

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HOWARD COUNTY

April 6, 2006

The Board of Education of Howard County held a regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, April 6, 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 Gordon
Mary Kay Sigaty
Courtney Watson
Jeff Lasser, Student Member, arrived 4:40 p.m.

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 4:05 p.m., and Mrs. Mikulis led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Forum

There was no one present to address the Board.

Approval of Agenda

Dr. Cousin noted the following change to the agenda:

Delete: VIII. J. Donations

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

Presentation – Friends of Education Awards

Mr. Kaufman gave a brief history on the Friends of Education Awards and introduced the following five nominees and two recipients:

Nominees: Boeing Corporation, Mrs. Jeanne Green, Mr. Michael Klatzkin, Bode Flooring, Lockheed Martin.

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Award Winners: Mrs. Lorraine Seelaus, River Hill HS, PTSA President;
Mrs. Ellen Giles, Citizens Advisory Committee, Chairman.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Cousin reported on a luncheon he attended which was sponsored by the Howard County Chamber of Commerce and involved students from most of the high schools in the county. The purpose of the luncheon was to present the collaborative effort that the HCPSS has with the business community. The presentation centered around the connections of the school system's career and technology programs and how businesses can help support these programs.

Student Representative Reports

There were no student representatives in attendance to address the Board.

Consent Agenda

Staff Personnel; Bids and Contracts; School Bus Contract Transfer; Operating Budget Monthly Report; School Construction Monthly Reports; Bridges Grant Continuation; 2004-2005 Annual Report; Glenelg HS – Approval of Forest Conservation Easement; Glenelg HS – Approval of Deed of Easement; Minutes of March 9, 2006 Regular Meeting; March 16, 2006-SECAC; March 16, 2006-School Health Council; March 28, 2006-Audit Committee; March 23, 2006-Closed Meeting both Confidential and Official.

Mr. Kaufman requested that the March 28, 2006 Audit Committee meeting minutes be tabled until it is determined how to approve minutes with only two Board members in attendance. Mr. Kaufman also suggested approving the March 23, 2006-Closed Meeting minutes both Confidential and Official in the evening session.

Ms. Sigaty requested the School Construction Monthly Reports be pulled.

Mrs. Watson requested the Minutes of March 16, 2006, be pulled, and she will abstain from voting on the motion because she was not in attendance at that meeting. Mrs. Watson also asked for a description of the two easement actions.

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

Mr. Kaufman asked Mr. Mark Blom, how minutes can be approved if the majority of the Board was not in attendance. Mr. Blom responded that the Board members that comprise the committee should vote to approve the minutes.

Action: Mrs. Mikulus moved approval of the Minutes from the Audit Committee meeting of March 28, 2006. The motion was seconded by Ms. Gordon and approved by the Board 2-0.

Action: Mr. Kaufman moved approval of the minutes of March 16, 2006 - School Health Council Committee and March 16, 2006 - SECAC Community meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Mikulis and approved by the Board 4-1, with Mrs. Watson abstaining.

School Construction Monthly Report

Ms. Sigaty asked for an update on the timeline for Glenelg HS. Mr. Brown responded that the water and sewer permit will be filed this week now that staff has the ground water discharge permit. The project will be bid in the summer, and that bid approval will come to the Board in July. It is hoped that construction will start September 1, 2006 with completion in December 2007. Work on the auditorium will start in the summer of 2007 with completion date of July-August 2008. The science lab renovation will begin upon completion of the wing in 2007 with a completion date of August 2008.

Action: Mrs. Watson moved approval of School Construction Monthly Report. The motion was seconded by Ms. Gordon and approved by the Board 5-0.

Forest Conservation Easement – Glenelg HS; Approval of Deed of Easement

Mr. Brown explained that these two easements are required to modify official land records. The first easement is due to the fact that a more appropriate location was found for water wells that was in a forest conservation area. An additional portion of property in another location will need to be dedicated. The second is to buy sewer lines across another property. The easement needs to be enlarged to accommodate one additional pipe. The total area for each is about ½ acre. Both easements are part of the Glenelg HS addition.

Action: Mrs. Watson moved approval of the Glenelg HS Forest Conservation Easement and the Deed of Easement. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Mikulis and approved by the Board 5-0.

Staff Personnel – Approved by the Board.

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>
Auld, Kelley	Fr. Leave	English	Relocating	7.7	03/02/06
Higdon, Kathleen	ELMS	Alt. Ed.	Relocating	1.8	04/07/06
Sternchos, Noah	NES	Elem. Ed.	Personal	.7	03/15/06
Webb, Christina	WES	Elem. Ed.	Relocating	8.0	06/13/06

Contracts

<u>Grade or</u>	<u>Place of Last Teaching</u>	<u>Grade/</u>	<u>Effective</u>
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Name	School	Subject	Assignment	Step	Date
Clay, James	HOME	Math	Private	D-15	02/27/06

Leaves of Absence

Name	School	Grade or Subject	Reason	Years in Howard County	Effective Date
Goodman, Laurin	Psy. Servs.	Psychologist	Childbearing	2.7	03/17/06
McCarthy, Yasmine	WVES	SLP	Childbearing	2.6	02/27/06
Melenfant, Jennifer	SJES	Elem. Ed.	Childbearing	6.8	04/06/06
Reinhardt, Allison	SWES	Spec. Ed.	Childbearing	3.3	11/30/05
Rentz-Ploppert, Donna	LKMS	Spec. Ed.	Personal Illness	.4	12/19/05
Schmitt, Melissa	SJES	Elem. Ed.	Childbearing	6.8	03/30/06
Toler, Susan	DRES	Spec. Ed.	Childbearing	13.9	05/03/06

Retirements

Name	School	Grade or Subject	Years in Howard County	Effective Date
Avery, Fannie	LOES	Elem. Ed.	38.0	06/30/06
Cohen, Lawrence	ARL	PPW	28.0	06/30/06
DeShetler, Rosalie	Fr. Leave	Math	18.5	01/31/06
Fox, Thomas	EES	Art	25.6	03/09/06
Plotkin, Linda	RBES	Spec. Ed.	35.1	06/30/06
Roesch, Deborah	HSES	Elem. Ed.	32.5	06/30/06
Zackowitz, Mildred	WLMS	Media	30.0	06/30/06

Bids and Contracts – Approved by the Board.

