: Meeting with Student Leaders from March 16 to March 23, 2006.

Action: Mrs. Watson accepted the amendments, and the motion was approved by the members of the Board (5/0). Mr. Lasser supported the motion.

Bridge to Excellence Annual Report

Presenter: Ms. Sandra Erickson, Chief Academic and Administrative Officer.

Ms. Erickson introduced the semiannual progress report on the school system's *Bridge to Excellence Master Plan*. She reported that while there is much success to celebrate, it is apparent that much work remains.

Ms. Theresa Alban, Director of Student Assessment and Program Evaluation, reported data indicating that all elementary and middle schools, and all but one high school, made

Adequate Yearly Progress (as defined by No Child Left Behind) in 2005. The status of the one high school has been appealed, and Ms. Alban is hopeful that soon we can report that all schools have met AYP. She also noted that the system met its target at the elementary and middle levels to have 70 percent of students scoring at proficient or above in math and reading in all grades tested.

Ms. Alban also noted two other positive trends. Data show a significant increase in the number of African American and Hispanic students in elementary gifted and talented classes. At the high school level, the co-teaching pilot yielded dramatic results on the 2005 Algebra/Data Analysis High School Assessment.

Mr. Robert Glascock, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, and Ms. Linda Wise, Assistant Superintendent for School Administration, reported that the data reflects progress made through a continuous improvement process used at the district and school levels. Through intensive data analysis, planning and implementation of key strategies, individual schools and the school system made significant improvement and achieved many of the rigorous targets set for 2005. The process is a proactive change model, which incorporates an ongoing cycle of plan, do, study, and act (PDSA).

According to Ms. Erickson, improvement is not a destination, but a journey. The PDSA cycle is a process that enables the school system to build on its success and face new challenges with confidence.

Discussion:

Ms. Wise indicated that reflecting and studying the plans that are being implemented has resulted in great success.

Mr. Glascock explained that the dramatic increase in the Gifted and Talented program is attributed to additional resources provided by the Board.

The use of co-teaching as a high leverage strategy is being implemented at all levels, and staff is pleased with the results. The program is designed for struggling students. The report highlights the high school program because it is a different type of pedagogy for many of the high school teachers. Progress in English has not been as rapid as that for math due to the need for more extensive instruction, but success is being achieved in both subjects. The cognitive tutor intervention model (an online technology tutoring intervention system) has also helped students accelerate their progress in algebra.

Mr. Kaufman commended staff on the report and presentation. He requested information on Anne Arundel County's success in math for the African American population and on strategies HCPSS is implementing to achieve dramatic improvement in the high school assessments for algebra. Mr. Glascock agreed to provide the information and noted that the first quarter local assessment data for high school algebra is extremely promising.

Scheduling

The Board scheduled meetings with community groups.

Recess – The meeting was recessed by the Chairman at 6:15 p.m. and reconvened at 7:30 p.m.

Public Forum

Ms. Sue Portney, Gorman Crossing ES Media Specialist, thanked the Board for providing a media assistant for her school.

Ms. Veronika Carella, parent, testified to the lack of response from the Board and the department related to her daughter's situation.

Ms. Nadja Muchow, Lions Club member, presented the Board with information about the Lions Quest Program.

Ms. Linda Turner, parent, testified about safety issues related to her child and suggested there is need for more education regarding learning disabilities.

PTA Council of Howard County (PTACHC)

Ms. Mary Jane Grauso, PTA Council President, reported on recent activities of the PTACHC.

Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC)

Ms. Ellen Giles, CAC Chairman, reported on recent activities of the CAC.

Student Representative

Mr. Ali Hussain, Oakland Mills HS, reported on various school activities.

Public Hearing – Proposed School Calendar for 2006/2007Ms. Ellen Giles, Citizens' Advisory Committee Chairman

- Applauded the calendar development process and efforts of the Calendar Committee to balance instructional time with the needs of teachers and parents.

The Board is scheduled to take action on the calendar on January 12, 2006.

Public Hearing – Policy 9521 – Wellness Through Nutrition and Physical ActivityMs. Jean Daniello, Parent and Registered Dietitian/Certified Diabetes Educator

- Agreed with the need for a wellness policy.

Approved – January 12, 2005

- Presented recommendations for the proposed policy for consideration.
- Stated that the wellness policy will ensure that the school system presents a consistent nutrition message to children and families.

Ms. Linda Johnston Lloyd, Chairperson, Howard County School Health Council

- Expressed Health Council support of Policy 9521, particularly for the emphasis on hand washing and the focus on increased physical activity.
- Thanked the Board for past and continued support of the Council's recommendations to improve the health and well-being of students.

