

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HOWARD COUNTY

March 23, 2006

The Board of Education of Howard County held a regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, March 23, 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 Mr. Lasser led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Forum

There was no one present to address the Board.

Approval of Agenda

The following item was added to the agenda:

- Item X.B. – Scheduling - Action.

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

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Cousin asked Mr. Robert Glascock, Assistant Superintendent, to provide an update on the implementation of the Student Information Management System (SIMS). Mr. Glascock reported that weekly updates are being provided to the Superintendent

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regarding SIMS, and Central Office staff have ongoing communication with school-based staff.

At the high school level, Mr. Glascock stated that staff is talking directly with data clerks and registrars to find out exactly what they are experiencing. Data clerks and registrars are being compensated for the extra time they have worked during the SIMS implementation. Two and a half technology positions have been added to more aggressively address issues at the schools on a daily basis. Currently, SIMS is being used on a limited basis in middle and elementary schools.

Mr. Glascock reported that he and members of his staff recently met with corporate level staff at Chancery, including the Chief Executive Officer and software developers. HCPSS was joined by other school systems from around the country that are using the SIMS program developed by Chancery. Mr. Glascock indicated that the school system did not pay for the software program but paid a set fee for service from Chancery. He noted that it is not unusual for a school system to experience these types of issues as a generic program is tailored to the individual system needs. A student information management system from any vendor would require extensive customization.

This month, an outside vendor is completing an analysis of the school system's network and information loads and is creating network architectural maps. Additionally, adjustments are being made to the system's servers to ensure alignment with the program. Staff is also running tests on third- and fourth-quarter report card preparation, using placeholder grades and running them through the system to identify any problems in advance of the actual report card run.

Discussion:

Board members asked about additional costs associated with unanticipated issues with SIMS, including overtime costs. Staff agreed to provide the information to the Board. It is hoped that a decision will be made in the next three weeks regarding how the school system will proceed next year.

Student Member's Report

Mr. Lasser commented on the success of the luncheon with Board Members, staff, and student leaders from across county. This included a ceremony at which 12 teachers were honored with Teacher of the Year Awards.

Student Representatives' Reports

There were no Student Representatives present to address the Board.

Consent Agenda

School Bus Contract Transfer; Bids and Contracts; Donations; and Minutes of Budget Work Session of February 21, 2006; Regular Meeting of February 23, 2006; and Closed Meeting of March 9, 2006 (Official and Confidential).

The following items were pulled for discussion:

- Minutes of February 23, 2006.
- Purchasing Bid for ARL – Energy, Power, and Transportation (EPT) and Automotive Renovation.
- Purchasing Bid P-1 – Electricity Supplier.

Approval: Mrs. Mikulis 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.

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>
Y & L Trans. Co, Inc. (12)	Savoys Transportation (1)	248
() Number of contracts if transfer is approved.		

Donations – Approved by the Board.

Stevens Forest ES: Wal-Mart – in the amount of \$1,000 – designated to defray expenses for a schoolwide trip to Port Discovery.

Atholton HS: Boosters – in the amount of \$3,045.20 (\$950 designated for an outside storage shed and scoreboard; \$1,453.20 designated for uniforms for the boys' basketball team; \$642 designated for uniforms for the track team).

Reservoir HS: Ms. Elise Jordan – in the amount of \$1,000 – designated for uniforms for the girls' basketball team.

Minutes of Budget Work Session of February 21, 2006; and Closed Meeting (Official and Confidential) of March 9, 2006 – Approved by the Board.

Minutes of February 23, 2006

Ms. Gordon reiterated a request for additional information regarding Program 3401, as referred to in the minutes of February 7, 2006.

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Approval: Mrs. Mikulis moved approval of the minutes of February 23, 2006. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Watson and approved by the members of the Board (5/0). Mr. Lasser supported the motion.

Bids and Contracts

P-1	Electricity Supplier Bid Pepco Energy Services, Inc.	\$9,132,400
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Discussion:

Mr. Doug Pindell, Purchasing Officer, explained that this bid locks in electricity rates for 52 months at a very reasonable price, considering the current market, and provides budget stability. Mr. Pindell pointed out that this bid is for the wholesale price of electricity and does not include distribution costs.

Approval: Mrs. Mikulis moved approval of Purchasing Bid P-1. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Watson and approved by the members of the Board (5/0). Mr. Lasser supported the motion.

