

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HOWARD COUNTY

January 12, 2006

The Board of Education of Howard County held a regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, January 12, 2006 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:

Joshua Kaufman, Chairman
Diane Mikulis, Vice Chairman
Courtney Watson
Patricia Gordon
Mary Kay Sigaty
Jeff Lasser, Student Member, arrived 4:10

Sydney L. Cousin, Superintendent, Secretary/Treasurer
Sandra Erickson, Deputy Superintendent
Raymond Brown, Chief Operating Officer
Anna Gable, Communications Specialist, Public Information
Florence Jackson, Recording Secretary

Chairman Joshua Kaufman called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m., and Mrs. Watson led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Forum

Mr. Marcelino Bedolla, Conexiones, said that areas of concern have not been adequately responded to. Hispanic students continue to under perform. He encouraged the hiring of more Hispanic teachers in the core subject areas.

Approval of Agenda

Dr. Cousin noted the following changes to the agenda:

Delete: VIII. G. - School Calendar
Add: VIII. G. - Scheduling
Add: VIII. A. Administrative Appointments and Transfers
Add: XIV. Policy 3451 – Alcohol, Other Drugs (minor revisions to the implementation procedures)

Action: Mrs. Watson moved approval of the amended agenda. The motion was seconded by Ms. Gordon and approved by the Board 5-0.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Cousin did not have a formal report, but he encouraged the public to attend the public hearings on the Superintendent's recommended budget which was presented a week ago.

Student Member's Report

Mr. Lasser reported on recent activities of the Howard County Association of Student Councils. Mr. Lasser also noted that he is working with Mr. Roger Plunkett, Officer, Business, Community, Government Relations to schedule a committee meeting for the Howard County Leadership Conference.

Student Representatives' Reports

Mr. Ali Hussain, Oakland Mills HS, spoke about the Executive Conference, which recognizes and promotes student leadership. Students also plan to strengthen communication and consistency of all the student government associations across Howard County. Mr. Hussain also spoke about Alpha Achievers, a group of male minority students who excel academically and work on social projects and mentor students who have problems with their school work.

Consent Agenda

Staff Personnel, Bids and Contracts, Operating Budget Monthly Report, School Construction Monthly Reports, Mathematics/Science Partnerships Program Grant, Request for External Research, Northeastern ES-Drainage Easement-VFW, Capital Budget Transfer, Donations, Minutes of December 13, 2005, and January 5, 2006, Closed, Official and Confidential; November 17, 2005, Work Session; November 22, 2005 and December 8, 2005, Regular Meeting; and January 5, 2006, Budget Presentation.

As requested by individual Board members, the following items were excluded from the Consent Agenda: Bids and Contracts P-1; Capital Budget Transfer; Mathematics/Science Partnerships Program Grant; Donations; Minutes of December 8, 2005, November 22, 2005, and January 5, 2006, Closed Meeting.

Action: Mrs. Watson moved approval of the Consent Agenda minus P-1, Capital Budget Transfer; the minutes of November 22, 2005, December 8, 2005, January 5, 2006; Mathematics/Science Partnerships Program Grant; and Donations. The motion was seconded by Ms. Sigaty and approved by the Board 5-0.

Staff Personnel – Approved by the Board. See Attachment A.

Operating Budget Monthly Report – Accepted by the Board.

School Construction Monthly Reports – Accepted by the Board.

Request for External Research – Approved by the Board.

Northeastern ES – Drainage Easement – VFW – Approved by the Board.

Donations – Approved by the Board.

Bids and Contracts, P-1

Mrs. Watson asked Mr. Doug Pindell, Purchasing Officer, to explain why there is a \$2 million overage for the Centennial Lane ES bid. Mr. Pindell responded that since the process was started in September 2005; the scope of work has expanded. Numbers include premium prices paid for labor to be able to get the work done in the ten-week window during the summer. Also, the market has changed due to energy costs and inflation.

Dr. Cousin asked where the \$2 million to fund the overage will be coming from. Mr. Pindell explained that it will come from the systemic budget. Since there were no bids on the Clarksville ES project, funds from this project will be put toward the Centennial Lane ES project.

Action: Ms. Gordon moved approval of P-1, Bids and Contracts. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Watson and approved by the Board 5-0. Mr. Lasser supported the motion.