Ms. Katie Rappold (on behalf of Ms. Cindy Ardinger), Mt. Hebron HS PTSA

- Acknowledged the concern for students' health and the desire to provide nutritious food and beverages to children.
- Expressed concern about the restrictions the policy places on PTA-sponsored activities during the school day as well as after school.
- Suggested that additional emphasis be placed on physical activity or exercise and on educating students on how to make better choices in what they consume both in and out of school.

Ms. Colleen Morris, HCPSS Teacher

- Spoke about the effects that a "no candy" policy will have on her classroom and stated that treats are used to provide variety, fun, and to enhance curriculum objectives.
- Provided suggestions on various ways to improve nutrition for students other than developing a "no candy" policy.
- Indicated the need to address many other valid classroom problems rather than spending time on developing policies such as this.

Mr. Vinnie Javier, Howard HS Athletic Boosters

- Expressed general agreement with promoting wellness throughout the school system but did not support the policy as it applies to concession stand fundraising.
- Stated that it is discomfoting that the policy does not offer a new wellness curriculum or innovative approaches to nutrition education and does not make changes to increase physical education requirements, particularly at the high school level.

Ms. Sue Thompkins, Parent

- Provided examples of the many events that would be negatively affected by the new wellness policy, which affects not only students but also faculty, PTSA's, Booster groups, clubs and organizations, athletic teams, etc.
- Asked that the school system write policy that insists on excellence in teaching children about nutrition and life-long physical activity, thus giving them the education needed to make healthy, responsible choices and the opportunity to do so.

Ms. Colleen Taweel, Hammond Booster Board (for Benjamin Sandler)

- Provided examples of items sold at concession stands and noted the difficulty in selling highly perishable, although more nutritious, items.

- Stated that the new policy would prohibit the sale of many drinks and snacks at concession stands.
- Pointed out that the Hammond Boosters' concession stand made over \$12,000 last year, which was given directly to the students in the allocation of funds for groups such as dance, foreign language, tech ed, band, etc.

Mr. Dean Kreh, Mt. Hebron HS Booster Club President

- Expressed the desire to work with the school system to improve this policy for students.
- Provided examples of the many ways in which Booster clubs provide funds for teams, clubs, student organizations, and capital improvements.
- Noted that the wellness policy currently being considered will have a dramatic impact on the ability to raise even a third of the Booster fundraising concession stand budget goal of \$9,000.
- Suggested that the policy be improved by exempting after-school activities such as concession stands at the high school level, which would take the negative impact out of the policy while maintaining its overall objectives.

Mr. Jeffri Pierre, Atholton HS Drama Boosters

- Testified against the current version of the proposed wellness policy as it is overbroad and overly restrictive.
- Indicated strong parental support for the efforts of the Board in promoting healthy eating habits, proper nutrition, and physical activities in schools for all Howard County students.
- Asked the Board to reconsider the scope of the wellness policy so that it does not unnecessarily impact the ability of Booster organizations to continue the tradition of concession sales and potluck dinners.

Ms. Ruth Davey, Atholton HS Music Boosters President

- Stated that the proposed wellness policy on nutrition, while admirable in its purpose, is excessive in its execution.
- Noted that the policy holds school groups such as PTA's, Boosters, clubs, etc., to higher nutritional standards than the school cafeteria services.
- Requested that this policy be reconsidered and rewritten to accommodate events outside the normal school day.
- Provided a signed petition endorsing this request.

Ms. Mary Jane Grauso, Ms. Mary Ellen Creasy, Ms. Angela Ballard-Landers, and Ms. Veronika Carella, PTACHC Board Members

- Presented testimony based on a motion adopted by the PTACHC that instructed members as follows:
 - to share commentary made by the general membership with the public,
 - to request that the policy and implementation procedures be sent back to committee for review and clarification,
 - and to ask that the implementation procedures be presented again for public hearing before adoption by the Board.

Mr. Ari Silver-Isenstadt, Parent and Pediatrician

- Stated that the wellness policy is an important and overdue correction to a food policy that undermines the county's very own health curriculum.
- Asked that the Board make Howard County a national leader by implementing this policy and protect children from this constant pressure to eat junk—to make choices that cause heart disease, high blood pressure, obesity, diabetes, and cancer—in sum, to make choices that will shorten their lives.
- Indicated that teachers present peer pressure when rewarding students with candy and provided a handout from Michigan State University that outlines alternatives to using food as an educational reward.

Ms. Madeleine Greene, Chairperson of the Howard County Nutrition and Physical Activity Coalition

- Expressed support and provided examples of ways to strengthen the new policy.
- Encouraged the Board to demonstrate to the community the will to do what is right for children and staff.
- Stated that positive behavior choices should include the entire campus, the entire day, and include staff, teachers' lounge, and playing fields.