ARL – EPT and Automotive Renovation

<u>Bidder</u>	<u>Base Bid</u>	<u>Alt. 1</u>	<u>Alt. 2</u>	<u>Total Bid</u>
<i>Contract Package 1 A – General Construction:</i>				
William F. Klingensmith, Inc.	\$ 953,500	\$58,500	\$ 3,900	\$1,015,900
<i>Contract package 15A – Mechanical:</i>				
Towson Mechanical, Inc.	\$1,019,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 8,300	\$1029,300
<i>Contract Package 16A – Electrical:</i>				
The Crown Electric Company	\$ 545,000	\$ 7,500	\$79,000	\$ 631,500
GRAND TOTAL AWARD				\$2,676,700

Discussion:

Mr. Pindell explained that this bid includes an amendment to reflect the correct equipment model numbers.

Dr. Cousin assured the Board that sufficient funds would be available in the capital budget for this project. Because of programmatic issues, this project cannot be delayed. Over 100 students are enrolled in the program, which will provide students with a national certification for direct entrance into the workforce as well as providing preparation for college-bound students.

Dr. Cousin noted that additional capital funds are being made available by both the County Executive and state government, which can be used for partial funding of this project as well as for other systemic renovations.

Approval: Ms. Sigaty moved approval of the purchasing bid for the ARL – EPT and Automotive Renovation. 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.

Mr. Plunkett reported that HB 846 – Superintendent’s Contract remains in committee, and information will be provided to the Board at it becomes available.

Mr. Plunkett reported on issues regarding pension reform and noted the importance of the Board taking a basic position on the issue.

Ms. Sigaty recommended that the Board support the concept of pension reform for school system employees and focus on the main issues of (1) the retroactive nature of the pension reform and (2) the multiplier that will be used in terms of the percentage of pension employees will be entitled to as well as the amount they will be able to contribute on their own. She commented on the importance of attracting and retaining teachers and also noted that language changes in the bill would allow the school system to rehire more retired teachers for both critical needs areas and low-performing schools.

Board members discussed concerns related to supporting legislation that is still in a formative stage.

Approval: Mrs. Watson moved that the Board amend its previously stated support of pension reform to include that the Board encourages the conference committee to review the feasibility of retroactivity and believes that that is an important tool for retaining teachers. The motion was seconded by Ms. Gordon and approved by the members of the Board (5/0). Mr. Lasser supported the motion.

<u>Bill Number, Title, and Synopsis</u>	<u>Recommended Position</u>
HB 1294 - Public School Construction Assistance Act of 2006	Support

This bill would generate a significant amount of new revenue to finance school construction and renovation projects. Local government revenues could increase by approximately \$28.2 million in FY 2007 and \$56.4 million annually beginning in FY 2008. This bill includes a potential local government expenditure increase for public

school construction of up to \$23 million in FY 2007 and \$46 million in FY 2008 through 2010.

Approval: Mrs. Watson moved that the Board support HB 1294. The motion was seconded by Ms. Gordon and approved by the members of the Board (5/0). Mr. Lasser supported the motion.

SB 946 - Building Opportunities for All Students and Teachers (BOAST) in Maryland Tax Credit **Oppose**

This bill is a tuition tax credit/private school voucher bill that would divert millions of dollars away from the state's General Fund to support tuition scholarships (vouchers) for private school students and teachers. The bill would also allow contributions to public schools to support "innovative programs," which are undefined in the bill.

Concerns were raised about the unintended consequences of this bill and the diversion of funds from public school systems.

Approval: Ms. Gordon moved that the Board oppose SB 946. The motion was seconded by Ms. Sigaty and approved by the members of the Board (4/0), with Mrs. Watson abstaining. Mr. Lasser also abstained.

HB 519 - Education – Public Schools-Philippine-American War of 1899-1902 **Oppose**

This bill attempts to legislate education policy that is reserved for the state and local boards of education and if enacted would have the effect of reducing or circumscribing local board authority in meeting the needs of students. It is important to retain the decision-making authority at the local level as local boards of education can best balance education policy practices and available resources to implement those practices. This also allows for public comment and in meeting accountability measures that are in the best interests of the school system and more importantly the students.

Approval: Mrs. Watson moved that the Board oppose HB 519. The motion was seconded by Ms. Gordon and approved by the members of the Board.

