

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HOWARD COUNTY

February 9, 2006

The Board of Education of Howard County held a regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, February 9, 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
Patricia S. Gordon
Mary Kay Sigaty
Courtney Watson
Jeff Lasser, Student Member

Sydney L. Cousin, Superintendent, Secretary/Treasurer
Sandra Erickson, Deputy Superintendent
Raymond Brown, Chief Operating Officer
Patti Caplan, Director, Public Relations
Arlene Conway, Recording Secretary

Chairman Joshua Kaufman called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m., and Mrs. Watson led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Forum

There was no one present to address the Board.

Approval of Agenda

ADD: Item XII. C. – Scheduling – Action.

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

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Cousin thanked high school staff for collaborating with the Technology Department on adjustments to the Student Information Management System (SIMS).

Student Member's Report

Mr. Lasser reported that Howard County had the most students represented at the recent legislative session of the Maryland Association of Student Councils. Selection of the next two nominees for the State Student Member of the Board of Education also took place. Mr. Lasser commented on the timeliness of the technology structure investigation as reported by Dr. Cousin.

Student Representatives' Reports

Ms. Danielle Baranson, Long Reach HS, reported on achievement and improvement at the school, which includes a Renaissance Program designed to academically revitalize the success of its students. She also reported that the AP Scholars Program continues to flourish, with the number of students participating nearly doubling. In addition, Long Reach HS continues to make strides in the utilization of their after-school programs.

Consent Agenda

Staff Personnel; Bids and Contracts; Bushy Park ES Replacement; Northeastern ES Contract Packages; Operating Budget Monthly Report; School Construction Monthly Report; Donations; Minutes of January 21, 2006, Retreat; January 26, 2006, Regular Meeting; January 26, 2006, Closed Official and Confidential; January 31, 2006, Public Hearing; and February 1, 2006, Board of Education and County Council Meeting.

The following items were pulled for discussion:

- School Construction Monthly Report.
- Contract Package 7A – Roofing – Bushy Park ES Replacement Project.
- Minutes of January 26, 2006 (Closed Official and Confidential); and Minutes of February 1, 2006.

Action: Mrs. Mikulis moved approval of the Consent Agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Ms. Sigaty and approved by the members of the Board (4/0), with Mrs. Watson temporarily absent for the vote. Mr. Lasser supported the motion.

Staff Personnel – Approved by the Board.

Resignations-Violation of Contract

Name	School	Grade or Subject	Reason	Years in Howard County	Effective Date
Litchfield, LaDeanna	HOHS	FCS	Other Empl.	5.5	02/01/06
Wilson, Tracey	HOME	Spec. Ed	Dissatisfied	5 months	01/20/06

Resignations

Name	School	Grade or Subject	Reason	Years in Howard County	Effective Date
Brudzinski, Janice	GCES	GT	Relocation	14.0	02/16/06
Burton, Paige	CCES	Elem. Ed.	Relocation	4.0	06/13/06
Curtis, Marilyn	OMHS	English	Family Oblig.	6 months	02/01/06
Ingle, Tricia	CES	Elem. Ed.	Relocation	4.5	01/20/06
Kunzelman, Rebecca	BPES	SLP	Relocation	2.6	03/03/06
Rudolph, Lisa	WAES	Elem. Ed.	Relocation	1.0	06/13/06

Contracts

Name	School	Grade or Subject	Place of Last Teaching Assignment	Grade / Step	Effective Date
Calanni, Gwyneth	AES	ELE	HCPSS	A-05	02/06/06
Crehan, Amanda	GHS	FLA		A-01	01/19/06
Freidman, Nicole	RBES	SPE	HCPSS-IA	C-03	02/13/06
Kaye, Melanie	BSES	ESOL		A-01	01/17/06
McNally, Kelly	BWES	ELE		A-01	01/31/06
Miller, Shane	BWES	ELE		A-01	01/27/06
Schieken, Jaime	RHS	MAT	New Jersey	C-04	01/03/06
Wyseman, John	RHS/GHS	SPE	New Orleans	C-15	01/17/06