Bids and Contracts – Approved by the Board.

	Description	Amount
P-1	Renovation of Centennial Lane ES Whiting-Turner Contracting, Inc.	\$9,777,500
P-2	Multi-Sensory Equipment Cedar Lane School TFH USA	20,638
P-3	Paper Xpedx	491,220
P-4	Photography Supplies Valley Litho Supply Penn Camera Exchange Freestyle Photographic Supplies B & H Photo Service Photo Supply, Inc.	\$ 274.70 730.68 958.01 1,963.05 <u>5,112.72</u>
	TOTAL AWARD	\$9,039.16

Approved – January 26, 2006

P-5	Duplicating Supplies	
	Pyramid School Products	\$10,570
	Windtree Enterprises	18,117
	Xerox Corporation	<u>92,700</u>
	TOTAL AWARD	\$121,387
P-6	Cedar Lane School Benches	
	Steel Products, Inc.	\$ 25,495
P-7	General Instructional Supplies	
	Standard Stationary	\$ 9,884.70
	OfficeMax	10,031.29
	Pyramid School Products	14,869.00
	Quill Corporation	15,014.00
	National Art & School Supplies	54,956.60
	Integrity School Supplies	<u>56,220.60</u>
	TOTAL AWARD	\$160,976.19

Action: Ms. Gordon moved approval of P-1, Bids and Contracts. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Watson and approved by the Board 5-0. Mr. Lasser supported the motion.

Mathematics/Science Partnership Program Grant

Ms. Gordon asked for a description of this grant. Mr. John Wray, Instructional Facilitator, Secondary Math, said this is the 2nd round of a grant the school system previously received. The difference is that a collaborative partnership with another school system has been formed. Washington County was chosen due to similar needs. Howard County is managing the mathematics grant, and Washington County is managing the science grant. Mr. Wray said communication is ongoing.

Action: Ms. Gordon moved approval of the Mathematics/Science Partnership Program Grant. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Watson and approved by the Board 5-0. Mr. Lasser supported the motion.

Capital Budget Transfer

Mrs. Watson asked for an explanation of the process after the Board gives approval. Ms. Beverly Jones said the transfer has to be approved by the County Council. She added that final numbers were received from the state. The total had not changed, but the allocation shifted between projects.

Action: Mrs. Watson moved approval of the 2006 Capital Budget Transfer. The motion was seconded by Ms. Gordon and approved by the Board 5-0. Mr. Lasser supported the motion.

Donations – Approved by the Board.

Ms. Sigaty questioned the donation to Hammond MS in the amount of \$1600 designated for a grading program to assist with communications between teachers and parents. Mr. Glascock responded that currently each school can select and purchase a grading program for their school. It is optional because a standard grading program has not been chosen to align into the current Student Information Management System.

Action: Ms. Sigaty moved approval of the donation to Hammond MS. The motion was seconded by Ms. Watson and approved by the Board 5-0.

Minutes

Mr. Kaufman moved approval of the regular board minutes of November 22, 2005. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Watson and approved by the Board 4-0 with Mrs. Mikulis abstaining.

Mrs. Watson moved approval of the December 8, 2005 regular board meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Gordon and was approved by the Board 4-0 with Mrs. Watson abstaining.

Mrs. Mikulis asked that the January 5, 2006, Confidential and Official Minutes of Closed Meeting be pulled to delete a reference to a site location. Following discussion, there were no changes.

Action: Ms. Gordon moved approval of the minutes of January 5, 2006 Confidential and Official Minutes of Closed Meeting. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Watson and approved by the Board 3-2 with Mrs. Mikulis and Ms. Sigaty dissenting.

Administrative Appointments

Mrs. Erickson recommended the following transfer:

<u>Name</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
Kimberly Pratesi	Principal, Lisbon ES	Principal, New Elementary School

Mrs. Erickson recommended the following administrative appointments and promotions:

<u>Name</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
Kathy Jacobs	Assistant Principal, Jeffers Hill ES	Principal, Waverly ES
Jayne Diggs	Assistant Principal, Longfellow ES	Principal, Lisbon ES

Sandra Vecera	Teacher, Longfellow ES	Acting Assistant Principal, Longfellow ES
Cathleen Lopez	Grade 3 Instructional Team Leader, Atholton ES	Assistant Principal Jeffers Hill ES
Cameron Rahnama	Acting Assistant Principal, Glenelg HS	Assistant Principal, Glenelg HS

Action: Mrs. Watson moved approval of the administrative promotions and appointments. The motion was seconded by Ms. Gordon and approved by the Board 5-0. Mr. Lasser supported the motion.