HB 954 - Education – Number of School Days and School Hours - Increase **Oppose**

This bill is an unfunded mandate, and extending the school year would require the re-negotiation of all collective bargaining agreements between the local boards of education and their certificated and noncertificated employee associations. The need to increase salaries and wages, facility needs such as increased heating, cooling, and maintaining of facilities, transportation, food services, and virtually every other routine school business expense would require significant revenue increases by county governments to provide the necessary operating funding in the absence of increased state aid. Local school

expenditures would increase by an estimated \$449 million in FY 2008 to pay for 10 additional days of school services. Expenditure increases would grow to an estimated \$924 million in FY 2008 and \$1.4 billion in FY 2010.

Approval: Mrs. Watson moved that the Board oppose HB 954. The motion was seconded by Ms. Gordon and approved by the members of the Board.

Educational Foundation Board of Directors

Presenter: Ms. Mary Schiller, Manager of School/Business Partnerships.

The Board approved the following individuals to serve on the newly established Board of Directors of the HCPSS Educational Foundation:

- Ms. Cathy Bell, President of Brdancat Enterprise, Inc.
- Ms. Doug Hostetler, Owner, Hostetler Church, LLC.
- Ms. Felicita Sola-Carter, Assistant Deputy Commissioner Human Resources, Social Security Administration.
- Mr. Richard Talkin, Attorney.

Approval: Mrs. Watson moved approval of the candidates for the Educational Foundation. The motion was seconded by Ms. Gordon and approved by the members of the Board (5/0). Mr. Lasser approved the motion.

Board members expressed appreciation to the members for their willingness to serve on the foundation and acknowledged the significant contribution that their service will bring to Howard County in general and specifically to HCPSS.

Quarterly Agenda/April-June 2006 (continues at end of afternoon session)

The following changes were made to the quarterly agenda:

Delete:

- April 6 – APFO Process Discussion and Review.
- April 27 – Board Members' Appointments to Educational Foundation Board of Directors.
- June 8 – Supplemental Audit – Conclusions/Recommendations.

Add:

- April 6 – Approval of Capital Budget Transfer to Forward Fund the Automotive Academy Renovation.
- June 20 – Civility Policy Report.

Move:

- SB 984 Certification from April 6 to April 27.

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Change:

- April 6 – Bridges Grant Continuation from Information Item to Action Item.
- May 11 – Change name of School Boundary Line Committee to Attendance Area Committee.

Note: The Civility Policy Report will be presented on June 20, with a Public Hearing on July 13 and Action in August. Policy 2700 – State and Local Testing Protocol and Responsibility and Policy 2411 – Research Projects will be included in the Quarterly Agenda for July – September (Reports – July 13; Public Hearings – August 17; Actions – September 7).

Approval: Mrs. Watson moved approval of the Quarterly 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.

Policy 10200 – Student Representation

Presenter: Mr. Roger Plunkett.

Mr. Plunkett reported that Policy 10200 – Student Representation has been revised to establish the term of the Student Member to the Board, to clarify that the Student Member does not attend closed or quasi-judicial sessions of the Board, to incorporate middle school Student Councils into the Howard County Association of Student Councils, and to define student voters as students in Grades 6-11. The revisions include flexible language related to voting guidelines for the Student Member, which allows for limited voting rights in accordance with Maryland statute if legislation is enacted. If legislation is not enacted, the policy clarifies guidelines for opinion votes.

Mr. Plunkett introduced the members of the committee and expressed appreciation for their work. He emphasized that the policy is being brought to the Board for the purpose of preparing proposed legislation for the next session of the General Assembly. Cost to the school system is estimated at \$10,000 if HPCSS works with the Board of Elections.

Discussion:

Board members expressed the need to include language in the policy to ensure that the Student Member would retain an opinion vote on matters in which an official vote is not allowed by Maryland statute. It was also noted that language in the policy referring to “executive session” should be changed to “closed sessions or quasi-judicial functions” throughout the policy.

Board Members indicated the need for future discussion on the following topics:

- Definitions: HCASC – Language to include middle school student councils throughout the policy.