Ms. Ellen Flynn-Giles, Chairman, Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC)

- Stated that the support of the entire community is critical to the success of any attempt to guide students in the adoption of healthy lifestyles.
- Stated that the CAC supports the recommendation that this initial effort represent a first response to the government mandate and that work should continue on the policy to address broader wellness issues.
- Presented written comments made by the CAC during review and discussion of the proposed policy.

Mr. Tim O'Brien, Long Reach HS Coach and Instructional Team Leader

- Expressed appreciation for the intent of the proposed policy, but asked that consideration be given to the negative impacts of the proposal.
- Noted the large amount of money generated by vending machines, concession stands, and fundraising activities that will be prohibited through the proposed policy.
- Presented suggestions as to how the school system can provide healthy venues for personal experimentation and growth.

Shel Kelley, Atholton HS PTSA President

- Stated that the Atholton HS PTSA understands the rationale and intent of the new wellness policy and is supportive of the addition of more physical education for all students and additional nutrition education.
- Expressed opposition to specific guidelines that are draconian in scope and will have an adverse effect on the emotional wellness of children and the community in the long run.
- Stated that the goal of the PTSA is to bring into closer relation the home and the school so that parents and teachers may cooperate intelligently in the education of children and youth.

Ms. Nancy Huggins, Reservoir HS Boosters

- Expressed concern with several points within the implementation procedures of the proposed policy related to school-sponsored events and specifically with concession stands.
- Provided information regarding the financial benefits concessions provide.
- Asked that the Board reword sections in the proposed policy related to concession stands and food prepared in private homes and brought to school for celebrations.

Ms. Sue Webster, President, Howard County Administrators' Association (HCAA), and Principal, Triadelphia Ridge ES

- Expressed support for the creation of a policy that addresses wellness through nutrition and physical activity.
- Indicated that the list of activities or school-sponsored events identified in the Scope of Foods and Beverages section of the policy is too extensive and will put administrators in the position of policing instead of guiding and leading.
- Suggested changes in policy language to allow school-based administrators to help staff make healthy and wise decisions about food use with their students.

Ms. Bonnie Kirkland, Wilde Lake HS Volunteer and Booster Club President

- Indicated that the proposed policy vastly exceeds legal requirements and creates a number of problems in its implementation, primarily at the high school level.
- Expressed concerns regarding loss of revenues for Booster clubs and time needed for staff to monitor concessions.
- Provided examples of safety issues that will arise from students seeking preferable food and snacks.

Mr. Sean McGowan

- Stated that the policy in its current form appears to be overkill and unnecessary.
- Cited three parts of the policy as key examples of why he has reached this opinion.
- Urged the Board to vote against the policy as written.

Ms. Gail Goldstein, Parent

- Expressed support for the changes proposed under this policy.
- Indicated that elementary students do not have enough time to eat their healthy lunches before being invited to purchase snack items or to receive birthday treats.
- Asked that consideration be given to the food allergy management implications of the new policy.
- Asked that the proposed changes be made in the nutrition policy so that young children are not tempted with junk food at lunch and can fill up on the nutritious foods that the dedicated food service personnel and parents have prepared.

Ms. Phyllis McWilliams, Parent

- Stated that the policy blurs the line between parents' rights to determine what is best for their children and the role of the school system in educating children.

- Indicated that the policy usurps the rights of staff and parents to decide for themselves what they want to consume.
- Asked that students be educated in health and nutrition through signs in the cafeteria about the nutritional value of all food and beverages being offered.

Ms. Kathy Eckley

- Stated that progress has been made in the wellness policy with regards to health education and food issues but not enough change has been made in areas concerning vending machines or the snack program.
- Expressed disappointment with the recommendations for physical education.

Ms. Jean Silver-Isenstadt, Parent

- Stated that schools seem to depend financially on the sale of items that are known to be harmful to children's health and indicated that other ways must be found to create revenue for schools.
- Indicated that the new wellness policy presents an opportunity for the school system to be creative, imaginative, and to work as a team to create a policy that is a national leader.
- Expressed concern that vendors will respond accordingly and produce food items that conform to the policy.
- Indicated the need to focus on long-term health implications rather than arguing about the sale of junk food.

Ms. Lorraine Seelaus, River Hill HS PTSA President

- Noted the importance of having a wellness policy with the purpose of addressing childhood obesity.
- Indicated the need to focus on what is served to students in the cafeteria each day rather than during special celebrations.
- Asked that the policy focus on changes that will affect the most children and have the greatest impact, rather than focusing on concession stands and after-school activities.

Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned by the Chairman at 9:24 p.m.

Information Items

- A. Proposed Instructional Materials & Review Schedule
- B. Food and Nutrition Service Monthly Financial Report
- C. School Opening/Closing Time Change