Mrs. Erickson recommended the following administrative appointment:

<u>Name</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
Caroline Walker	Interim Title I Coordinator	Title I Coordinator

Action: Mrs. Watson moved approval of the administrator appointment. The motion was seconded by Ms. Sigaty and approved by the Board 5-0. Mr. Lasser supported the motion.

Mr. Brown recommended the following appointment:

<u>Name</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
David Drown	Manager, School Planning	Director of Transportation

Action: Ms. Gordon moved approval of the appointment. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Mikulis and approved by the Board 5-0. Mr. Lasser supported the motion.

Donations – Approved by the Board.

Clemens Crossing ES received a donation of \$1285 from the PTA. The funds are to be used as follows:

1. \$615 – cultural arts performance by the Monumental Brass Quintet.
2. \$670 – cultural arts performance by Wild Zappers.

Worthington ES received a donation of \$3500 from the PTA. The funds are to be used as follows:

1. \$1500 Aquatics Lab for grade 5.
2. \$650 – cultural arts performance entitled "Satchel Paige and the Negro Leagues".
3. \$600 – cultural arts program performance entitled "Contara Fiesta".
4. \$750 – cultural arts program musical performance by Caryn Lyn.

Burleigh Manor MS received a donation of \$1269 from the music parents for the repair of music equipment.

Hammond MS received a donation of \$3100 from the PTSA. The funds are to be used as follows:

1. \$1600 for a grading program to assist with communication between teachers and parents.
2. \$1500 to supplement supplies for the outdoor education field trip.

Atholton HS received a donation of \$1340 from the PTSA for Best Buddies, JROTC, Literary Magazine, Life Skills Program and Future Educators of America.

Centennial HS received a donation of \$750 from the Boosters for It's Academic.

Howard HS received a donation of \$660 from Academic Planning for SAT Prep Class.

Reservoir HS received a donation of \$4000 from Dart Group II Foundation for the Alternative Life Skills Program.

Reservoir HS received a donation of \$1439 from the PTSA for the purchase of Turn-It-In.com subscription that allows teachers to detect plagiarism.

Proclamation: Employee Appreciation Week

Mrs. Erickson read the following proclamation:

**A Special Thanks
to the Employees of
The Howard County Public School System**

It is the mission of The Howard County Public School System to ensure excellence in teaching and learning so that each student will participate responsibly in a diverse and changing world.

Because the Board of Education recognizes this goal can only be achieved when all employees acknowledge and accept this mission as their own, the Board wishes to thank the employees of the Howard County Public School System for their individual and collective commitment to the realization of this shared vision for education in Howard County.

The Board also wishes to acknowledge every teacher, administrator, and support staff member for their personal contribution in maintaining a public education system that is not only a source of local pride but is also recognized as one of the best in the nation.

The Board also wishes to express sincere appreciation to all school system employees for their devotion to children, their dedication to excellence in teaching and learning, and their commitment to continuous improvement.

To that end, the Board of Education of Howard County designates the week of February 6 - 10, 2006, as Employee Appreciation Week.

It is the expressed request of the Board of Education that this proclamation serve to launch meaningful recognition activities in all schools and for each employee group as a way to celebrate our successes, acknowledge our achievements, and encourage ongoing recognition of the valuable contributions of all employees; and that

A copy of this Proclamation be displayed in each school facility as a token of appreciation from the Board of Education to the 7,009 employees of the Howard County Public School System.

Joshua Kaufman
Chairman, Board of Education

Sydney Cousin
Superintendent of Schools

January 12, 2006

Action: Mrs. Watson moved approval of the proclamation for Employee Appreciation Week. The motion was seconded by Ms. Gordon and approved by the Board 5-0. Mr. Lasser supported the motion.