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- Standards:
 - Move Standard 7 to Compliance.
 - Add standards regarding Student Member election procedures and move Standard 8 to the elections portion of the policy.
- Implementation Procedures:
 - Statement about the kind of access candidates would have to distributing campaign materials at schools.
 - Creation of a standard so that equal access is available at all schools.
 - Item III.B.2. – Screening candidates – Need for discussion of whether or not the Board would be the appropriate party to screen candidates.
 - Item III.C. – Student Member Responsibilities – Add language regarding training and orientation.
 - Item III.B.4. – Discussion regarding the voting body and why adults should not vote in the student election.
- Policy:
 - Standards – Item B.2. – Review for consistency with Implementation Procedures regarding language of “elected by plurality” vs. “elected by majority.”
 - Need for General Counsel guidance and discussion on voting rights related to Articles 6-201, 6-202, and 7-308, which include personnel items, quasi-judicial functions, redistricting, and searches of students in schools.
 - Need for discussion on the intent of Article 4-205 and its impact on voting rights.

A public hearing on this policy will be held on April 27, 2006, with action scheduled for May 11, 2006.

Policy 3431 - Discipline, Policy 3441 – Student Responsibilities and Rights, Code of Conduct, and Policy 3443 – Student Search and Seizure

Presenter: Ms. Linda Wise, Assistant Superintendent for School Administration.

Ms. Wise explained that these policies were being brought forward together for consistency in alignment in addition to the need to update the Student Code of Conduct. Policies were reviewed to ensure consistency with legal mandates, 504 procedures, special education guidelines, and other pertinent school system policies. The Code of Conduct was aligned for consistency and clarification.

Policy 3431 – Discipline

Presenter: Dr. Craig Cummings, Coordinator of Alternative Education.

Dr. Cummings reported that Policy 3431 – Discipline has been revised to include the components of due process, to establish the expectation that staff will receive training in the provisions of the policy as well as prevention and intervention techniques, and to provide staff with direction in the reporting and recording of disciplinary information.

Discussion:

Board Members indicated the need for further discussion on the following items:

- Expansion of the definition of school-related activity and school-sponsored activity.
- Addition of “suspension” to the list of items in IV. Standards – C.1.
- Written notification to students regarding allegations and the opportunity for students to respond.
- Clarification of the appeal timeline and whether or not it is a COMAR regulation or school system procedure.
- Reconsideration of the purpose of the policy.
- Consideration of moving various statements to other locations throughout the policy.
- Inclusion of “arson” as a behavior in Implementation Procedures, Item VII.D.1.
- Use of Home Teaching as an alternative educational setting.
- Clarification on the criteria for the use of physical restraint.
- Incorporation of recommendations from the antibullying taskforce.
- Lack of student representation on the policy review committee.

Policy 3441 – Student Responsibilities and Rights

Presenter: Mr. David Bruzga, Administrative Director for Secondary Schools.

Revisions to Policy 3441 - Students’ Responsibilities and Rights include the addition of standard definitions, information related to grievances and appeals, a safe and nurturing environment as a right, and standards related to the dissemination of the policy to students.

Several policies are currently under revision that may eventually impact this policy in terms of definitions or other elements. Much of the information contained in this policy has been placed in the Implementation Procedures to facilitate any future changes that may be necessary.

Discussion:

Due to time constraints, Board Members agreed to provide questions to staff for public discussion when the policy is brought back to the Board in April.

Code of Conduct

Presenter: Ms. Marion Miller, Administrative Director for Elementary Schools.

The Student Code of Conduct has been revised to align with the policy revisions. The Code now defines plagiarism, bullying, and tardiness.

The Board will set aside time during the evening session of the April 6, 2006, Board meeting to present questions to staff concerning the policies and Student Code of Conduct.

Policy 3443 – Student Search and Seizure

Presenter: Mr. Mark Blom, General Counsel.

Language currently included in the Students' Responsibilities and Rights Policy has been pulled to create a new Policy 3443 on the Search and Seizure of Students. The new policy was developed to address legal and implementation issues in greater detail and to increase awareness of the provisions related to search and seizure in the school setting.

Questions on the policy will be addressed at the meeting of April 6, 2006.

Work Session - Operating Budget Review Committee (OBRC) Debriefing

Presenter: Mr. Ray Brown.

Mr. Brown recognized committee members for their hard work and dedication.

Ms. Ellen Giles, OBRC Chairman, presented feedback on the budget review process. She reported that committee members felt the timeframe for review was too compressed, and the basic orientation for new members cuts into time for the review.

Committee members thanked Ms. Giles and Mr. Robert Glascock, Assistant Superintendent, for their tremendous contributions to the work of the committee.

