

# MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HOWARD COUNTY

February 7, 2006

The Members of the Board of Education of Howard County held a Public Work Session on the Superintendent's Proposed FY 2007 Operating Budget on Tuesday, February 7, 2006, at 7:00 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  
Patricia Gordon  
Mary Kay Sigaty  
Courtney Watson  
Jeff Lasser, Student Member

Sydney L. Cousin, Superintendent of Schools  
Sandra Erickson, Deputy Superintendent  
Raymond Brown, Chief Operating Officer  
David White, Budget Officer  
Florence Jackson, Recording Secretary

Chairman Joshua Kaufman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

## Instruction Category

Global Budget Questions:

- Are there any new costs, which could be identified, that are related to federal and state mandates and did this money go back to the county?
  - The appropriation was changed in the middle of the year.
- What is the exact cost, based on latest staffing calculations, for funding the negotiated agreement in steps 1 - 5 in order to hire entry level teachers?
  - \$860,000 for funding steps 1 – 5.

## **Revenues**

- State funding is \$180,000 off of the \$152,195,600.
- The expectation is to receive at least one or two additional estimates from the state.

Questions:

- What is the actual fall 2006 gate receipts versus what was projected?

Approved – March 9, 2006

- The increased number is on target due to the rise in interest rates.
- Nonresident tuition is less than half of what was authorized in 2006.
  - This is dependent upon the number of nonresident students enrolled.
- The projection of a higher number for impact aid does not trend well.
- Fund Balance/Transportation Carryover -
  - State law allows unspent transportation funds to be kept. It will not happen this year because of fuel costs.
- Is the 2007 fiscal year budget consistent with what the policy will mandate?
  - It may be less.
- How much is the fund balance not including transportation carryover.
  - Staff to provide answer.
- Does the budget reflect the offset of several programs such as ROTC and summer school or are they the true costs.
  - They are the true costs.

### **Instruction**

#### Program 0601 – Art

- Impact of changing the staffing formula on the arts and physical education program.
  - Looked at allocation of staff to school and efficiency which resulted in redistribution of positions. Same programs are being offered.
- Is there a percentage that was used this year for Materials of Instruction.
  - Most of the programs from the past five years lost 2% to 5%. Decision was made to have a 5% increase.
- Transportation monies are included in the budget for field trips.
- Principals would like to see a stipend paid to related arts team at the middle school level.
  - This should then also be done at the elementary level, but it is not a top priority.
  - Board members requested staff come back with that cost.
- It would be useful to make some of these categories more rational.

#### Program 0701 – Elementary Programs

- Staff will provide an update on the budget for the academic intervention program.

#### Program 0802 – Business & Computer Management Systems

- Business and Management Cluster has marketing, accounting, business management, and finance academies.
- Multimedia Arts and Technology Cluster have computer networking and PC Systems academies.
- Budget pages will be updated with this information.

Approved

Program 0901 – Language Arts

- Four new positions are being added. Two are transferred from the Special Education budget and two are new positions.
- Seven high schools will offer co-teaching intervention models.
  - The two schools added are Mt. Hebron HS and Reservoir HS.
  - Staff will provide the total cost and impact of the program.
  - Staff will revise language and delete word tutorial in co-teaching program.

Program 1001 – World Languages

- The enrollment for the middle school foreign language program is higher than projected.
- Wilde Lake HS offers five languages.
- Requested staff to track request for nontraditional languages such as Chinese, Russian, and others.
- One school offers Sign Language, but it does not qualify for World Language credit for graduation. The state board is looking at consideration of that issue.

Program 1002 – English for Speakers of Other Languages

- Projected tracking of ESOL students has been fairly accurate.
- Numbers can vary as students exit the program, but staff is looking at ways to continue support.
- 2.1 teacher positions are net new.
- Budget's increase is due in part to requirement of passing the High School Assessments.
- Students come from 88 different countries and speak 66 different languages; and the ESOL program addresses these needs.
- Community liaisons are focused on the English Language Learners parent community.
- Community liaisons are assigned to schools through a tier system with a primary school and a second-tier school.
- Staff was asked to examine potential county funding of several of these programs as they involve citizens services.

Program 1101 – Health Education

- Child abuse prevention curriculum training is provided for new team leaders.
- Team leaders who have not been trained previously are offered this training.

Program 1201 – Technology Education

- New equipment – none of this equipment was covered under the lease agreement. There is no cost saving.

Approved

Program 1301 – Kindergarten/Prekindergarten

- There are 34 net new positions, and all are a result of the mandate.
- Information was requested on the impact to first graders who were in the full-day kindergarten program.
- A grant that was promised by the state has instead rolled the dollars into the regular Thornton funding.
- Field trips are provided for and more information will be forthcoming.
- Workshop wages include summer training and pay for teachers who test children for early entrance into kindergarten.
- Assessments, staff personnel, and workshop wages are another change due to unfunded state mandates.

Program 1401 – Mathematics

- There are 14 new positions.
  - Ten are co-teaching, and four are MISTs (math instructional support teachers)
  - A request was asked for cost of expanding to new schools and adding to schools.
- Mathematics tutoring, like the elementary model, will be expanded to middle and high schools.
- Staff will respond to the Board as to capacity in the program.
- Mandates have directly impacted the increase in the budget.
- Class sizes for 9<sup>th</sup> grade Algebra I Data Analysis are around 23 or 24, and staff will respond with exact number.

Program 1501 – Media and Educational Technology

- Six schools do not have media assistants, and it would cost approximately \$120,000 plus benefits to provide these assistants.
- Money is in the budget under contracted services to fund online databases.
- Some of the larger elementary schools have 1.5 media specialists.
- Materials purchased for the Cedar Lane School are adapted for the students based on their needs.
- TV Production classes are taught based on the need at the school, and schools are responsible for buying the equipment.
- Funding for the Oakland Mills HS TV Production class can come out of the capital budget funding.
  - Staff will obtain information if all the high schools can teach that particular curriculum.