Proclamation: African American History Month

Dr. Cousin read the following proclamation:

WHEREAS, During this month we explore the history and culture of African Americans, we discover anew stories about the triumph of the human spirit, inspiring accounts of everyday people rising above the indignities imposed by prejudice. We honor their rich heritage and pay tribute to their many contributions to our Nation’s success and prosperity; and

WHEREAS, We find in the lives and voices of Frederick Douglass, Sojourner Truth, Booker T. Washington, and others who, rising above slavery, brutality and bigotry, became great American champions of liberty, equality and dignity; and

WHEREAS, The power, beauty, and unflinching witness of poets and writers like Maya Angelou, Gwendolyn Brooks, Paul Laurence Dunbar, Langston Hughes, and Toni Morrison has challenged every American to live up to the best ideals of our country: freedom, equality and justice; and

WHEREAS, Visionary leaders like Frederick Douglass, Thurgood Marshall, and

Martin Luther King Jr., possessed a clarity of purpose and were instrumental in exposing and addressing the issues that threatened our founding principles; and

WHEREAS, We also recognize that, despite our progress, racial prejudice still exists in America. We must be vigilant in responding to discrimination wherever we find it. By promoting diversity, understanding, and opportunity, we will continue our efforts to build a society where every person, of every race and ethnicity, can realize all their potential; and

WHEREAS, The Howard County Public School System enjoys a valuable relationship with The Council of Elders and the Howard County NAACP, making education more meaningful to our African American community; and

WHEREAS, The theme for the National African American History Month is “2006 Celebrating Community: A Tribute to Black Fraternal, Social, and Civic Institutions.”

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education declares February 2006 as African American History Month in The Howard County Public School System; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all those in the Howard County community join in the celebration by extending their knowledge of African American history and their appreciation for the many contributions that African Americans make to our community.

Superintendent

Board Chairman

January 12, 2006
Date

Action: Ms. Gordon moved approval of the proclamation for African American History Month. The motion was seconded by Ms. Sigaty and approved by the Board 5-0. Mr. Lasser supported the motion.

Proclamation: National School Counseling Week

Mrs. Sandy Erickson read the following proclamation:

Proclamation
National School Counseling Week

WHEREAS, school counselors are employed in public and private schools to help students reach their full potential; and

WHEREAS, school counselors are actively committed to helping students explore their abilities, strengths, interests, and talents as these

traits relate to career awareness and development; and

WHEREAS, school counselors help parents focus on ways to further the educational, personal and social growth of their children; and

WHEREAS, school counselors work with teachers and other educators to help students explore their potential and set realistic goals for themselves; and

WHEREAS, school counselors seek to identify and utilize community resources that can enhance and complement comprehensive school counseling programs and help students become productive members of society; and

WHEREAS, comprehensive developmental school counseling programs are considered an integral part of the educational process that enables all students to achieve success in school;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HOWARD COUNTY DOES HEREBY PROCLAIM FEBRUARY 6-10, 2006, AS NATIONAL SCHOOL COUNSELING WEEK.

Joshua Kaufman, Chairman
Board of Education of Howard County

Sydney L. Cousin, Superintendent
Howard County Public School System

Action: Mrs. Watson moved approval of the proclamation for National School Counseling Week. The motion was seconded by Ms. Gordon and approved by the Board 5-0. Mr. Lasser supported the motion.

Legislative Report/2006 General Assembly

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

Mr. Plunkett recommended to the Board adoption of the MABE positions for the following 13 items:

- Public School Construction.
- The Bridge to Excellence in Public Schools Act.
- Teacher Recruitment, Retention, and Pension Enhancements.
- Local School Board Authority.
- Public Charter Schools.
- Maintenance of Effort.
- School Safety.
- Private/Parochial School Funding.

- Transportation.
- Testing and Curriculum Mandates.
- Student Discipline Mandates.
- Collective Bargaining.
- Elected and Appointed Boards of Education in Maryland.

Mr. Kaufman requested the Public Charter Schools be pulled.

Action: Mrs. Watson moved approval of the Legislative Report minus the Public Charter Schools position. The motion was seconded by Ms. Sigaty and approved by the Board 5-0. Mr. Lasser supported the motion.

Mr. Kaufman said he is going to vote to oppose the motion to adopt the Public Charter Schools because he feels more rigorous revision of the Charter School Act is needed. He added that individual counties should be able to decide whether charter schools are appropriate, rather than have the state mandate.