Leaves of Absence

Name	School	Grade or Subject	Reason	Years in Howard County	Effective Date
Querry, Jill	BPES	Elem. Ed.	Childbearing	6.6	02/24/06
Spacciapolli, Natalie	RHHS	Bus. Ed.	Childbearing	5.5	03/29/06

Retirements

Name	School	Grade or Subject	Years in Howard County	Effective Date
Brunt, Carolyn	BWES	Elem. Ed.	20.5	02/01/06
Field, William	AHS	English	7.3	12/01/05

Bids and Contracts – Approved by the Board.

P-1	Class Records/Lesson Plan Fillers & Binders Alvah M. Squibb Co.	\$31,400
P-2	Bleacher Inspection Modern Door & Equipment Sales, Inc. T.J. Distributors, Inc. R.J. McCarville Assoc., LTD	\$16,666 16,667 <u>16,667</u>
	TOTAL	\$50,000

P-3	Gymnasium Equipment Inspection	
	Modern Door & Equipment Sales, Inc.	\$16,666
	T.J. Distributors, Inc.	16,667
	T.J. McCarville Assoc., LTD	<u>16,667</u>
	TOTAL	\$50,000

Bushy Park ES Replacement - Contract Packages (all packages except 7A) – Approved by the Board.

Northeastern Elementary – Contract Packages – Approved by the Board.

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

Donations: Approved by the Board.

Centennial Lane ES: Marcy and John Schveibinz - in the amount of \$1,500; \$750 designated for the media center, \$750 designated for the band program.

Clarksville ES: Sally S. Marietta - in the amount of \$1,428; designated for a multimedia station for Grade 3 students.

Thunder Hill ES: PTA - in the amount of \$4,500; designated to purchase a marquis to improve home/school communication.

Manor Woods ES: PTA - in the amount of \$1,000; designated for the purchase of bulletin boards.

Burleigh Manor MS: Music Parents - in the amount of \$1,624.98, designated for the music program.

Atholton HS: Music Boosters - in the amount of \$7,035; designated for the music trip.

Long Reach HS: Society of American Military Engineers Baltimore Post - in the amount of \$1,500; designated for competition fees for students in the Robotics Club.

River Hill HS: Boosters - in the amount of \$950, designated for entry fees for the wrestling team.

Atilio Campanaro - in the amount of \$2,000; designated for football uniforms.

Donation to the Advanced Program and Fine Arts Department in the amount of \$1,000; designated for the purchase of music literature.

Approved – February 23, 2006

School Construction Monthly Report

Mrs. Mikulis asked about the schedule for the Glenelg HS addition. Mr. Ray Brown explained that the school system is waiting on a decision of the Hearing Officer, which will determine the schedule and should be available in the next few weeks. Information will be provided to the Board relative to the timing of that decision, and staff will meet with the community to provide an update.

Action: Mrs. Mikulis moved that the Board accept the School Construction Monthly Report. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Watson and approved by the members of the Board (5/0). Mr. Lasser supported the motion.

Minutes of February 1, 2006 - BOE and Howard County Council

Mr. Kaufman noted that he was unable to attend this meeting because he was in Annapolis working on a bill with the Howard County Delegation.

Action: Mrs. Mikulis moved approval of the minutes of February 1, 2006. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Watson and approved by the members of the Board (4/0), with Mr. Kaufman abstaining.

Minutes of January 26, 2006 (Closed Official and Confidential)

Mrs. Mikulis asked that the following sentence be added to the minutes (Item 1): "The Board was advised that according to state law, employee discipline is not considered a legal subject for collective bargaining." The sentence would be identical in both the Official and Confidential minutes.

Action: Mrs. Watson moved approval of the Closed Official and Confidential minutes of January 26, 2006, as amended. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Mikulis and approved by the members of the Board (5/0).