Program 1601 – Music

- Repair costs are quite substantial because the county has grown substantially in recent years.
  - Fund raising has addressed some repair and replacement problems.
- Based on current enrollment figures, enrollment in 2007 is less than actual for this year at both elementary and middle schools possibly due to the impact of foreign language.
  - Staff will check the enrollment numbers.
- At the beginning of the year teachers determine how many buses they will need, and the transportation for music programs is then budgeted for the year.

**Recess:** The work session was recessed by the Chairman at 8:33 p.m. and reconvened at 8:42 p.m.

Program 1701 – Physical Education and Dance

- Additional teachers provide for equal planning time and the expansion of full-day kindergarten.
- Staff will add a note describing that the ten new staffing positions are made up in the other related arts staffing.
- Students are occasionally turned away from the aerobics and conditioning classes due to the high interest in these classes.
- During the four-year course of study practically every student has enrolled in elective physical education courses.
- Staff noted that they do not have the ability to track the information on which students are enrolled in these courses.

Program 1801 – Reading

- Reading support teacher formerly funded by Title 1 is an example of a grant position assumed into the budget this year.
  - Title 1 was no longer able to provide for that position, and it is not a requirement.
  - Eleven schools have reading support teachers, and staff will provide the list of 11 schools.
- A reading acceleration teacher will be added to Centennial HS.
- This is a grade 9 through 12 intervention program for students who are struggling.
- Any 8<sup>th</sup> grader below grade must enroll in a summer intervention program or enroll in a program during the school year.
- The SpellRead Reading Intervention program is being expanded from 10 to 12 schools.

Program 1901 – Science

- High School principals were asked to establish priorities and what they wanted in order to support intervention programs.
  - The decision was to use the funds previously allocated for after-school programming which was budgeted in secondary language arts mathematics, science, and social studies. This is repeated throughout those four program areas.
  - Funds were moved from the four areas and that is reflected in the high school staffing.
- The sentence is confusing, and staff will change the wording.

Program 2001 – Social Studies

No discussion.

Program 2201 – Theater

- It was noted that theater teachers teach drama, stagecraft, and musical theater.

Program 2301 – Gifted and Talented

- Staff was asked to give a breakdown in AP enrollment numbers.

Program 2401 – Summer School

- This is tuition-based summer school.

Program 3010 – Elementary Staffing

- The projected enrollment is based on a September 30 estimate because staffing is not complete.
- Numbers will not be firmed up until later in the budget process. Those figures could be looked at again before the final budget adoption in the spring.

Program 3020 – Middle School Staffing

- As with elementary school, the projected enrollment is based on a September 30 estimate because staffing is not complete.
- Elementary and middle school staffing together represent \$87 million.
- Intervention teachers formerly were referred to as basic proficiency teachers with the focus on mathematics and reading.

Approved

Program 3030 – High School Staffing

- Athletic Directors teach about three classes in addition to their duties as Athletic Director.
  - Staff is looking to expand that position to include duties of an activities coordinator.
- Local assessment teacher will cover all 12 high schools to analyze, predict, work on best practices, and to get those strategies working with the teachers in the schools.
  - This would be an 11-month position with no stipend.
- The 9.6 teaching positions are for high school assessed mastery.
- The prediction is that some students will not pass.
- The potential for students not passing is being looked at specifically with the mathematics program.
- The staffing pool is 41. With a staffing pool of 31, it could work; but class sizes would not work.
- Staff was asked to provide a list of how positions are being used this year.

Program 3201 – Other Regular Programs

- Staffing provides for unique needs at the schools.

Program 3205 – Junior Reserve Officers Training (ROTC)

- Registration for JROTC has been aligned with regular high school registration to have a better sense of enrollment numbers.

Program 3401 – Saturday/Evening School

- Eleven students were expelled last year and did not request services.

Program 3402 – Homewood Center

- Positions added from the pool did not show accurate staffing.

Program 3403 – Alternative In-School Programs

- No changes at this time.
- Twenty-six schools have this program.

Program 3501 – Other Intervention Services

- Disproportionate number of Hispanic students are not testing well.
- There is nothing in the budget for Hispanic affairs.
- Staff will provide budget information targeted toward Hispanic students.

Approved

Program 3701 – Career Connections

- This program assesses students who have no direction and gives them a pathway toward graduation.
- More information about the program will be provided to Board members.

Program 3801 – Technology Magnet Program and Career Academies

- Board members requested that enrollment numbers be checked.

Program 4401 – Family and Consumer Sciences

- Commercial grade equipment replaces older equipment as needed.
- Students are trained for a range of fields from chef to management.

Program 5601 – School Counseling

- Staffing allows for all high school enrollments.

Program 5701 – Psychological Services

- No discussion.

Program 8601 – Interscholastic Athletics

- The number provided is lower this year in anticipation of saving \$70 per event for Athletic Directors.
- Approximately 40% of students participate in sports.
- Information was requested on how many students tryout, but do not make it to a team.

Program 8701 – Intramurals

- Ten athletic activities per middle school are used and should not be transferred.
- Staff will provide information on which middle schools offer the full 10 activities, and also what the level of participation is.

Program 8801 – Cocurricular Activities

- Several cocurricular activities are drama, speech and debate, mock trial, math club, etc. It can vary from school to school.

Mr. Kaufman noted the next Work Session will be on February 14 at 1 p.m.

**Adjournment**

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 9:56 p.m.

Approved