Ms. Gordon added that it is a sensitive issue, and she feels that it is really necessary for local boards to retain authority. The state is mandating that local boards consider charter schools but she is strongly opposed to the state having authority over the schools. If funds have to be added for the charter school proposition, the local Board will want to have control over curriculum and personnel.

Action: Mrs. Watson moved approval of the Charter Schools. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Mikulis.

Ms. Sigaty said she agreed with Ms. Gordon, and the Board should retain control.

Mr. Kaufman noted that a motion had been made and seconded and approved by the Board 4-1 with Mr. Kaufman dissenting.

Ms. Sigaty questioned the process as the legislative session moves forward. Mr. Plunkett said he monitors all bills that affect education and will bring information back for approval or opposition.

“What Counts In Education” Forum Follow-Up

Presenter: Mr. Roger Plunkett.

Mr. Plunkett stated that “What Counts” sponsored by the Maryland Association of Boards of Education, the Howard County Board of Education, and the Superintendent was a success. The forum was held on November 1, 2005, at the Homewood School. There were 142 attendees. Mr. Plunkett noted the following feedback received from the facilitator:

1. Continue to create opportunities to capture the opinions of students and decisions made by the Board of Education and the Superintendent.
2. Expand *Coffee and Conversations* sessions into community forums through the school year.
3. Link the focus of the community forums to the *Bridge to Excellence Master Plan* in order to ensure alignment with Goal 1 and 2.
4. Develop a system-wide parent outreach and involvement program.
5. Continue to expand school business partnerships, aligned with school system goals.
6. Continue to pursue diverse community representation on all committees.

Ms. Gordon said there was an enthusiastic turnout. Of the participants, 80% indicated they wanted to continue to be involved in the program. She suggested concentrating on those who responded, and expand into the community.

Mrs. Mikulis agreed that the value of the program was proven, and she did not want to lose the momentum. Mrs. Watson said she would like to maintain the Coffee and Conversation sessions and also have two community forums using the same format.

Mrs. Erickson added that a number of the recommendations could be infused into structures that already exist. She suggested making this an annual event.

Ms. Sigaty said it is important to bring in as many people as possible at all levels, and ask them to participate further. She noted that Mr. Lasser spoke about a leadership conference and asked if students can work on suggestions to further their participation. Mr. Lasser agreed that it was a good idea, and he will discuss it with Mr. Plunkett at their upcoming meeting.

Mr. Kaufman asked if a process is in place to develop a system-wide parent outreach and involvement program. Mr. Plunkett suggested aligning incoming ideas with the work of the family and community outreach program in order to reach a consistent program.

Dr. Cousin said a comprehensive plan is needed. Mrs. Watson asked for more information on the potential budget implications.

HCPSS Educational Foundation

Presenter: Mr. Roger Plunkett.

Mr. Plunkett introduced several members of the Steering Committee:

Ms. Mary Shiller, Manager Business Partnerships
Mr. Richard Talkin, Law Offices of Richard B. Talkin
Ms. Judy Bresler, Legal Counsel, Reese and Carney

Ms. Mamie Perkins, Chief of Staff

Last fall the Board authorized the Superintendent to form a steering committee to address several issues concerning the Educational Foundation. The first issue was to provide recommendations on effective structures for operating a foundation. The second was to identify community members to serve as education foundation trustees. A steering committee was formed. Themes have emerged: namely, that education foundations are most successful when they are aligned with school system goals and when they support student and staff initiatives.

Vision and Mission Statement

Mr. Richard Talkin, said the Howard County Public School System Education Foundation dedicates itself to enhancing educational opportunities for all students through private support. The mission is to assist in the continuous improvement of the education for students by increasing awareness and commitment of all citizens, businesses and organizations to the needs of an education foundation to support public education and developing, securing, and disseminating financial resources. It is envisioned that this will be a board of seven to ten members from the community with four to seven initially.

Ms. Shiller noted the following recommendations:

- Adopt the Howard County Public School System Educational Foundation vision and mission.
- Authorize the recruitment and selection of an initial Board of Directors.
- Authorize the filing by legal counsel of the articles for incorporation and an application for 501 (c)(3) status.
- Establish financial controls, develop a projected budget, and begin the strategic planning process for the foundation.