Bushy Park ES Replacement – Contract Package 7A - Roofing

Board members requested additional time to consider and obtain legal advice on a protest that was received for the roofing contract. It was agreed that action on this bid would be tabled until the next Board meeting.

Proclamation: Youth Art Month

Presenter: Mrs. Mikulis read the following proclamation for Board approval:

YOUTH ART MONTH PROCLAMATION

*WHEREAS, YOUTH ART MONTH has been
Observed nationwide since 1961 and has
Gained acceptance, and*

WHEREAS, youth is our most priceless asset, and

*WHEREAS, childhood is the time to develop
Interests, skills, and aptitudes that will last
a lifetime, and*

*WHEREAS, the importance of art in education
is recognized as being necessary for the full
development of all children,*

*NOW THEREFORE, it is proclaimed that each
March be observed as
YOUTH ART MONTH.*

*All citizens are urged to become
Interested in and give full support to
Quality school art programs for children and youth.*

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, WE

SUPERINTENDENT

&

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

PROCLAIM MARCH 2006 AS YOUTH ART MONTH

Action: Mrs. Mikulis moved approval of the proclamation. The motion was seconded by Ms. Sigaty and approved by the members of the Board (5/0). Mr. Lasser supported the motion.

Mr. Mark Coates, Art Instructional Facilitator, introduced Glenwood MS students Mary Kate Facchina and Rebecca Grogan who presented their artwork for the permanent collection at Central Office. Mr. Coates also commended their teacher, Ms. Lori Basham, on the outstanding art program at Glenwood MS.

Proclamation: National Women's History Month

Presenter: Ms. Sigaty read the following proclamation for Board approval.

**PROCLAMATION
FOR
WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH**

- WHEREAS,** Women's history in America has been the story of the struggle of women of all racial, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds to be included in the Preamble to the Constitution, "We, the people"; and
- WHEREAS,** Women of every race, class, and ethnic background served as early leaders in the forefront of every major progressive social change movement and have continued to work tirelessly to create a more fair and just society for all; and
- WHEREAS,** Women now serve at the highest levels of government, as Secretary of State and in increasing numbers in the Cabinet and the United States Congress; and
- WHEREAS,** We recognize the role of women in transforming culture, history and politics as leaders, writers, scientists, educators, politicians, artists, historians, and social reformers; and
- WHEREAS,** Women have played and continue to play a critical economic, cultural, and social role in every sphere of life of the Nation by constituting a significant portion of the labor force, working both inside and outside of the home; and
- WHEREAS,** The Howard County Commission for Women, established in 1980 to promote the economic, social and political equality of women, organized the Women's Hall of Fame in 1996 to recognize the accomplishments of Howard County women who have made significant and lasting contributions to the county, the state, and the nation; and
- WHEREAS,** The school system partners with the Commission for Women to promote an essay contest for all secondary Howard County students in celebration of Women's History Month each March; and
- WHEREAS,** The theme for Women's History Month 2006 "Women: Builders of Communities and Dreams," honors the spirit of possibility and hope set in motion by generations of women in their creation of communities and their encouragement of dreams;
- THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Board of Education declares March 2006 as Women's 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 women who shaped history and their appreciation for the many contributions that women make to our community.

Superintendent

Board Chairman

Action: Ms. Sigaty moved approval of the proclamation. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Mikulis and approved by the members of the Board (5/0). Mr. Lasser supported the motion.

HCPSS Educational Foundation – Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation

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

Mr. Plunkett presented the Articles of Incorporation and the Bylaws for the HCPSS Educational Foundation for Board approval.

The Foundation will accept gifts, grants, donations, bequests, and funds to support the work of the public schools and provide benefits to public school students. Related bylaws call for the Foundation to be governed by a ten-member Board of Directors. The Board of Education will select four directors from the community at large, who will then choose six other county residents to fill the remainder of the positions.

Board members requested several changes in the language and discussed the pros and cons of various ways to stagger the terms of office for directors. It was noted that the language included in the Third Section – Items E. and G. is required by law.