Recommendations for Structural Process Improvements:

- Change the focus of the committee to one that is advisory to the finance/audit subcommittee of the expanded Board to allow the committee's work to serve the Board and the community more effectively.
- Restructure the committee so that members serve staggered two-year terms.
- Consider using the committee as an outreach mechanism to help educate the community on school finance issues.
- Begin the process of identifying the key components of a redesigned and formatted budget review document as soon as possible.

Discussion:

Board Members expressed appreciation to the OBRC for their work and support for their recommendations. It was noted that an extensive orientation program is being developed for new Board Members, which will include a budget module. When appropriate, these sessions could also be made available to other members of the community as well.

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Mr. Kaufman indicated the need to meet with committee members over the summer when Board Members discuss the development of subcommittees of the Board.

Scheduling

The Board set dates for a meeting with the NAACP and an evidentiary hearing.

Quarterly Agenda (continued)

Add:

- April 6 – Second Reports on Policies 3431, 3441, and 3443.

Move:

- Public Hearings on Policies 2911, 13111, and 2050 from May 25 to May 23, 2006. (7:30 p.m.)

Board members discussed issues related to the public hearings originally scheduled for May 25 because all Board members would not be able to attend hearings on that date. Ms. Sigaty indicated her preference to maintain the current schedule and noted that a majority of the Board would be present for the public hearings on May 25. Mr. Kaufman suggested that the hearings take place on May 23 when all Board members could be present. A majority of the Board agreed to move the public hearings to May 23.

Approval: Mrs. Watson moved approval of the Quarterly Agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kaufman and approved by the members of the Board (4/1), with Ms. Sigaty voting no. Mr. Lasser supported the motion.

Recess: The meeting was recessed at 7:00 p.m. and reconvened at 7:35 p.m.

Public Forum

Ms. Linda Turner commented on the need for educators to respect parents.

Ms. Jean Evansmore, Council of Elders, urged the Board to increase the budget so that Academic Mentors can be hired through the Black Student Achievement Program (BSAP).

Appointment – Citizens Advisory Committee Monthly Report

Ms. Ellen Giles, Chairman of the Citizen Advisory Committee, reported on recent activities of the committee.

Public Hearing – Policy 2211 – Selection of Instructional Materials

No testimony was presented.

Public Hearing – Policy 3412 – Trespassing or Willful DisturbanceMs. Veronika Carella and Mr. Bob Rosenberg, PTA Council

- Requested that the Board ensure that civil rights of students and parents are protected.
- Suggested that thresholds be established to ensure that students and parents not be treated the same way in which a stranger on campus might be treated.
- Testified that checks and balances are needed to ensure that the policy is not abused and that a clear and fair method of appeal be included.

Bridge to Excellence**Goal 2 – Standards, Indicators, and Assessments**

Presenter: Ms. Terry Alban, Student Assessment and Program Evaluation Director.

HCPSS has identified two goals to support its mission. Goal 1 focuses on the academic achievement of students, and Goal 2 focuses on the safe and nurturing environment essential for personal success. In an effort to evaluate performance relative to Goal 2, three key indicators have been identified:

Average Daily Attendance: 100 percent of all schools will meet the standard of satisfactory (94 percent to 95.9 percent) or excellent (96 percent or greater).

Safe Student Behavior: 100 percent of all schools will have two percent or less of students demonstrating unsafe behavior, which is defined as discipline or suspension for weapons, arson, physical attacks, drug use, drug possession, or drug distribution.

Safe and Nurturing Environment: Baseline data will be collected this spring through surveys of parents, students, and staff.

Discussion:

Staff stated that the baseline data collected this spring will be presented to the Board next fall in the Bridge to Excellence report for Goal 2. The structure of the report is currently being developed and may incorporate data from other reports such as suspension and bullying data in addition to attendance data.

Positive Behavioral Intervention Programs

Presenter: Ms. Pamela Blackwell, Director, Student Services.

Ms. Blackwell introduced a report on a process called Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) that the school system is using to create safer and

more effective schools. The process focuses on improving a school's ability to teach and support positive behavior for all students. PBIS training shows educators how to create and sustain school-wide, classroom, and individual systems of support that improve lifestyle results for all children by making problem behavior less effective, efficient, and relevant, and appropriate behavior more desirable. The following occurs in a PBIS school:

- Students can describe behavioral expectations.
- More time is available for instruction.
- Evidence-based practices are used.
- Function-based behavior supports exist.
- Data and team-based action planning occurs.
- Administrators are active participants.
- Definitions and procedures for handling violations are agreed upon.
- Discipline data is reviewed regularly.
- A continuum of support is available to all students.