Discussion:

Mrs. Mikulis stated that the executive director would be the superintendent but that is a non-voting role. During a session with the consultant it was emphasized that the foundation should be very separate from the school system. Having the superintendent also be the executive director, brings the two positions together.

Ms. Bresler said the recommendation was to have the board of directors be an independent entity. The consultant recommended all of the members be members of the community. The superintendent, in the role of executive director, is appropriate especially in a liaison capacity.

Ms. Sigaty asked if the executive director is the superintendent, who will be paying that person. Ms. Bresler said eventually the organization will be self supporting and can have an executive director that receives a salary. During the start-up phase, the

foundation is going to rely heavily on the resources of the school system to get up and running.

Mrs. Mikulis questioned if an agreement was reached how to raise funds. Mr. Plunkett said that decision will be left up to the board of directors.

Ms. Sigaty asked if this foundation is going to be an endowment or a foundation that raises and spends all monies it raises in a single year, and what kind of financial structure it will have. Ms. Bresler said the Board of Education is the establishing entity, which will set the structure.

Mr. Kaufman noted that in version two the Board would continue to have an on-going role. If there were a vacancy on the Board of Directors, the Board of Education would select the person to fill the vacancy. Ms. Bresler agreed. Mrs. Watson noted that the Board of Education would have a continuing role in appointing some of the members.

Mrs. Watson thanked the steering committee for their work and expressed the Board's appreciation for their recommendations.

Action: Mrs. Watson moved approval of the recommendation that the Board of Education adopt the Howard County Public School System Educational Foundation Vision and Mission as recommended by the steering committee. The motion was seconded by Ms. Gordon. Mr. Kaufman questioned the wording in the first bullet in the mission statement. He requested the word *of* be changed to *for*. Mrs. Watson moved to approve the motion to include the amendment in the first bullet of the mission statement. The amended motion was approved by the Board 5-0. Mr. Lasser supported the motion.

Recruitment and Selection of an Initial Board of Directors

Action: Mrs. Watson moved approval of the authorization of recruitment of initial applications for the foundation's board of directors. The motion was seconded by Ms. Gordon and approved by the Board 5-0. Mr. Lasser supported the motion.

Articles of Incorporation and By Laws

Board members agreed to postpone the vote until the next meeting or when documents are available.

Scheduling

Board members discussed items for future schedules.

Recess: The meeting was recessed by the Chairman at 6:05 and reconvened at 7:33 p.m.

Public Forum

Mrs. Veronika Carella, parent, noted that she attended the annual meeting of the Coalition of Healthy Schools. She also spoke about individual health care plans, and Montgomery County's Green Schools Program.

Appointment – PTA Council of Howard County Monthly Report

There was no one present to address the Board.

Policy 11400 – Parent/Community Involvement – Committee Charter

Presenter: Ms. Diane Martin, Director of Student, Family and Community Services

Policy 11400 is being revised to reflect federal, state, and county initiatives. This will ensure it is consistent with other Howard County policies, and to meet standards of the Board's Policy on Policies, 1001. This charter indicates the parameters of how the committee will work, who will be involved in the process, and the timeline for completion.

Mr. Kaufman noted that this policy will come to the Board in the fall.

Ms. Sigaty thanked Ms. Martin for putting additional representatives on the committee.

Policy 9521 – Wellness through Nutrition and Physical Activity

Presenter: Mr. Ray Brown.

Mr. Brown explained that the school system has submitted its existing food and nutrition policy to the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) with a cover letter indicating that HCPSS is moving forward with the development of a wellness policy that will be submitted later this year.

Staff provided additional information requested by the Board, as well as a nutritional analysis of ala carte items from the Food and Nutrition Services Office. Information was also provided on the annual progression of reducing ala carte items available for purchase in schools.

Mrs. Mary Klatko, Food and Nutrition Services Administrator, clarified that the nutritional restriction of 9 grams of fat, 2 grams of saturated fat, and 15 grams of sugar does not apply to prepared items such as pizza and nachos. This restriction applies only to packaged items, and is an MSDE guideline only.

Global Questions/Concerns

Board members noted that the community has mostly expressed concern with the restrictions on foods that are served after school hours and that HCPSS appears to be the only county that has placed restrictions on after-school events.