Action: Mrs. Watson moved approval of the amended Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation for the Howard County Public Schools Educational Foundation, Inc. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Mikulis and approved by the members of the Board (5/0). Mr. Lasser supported the motion.

Legislative Report/2006 General Assembly

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

<u>Bill</u>	<u>Recommended Position</u>
• HB 144 – Education – Student Suspension – In-School Requirement	Oppose

Mr. Plunkett noted that this unfunded mandate (effective July 1, 2006), would require all schools in Maryland to have in-school suspension programs. Each school district would develop guidelines based upon unspecified circumstances in which students would

not be suspended. It would be necessary to budget staffing positions in order to house in-school suspension programs throughout the school system.

Mr. Plunkett noted that HCPSS currently has an in-school suspension program, and the Code of Conduct contains guidelines for all suspensions.

Action: Ms. Sigaty moved that the Board oppose HB 144. The motion was seconded by Ms. Gordon and approved by the members of the Board (4/0), with Mrs. Watson temporarily absent for the vote. Mr. Lasser supported the motion.

- SB 249 – High Schools – Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Program - Requirement Oppose

Mr. Ron Miller, Safety, Environment, and Risk Management Manager, explained that the school system is not currently in a position to install these devices and implement the associated training within the required timeframe.

Ms. Donna Heller, Health Services Coordinator, noted the need to adequately train staff in CPR and first aid prior to implementing AED training, and she explained the many components associated with this program. AED equipment could cost approximately \$100,000 and would require daily maintenance.

Dr. Cousin stated that the school system is looking at the possibility of obtaining grants or other funding and working with the county's emergency response personnel on this issue as an effective means of providing this program independent of legislation.

Action: Mrs. Mikulis moved that the Board oppose SB 249. The motion was seconded by Ms. Sigaty and approved by the members of the Board (4/0), with Mrs. Watson temporarily absent for the vote. Mr. Lasser supported the motion.

Charter School Application

Presenter: Ms. Ellen Miller, Policy/Charter School Specialist.

Ms. Miller provided background information on the charter school application process in addition to information on the decision to deny approval to the Columbia Public Charter School Application. A committee of school system staff and community members recommended to the Superintendent that the application be denied for two overarching reasons:

1. The proposal does not meet the intent of the law to develop an alternative means to provide innovative learning opportunities and creative educational approaches to improve the education of students.
2. The application has not demonstrated the applicant's capacity to establish and operate the charter school.

The committee cited several critical concerns including:

- Lack of a strong instructional approach due to a misalignment among curriculum, instruction, and assessment.
- Lack of demonstrated understanding of federal and state legislation related to student achievement and the accountability system designed to measure student progress.
- Lack of demonstrated qualifications and experiences among the founders for developing K-8 academic programs.
- Lack of clear management, facilities, and financial planning.

Discussion:

Board members commented on the diversity of the review committee and the unanimous agreement in the recommendation to deny the application.

Ms. Miller explained that the only component of the application that offered something different than HCPSS was the universal Spanish instruction, and the technology component was actually weaker than what HCPSS currently offers.

Mr. Glascock stated that HCPSS would be responsible for working with a charter school on improvement if the school did not meet Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). The Board has the legal ability to decertify a charter school for lack of academic performance. Mr. Mark Blom, General Counsel, explained that the Board could enact policy that would set standards for all schools, including charter schools, although there would be a process for requesting waivers.

Ms. Gordon expressed an interest in information regarding the number of waivers that were requested by the Columbia Public Charter School and in which areas they were requested. Ms. Miller agreed to provide the information to the Board.

Mr. Glascock stated that this application was an improvement over previous years in terms of better explanations regarding curriculum, but there were inconsistencies in the application. Ms. Miller noted that concerns were expressed by the committee regarding the lack of details and the ability to develop a legally binding contract within the designated timeframe.

Board members expressed appreciation to staff and the committee for their work.

The Board is scheduled to take action on the recommendation on February 23, 2006.