Howard County had nine active PBIS schools in the 2004/2005 school years. Guilford Elementary, Laurel Woods Elementary, and Murray Hill Middle were awarded exemplar school status in 2004/2005.

Staff from Laurel Woods Elementary, Murray Hill Middle, and Howard High reported on the successes they have experienced as a result of the PBIS program.

Discussion:

Staff explained that teachers receive support and training throughout the year and also share positive strategies and interventions with each other. Training is provided through both the school system and MSDE (Maryland State Department of Education).

Ms. Blackwell noted that partnerships are helpful in providing incentives to support positive behaviors. A grant is currently supporting workshop wages paid to teachers who participate in summer training. There is concern about ways to enhance the existing budget to support expansion. Mr. Glascock explained that staff will be looking at resources for professional development for FY 2007, the use of Title II funding or other grant sources, and begin to integrate and use those funds to be more efficient and purposeful in that use. Funds are currently available for the program, and any additional funds needed will be requested through the regular budget process.

Ms. Sigaty expressed concern that some of the data indicates an increase in office referrals at some schools. Staff explained that various factors may be involved in this phenomenon, and teacher training may show improvement in the future. Some behaviors may have been previously handled in the classroom that are now being referred to administrators as a result of teacher training. When practices are more clearly defined in the second year of PBIS, schools will be able to work on decreasing inappropriate behaviors.

Mr. Kaufman expressed appreciation to staff for their presentation and noted that schools are doing a remarkable job of informing and involving the community and integrating the program into the curriculum as well.

Policy 9521 – Wellness through Nutrition and Physical Activity

Presenter: Ms. Mary Klatko, Food and Nutrition Services Administrator.

Policy 9521, which goes into effect on July 1, sets food and beverage standards for the school day and addresses options for physical activity. After approval of the policy, the next step will be to examine the impact of this policy on students and the operations of the school system. Over the next school year, staff will assess the curriculum that nutritional education will provide for good choices by students; study further integration of physical activity into the curriculum to determine the impact of changes; involve an outside independent evaluation of food served in schools, vending machines, and at other activities; review of other school system practices throughout the nation; and determine the financial impact of the policy on the school system.

Motion: Ms. Gordon moved approval of Policy 9521, as revised, with an effective date of July 1, 2006, and that the adopted policy be submitted to MSDE. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Watson.

Discussion:

Mr. Kaufman suggested some modifications and indicated his support for the policy contingent on the following to determine good practices:

- Audit of Food and Nutrition Service offerings to determine if more nutritious food can be served.
- Audit of physical activities of students.

Board members discussed various elements of the policy and requested the following amendments:

- Change the term “used” to “consumed” in the policy statement that reads, “food and beverages should not be used as an educational tool.”
- Correct the definition of Recess by changing “structured” to “unstructured.”
- Add a statement in both the Policy and Implementation Procedures indicating that at the middle school level, each school will provide an intramural program and, time permitting, provide an opportunity for supervised physical activity during lunch periods.
- Add language indicating that middle school students in seventh and eighth grade will receive a minimum of one quarter of physical education instruction.

- Add to Implementation Procedures a statement indicating that staff is to receive resources, guidance, and professional development on ways to incorporate physical activity within the school day.
- Disallow the sale of iced tea and sports drinks in school cafeterias during the school day, but permit vending machines selling only water to operate at all times.

The policy also includes provisions for the following:

- Breads, cakes, cookies and brownies prepared in private homes and unlicensed facilities are allowed after the end of the last lunch period as long as they are not cream filled.
- Sodas may be offered after the end of the school day and at the secondary level only, and may constitute no more than 50 percent of the vending machine selections.
- Elementary schools are required to provide daily recess, and staff is encouraged to limit the use of recess as a time to administer discipline or as a time for students to make up work.
- Each high school must provide a comprehensive interscholastic athletic program.

Staff will provide more definitive information in the near future on how the recommendations will be carried out during the school year.

Action: Ms. Gordon accepted the requested changes as friendly amendments to the motion to approve the policy. The motion was approved by the members of the Board (5/0). Mr. Lasser support the motion.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned by the Chairman at 10:26 p.m.