Mr. Ray Brown explained that the committee indicated a need for consistency in the policy and felt that if a certain type of food does not meet the guidelines in terms of providing a wholesome and nutritious meal for students during the school day, then the wrong message would be sent by allowing that same meal or snack food after school on school property.

Board Members expressed concern that the proposed policy may be too restrictive at this early stage regarding after-school events. It was also pointed out that there has been some misunderstanding regarding prepared foods versus packaged foods. The sale of foods prepared at concession stands would not be held to the same restrictions as those for packaged items.

Board members commented on the serious health issues related to childhood obesity. Appreciation was expressed for the proposal of a policy with more stringent requirements. In addition, it was noted that after-school events at which food is available are not everyday occurrences, and it was indicated that the community should be allowed to make their own food choices in these instances. Booster organizations have noted that sales are showing a trend towards the purchase of more nutritious items.

On behalf of the Board, Mr. Kaufman asked that staff develop a final version of the policy that focuses on the school day and does not affect after-school hours at this time.

Food Provided by Food and Nutrition Services – Ala Carte and School Meals

Mr. Brown suggested that an analysis be prepared for the Board showing a calorie alternative to the MSDE guideline of 9 grams of fat, 2 grams of saturated fat, and 15 grams of sugar. This issue was discussed by the committee, and it may be possible to achieve the same results with this alternative. Fat content would still be monitored to adhere to the lunch requirement of no more than 30 percent of calories from fat, and snack items would be limited to no more than 250 calories.

Board members asked staff to provide comparison information regarding the two choices in order to better understand the differences and what can be offered under each option. Emphasis was placed on the desire to develop a policy that reduces the amount of junk food offered to students but that does not also restrict healthier foods that may not be allowed if strict adherence to MSDE guidelines is followed.

Vending Machines

Mrs. Klatko explained that a bill passed in the General Assembly last year requires that all vending machines be turned off until the end of the school day, except

those operated by Food and Nutrition Services in the cafeteria during lunch. It was noted that the policy provides for students to have access to water throughout the school day.

Board members agreed with the section of the proposed policy regarding vending machines.

Packaged Food Brought from Outside the School/Food Prepared in Approved Kitchens

Board members discussed several issues related to possible restrictions on food served during classroom celebrations, including concerns raised by the public and the feasibility of enforcing restrictions. The majority of the Board opposed the restrictions in the proposed policy but expressed the desire to have administrators develop consistent guidelines for these celebrations.

Food Prepared by the Community/Teachers at Home

Mrs. Klatko clarified that health department regulations allow food prepared in private homes to be served during the school day (after the last lunch period) to adults but not to students, with the exception of breads and cakes. Mrs. Klatko was asked to find out if cookies and brownies are also covered by that exception. Restrictions would not apply to after-school activities as requested by the Board.

It was noted that kindergarten and first-grade students participate in an in-school field trip where they prepare bread dough in the lunchroom that is then baked in their own homes. Staff was asked to determine if this practice would still be allowed under current law.

Physical Education – Ways to Increase Physical Activity Through Curriculum

Board members indicated a need to encourage teachers to use physical activity in their instructional day outside of physical education classes. Ms. Jackie French, Instructional Facilitator for Physical Education/Dance, stated that staff has recommended that a booklet with guidelines for principals be developed to provide teachers with options on how to integrate action-based learning more naturally. A \$5,000 grant has been received from MSDE to develop implementation procedures to this policy.

A discussion regarding whether or not recess time should be protected resulted in the majority of the Board agreeing that recess time could be used for make-up work or to provide extra instruction to struggling students on an occasional basis. Dr. Cousin noted that the policy states that physical education will be included in appropriate curricular areas, which provides a good amount of flexibility.

Mr. Kaufman referred to a staff analysis of increased physical education for student wellness. In addition to some suggestions having no fiscal impact, many of the suggestions were fairly inexpensive and could be considered during the budget cycle.

Mrs. Mikulis raised some concerns related to providing additional intramurals and actually reaching the intended population. She indicated the need to determine the best way to provide extra physical activity to those who would receive the most benefit.

Board members asked staff to strengthen the physical education portion of the proposed policy, provide teachers with strategies to use, and have principals share some best practices on this issue.

Board members also discussed whether or not there was a need to address food allergies in the policy and what legal implications may be involved. Ms. Donna Heller, Coordinator of Health Services, was asked to prepare a response to the Board.