Full-Day Kindergarten/Phase IV

Presenter: Dr. William Brown, Director of School Construction.

Dr. Brown introduced Mr. Mike Lahowin and Ms. Christine Henderson of TCA Architects, who presented the Design Report for Phase IV Additions for Full-Day Kindergarten.

Scope of Phase IV:

- Construct additions at eight elementary schools for a total of 12 classrooms (Clemens Crossing, Cradlerock School, Gorman Crossing, Northfield, Phelps Luck, Rockburn, Thunder Hill, and Waterloo).
- Convert existing classroom space into four new classrooms at three elementary schools (Atholton, Hammond, and Ilchester).

Discussion:

Mr. Lahowin explained that the design of Hammond ES results in the need to walk through classrooms to get to other classrooms, which occurs throughout the school.

Mrs. Watson expressed concern regarding the physical location of kindergarten rooms in the renovation projects. Mr. Lahowin stated that a committee was convened to review options for additions versus renovations and consulted with school-based staff regarding various plans. Projects will not interfere with classroom instruction.

Mrs. Watson noted that the renovations resulted in a savings of several hundred thousand dollars over providing additions.

Action: Mrs. Watson moved approval of the Design Report for Phase IV Additions for Full-Day Kindergarten. The motion was seconded by Ms. Gordon and approved by the members of the Board (4/0), with Ms. Sigaty abstaining. Mr. Lasser supported the motion.

Recess: The meeting was recessed by the Chairman at 6:15 p.m. and reconvened at 7:31 p.m.

Public Forum

Mr. Stanley Daniello asked that notations in the calendar related to high school parent conferences and staff development be clarified in future calendars.

Appointment – PTA Council of Howard County Monthly Report

Ms. Mary Jane Barbato-Grauso, PTA Council President, presented a report on PTA Council activities. She complimented staff for their leadership of the Anti-Bullying Task

Force and policy committees. She also shared concerns with the implementation of the Student Information Management System (SIMS) at the high schools.

Mr. Kaufman noted that staff is continuing to work on improvements to SIMS.

Enrollment Projections

Presenter: Mr. David Drown, Manager of School Planning.

Mr. Drown presented information about the accuracy of enrollment projections for 1996 through 2005. Data compares projections to actual September 30 enrollments.

Key Findings:

- Kindergarten error rates showed significant improvement from the recent past projections.
- Organizational error rates at all levels were better when comparing data for the most recent error rates to past error rates.
- Current year elementary school level error rates are lower than eight of the previous nine years demonstrated.
- Current year middle school level error rates are lower than five of the previous nine years demonstrated.
- Current year high school level error rates are lower than seven of the previous nine years demonstrated.

Discussion:

Board members remarked that a certain error rate in projections is inevitable, regardless of how sophisticated the process becomes, but the process is improving. Mr. Drown replied that the error rate is accounted for in capital planning and redistricting.

Redistricting Process Discussion/Debriefing

Presenter: Mr. David Drown.

Board members, staff, and members of the Attendance Area Adjustment (AAA) Committee conducted a debriefing of the changes made this year to the processes for attendance area adjustments and capital budget development. Overall, participants felt alignment of the processes was an improvement that produced positive results. They were pleased with the transparency of the process and the opportunity to discuss Board priorities at the front end of the process.

Suggestions for improvement included increasing communication with the community throughout the process, establishing a means for ongoing dialog with the county planning office, and scheduling a preliminary review of proposed attendance area

adjustments by the Superintendent's Cabinet. Board members said they look forward to receiving recalculated school capacities for use in the process next year.

Mr. Kaufman expressed appreciation to staff and committee members for their work.

Scheduling

Board members chose tentative dates for a Closed meeting.

Public Forum

Ms. Linda Turner, Parent, reported on a recent incident involving her daughter and the lack of response on the part of school system and Central Office staff.

Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned by the Chairman at 8:55 p.m.

Information

Food and Nutrition Services Financial Report