A revised policy will be presented to the Board on February 23, 2006, with another public hearing to be held if necessary prior to approval.

Mr. Kaufman expressed appreciation to the committee for the tremendous effort that has been put into the development of this policy.

Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned by the Chairman at 9:02 p.m.

Information Items

Food and Nutrition Services Financial Report.

Policy 2122 – High School Grading and Reporting – minor revision.

Policy 3451 – Alcohol, Other Drugs, Noncontrolled substances, and Inhalants – minor revision.

Attachment A – Staff Personnel Report.

Attachment A

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HOWARD COUNTY

Board Agenda Item

TITLE: Staff Personnel

DATE January 12, 2006

OVERVIEW:

The following personnel items are recommended for approval.

RECOMMENDATION/FUTURE DIRECTION:

Resignations-Violation of Contract

<u>Name</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Grade or Subject</u>	<u>Reason</u>	<u>Years in Howard County</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Feintuch, Karl	HOME	Tech. Ed.	Other Employment	.4	12/23/05

Resignations

<u>Name</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Grade or Subject</u>	<u>Reason</u>	<u>Years in Howard County</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Cohen, Jennifer	ReHS	S. Studies	Relocation	4.4	12/23/05
Conley, Rebecca	Fr. Lv.	S. Studies	Lv. Expired	2.4	12/08/05
Courter, Carolee	LKMS	Math	Personal	1.4	01/06/06
Hawthorne, Kathy	ReHS	Math	Personal	2.4	12/23/05
Miller, Kathy	PMS	Music	Relocation	5.0	01/24/06
Phillips, Marcela	GHS	Forg. Lang.	Per. Illness	5 months	01/20/06
Sfakianos, Rozalind	SJES	Kindergarten	Per. Illness	2 months	12/16/05
Roskey, Jnnifer	SWES	Spec. Ed.	Relocation	2.4	12/23/05
Turner, Reginald	HOME	Spec. Ed.	Personal	1.4	12/23/05

Contracts

<u>Name</u>	<u>Grade or School</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Place of Last Teaching Assignment</u>	<u>Grade / Step</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Bell, Amanda	CLES	ELE	San Simon School	A-04	01/03/06
Boteler, Laura	LKMS	MAT		A-01	01/03/06
Bucheimer, Megan	PVMS	SCI	Private	A-05	12/22/05
Clinton, Rachel	SJES	ELE		A-01	01/03/06
Cole, Bryan	RHS	SST		C-01	12/06/05
Curtin, Mary	RHS	ENG		A-01	01/03/06
Ebaugh, Camela	GCES	SPE		A-01	01/03/06
Fox, Joyce	MHHS	BUS	HCPSS - IA	A-02	12/05/05
Guglielmo-Steels, Virginia	PM/EMMS	ESOL	New York	D-09	01/03/06
Henderson, Richard	CLES	SPE	Private	C-15	01/20/06
Kirwan, Kelly	CLES	ELE		A-01	12/22/05
Keegan, Lauren	SES	SPE		A-01	12/19/05
Krabit, Christina	Homewood	SPE	Howard County – IA	A-03	01/13/06
Kruse, Brian	Homewood	TE		A-01	01/04/06
Lawson, Carrie	CLES	ELE		A-01	01/03/06
Peete, Naomi	Homewood	SCI	Washington State	D-15	11/30/05
Shapiro, Rachel	WatES	ECE		A-01	01/03/06
Sublette-Da’Cruz, Gisele		SLP	Wisconsin	C-15	01/03/06
Sumy, Shoshana	WLHS	SPE	Private	C-04	01/03/06
Whittenbaugh, Stephanie	DRES	SPE		A-01	01/03/06

Submitted by: _____ Approval/Concurrence _____

Leaves of Absence

<u>Name</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Grade or Subject</u>	<u>Reason</u>	<u>Years in Howard County</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Brower, Amy	PVMS	Science	Childbearing	7.3	12/06/05
Hudak, Jennifer	CCES	SLP	Childbearing	3.4	12/23/05
James, Susan	CLES	Elem. Ed.	Childbearing	7.3	12/09/05

Retirements

<u>Name</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Grade or Subject</u>	<u>Years in Howard County</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Schubert, Susan	WES	Kindergarten	30.0	01/01/06