P-1	Electric Switchboard Replacement Glenwood Middle School Primo Electric Company, Inc.	\$75,353
P-2	On-Call Carpet Services CB Flooring, LLC Carpet Fair, Inc. TOTAL	\$ 75,000 est. <u>75,000 est.</u> \$150,000 est.

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>
Jubb's Bus Service (41)	North County Bus Company (7)	661

Operating Budget Monthly Report – Approved by the Board.

Bridges Grant Continuation - Approved by the Board.

2004-2005 Annual Report – Approved by the Board.

Capital Budget Transfer to Forward Fund Automotive Academy Renovation

Presenter: Ms Beverly Jones, Director of Finance.

This request is to transfer \$3 million of county bond funding from the Glenelg HS addition to the ARL redesign project. Mr. Brown noted that this transfer will not have an impact on the Glenelg HS addition.

Action: Mrs. Watson moved approval of the Capital Budget Transfer to Forward Fund Automotive Academy Renovation. The motion was seconded by Ms. Gordon and approved by the Board 5-0.

Howard County Legislation/2006 MD General Assembly

Presenter: Ms. Mary Shiller, Manager, Business Partnerships and Foundation.

Public School Construction, Capital Budget Hearings
SB 370/HB510

Ms. Shiller said the House Committee on Appropriations voted to provide additional funds with allocations to additional counties to the Public School Construction Program. The Senate Budget and Taxation Committee allocated additional construction funds to eight local jurisdictions and Howard County's allocation is \$3.5 million. The House Appropriations Committee allocated additional construction funds to 14 local jurisdictions and Howard County's allocation is \$6 million.

Audit Recommendation Status Report

Presenter: Ms. Beverly Jones.

The letter of recommendations was presented to the Board in December 2005. The auditors identified seven areas where they cited room for improvement. Staff has addressed most of these comments and continue to work on the unresolved areas.

Discussion:

Mrs. Watson and Mrs. Mikulis commended Ms. Jones on the thorough report. Mrs. Mikulis questioned the recommendation on the Fraud and Abuse Policy. Mrs. Erickson said there might be a place in the employee discipline policy to add language regarding this as opposed to adding a new policy.

Approved – April 27, 2006

Mr. Kaufman asked about Capital Projects and was pleased to see that there has been very good use of the junior accountant's time.

Ms. Jones said the junior account is performing the reconciliation to the county each month. This has allowed more time for the accounting officer in charge of school construction to focus on some of the older documents that need to be submitted to the IAC.

Ms. Jones said that a final report from the actuary should be available within the month of April. Mr. Kaufman noted that a summary is fine to be sure there are no concerns.

Approval of Audit Plan

Presenter: Mr. Ray Brown presented the Audit Plan that was approved by the Board of Education Audit Committee for the period from April 3, 2006, through June 30, 2007. He added that this plan is consistent with the plan recommended by Clifton Gunderson, LLP. Mr. John Connors, Internal Auditor, along with the Audit Committee, reviewed the details of the plan as appropriate.

Action: Ms. Gordon, Chair, Board of Education Audit Committee, moved approval of the Audit Plan. There was no need for a second since the report came from a Board Committee

Hiring and Separation Report 2005

Presenter: Mr. Kirk Thompson, Director of Human Resources.

Mr. Thompson presented the Hiring and Separation Report for the period of October 1, 2004 to September 30, 2005. Among data he presented was:

- Teacher recruiting and hiring.
 - 7,000 teaching vacancies were filled in the state of Maryland.
 - 513 teachers were hired in Howard County which is an increase of 31.9%.
 - 332 support staff were hired.
- Teacher experience and qualifications.
 - 57% were experienced educators.
 - 42.5% were first-year teachers.
- Staff diversity.
 - 92 minority teachers were hired, which represents 17.9% of the total number hired.
 - Recruiting of minority teachers is ongoing.

- Retention rate of new teachers.
 - 90% of new teachers returned this year.
 - On a national scale 50% of teachers leave the profession in the first five years.
- Support staff hiring.
 - 332 support staff were hired this year.
- Separation data highlights.
 - 420 professional employees resigned for the 2005 reporting period.
 - Relocation is the primary reason for resignations.

Discussion:

Ms. Gordon asked why hired teachers increased to 513. Mr. Thompson responded that it was due to the growth of the school system, and the rate of resignations was not predictable. He added that, while this school system has a great reputation, it is challenged by the starting salary in attracting new teachers.

Ms. Gordon then asked what teachers thought of the professional development that is offered. Mr. Thompson said that teachers are very pleased with the support they receive.

Mrs. Mikulis and Ms. Sigaty noted that job fairs were well organized and well attended.

Ms. Sigaty questioned if progress was being made on an on-line application process. Mr. Thompson said staff is anxious to have that process available.

Mr. Kaufman asked if the 24% of vacancies filled during the school year was typical. Mr. Thompson said that these vacancies are increasing, and it is a challenge to find candidates during the school year. Staff tries to fill the vacancies with teachers new to the area and/or December graduates.

Salute to School Food Services Staff

Mr. Brown read the following resolution:

RESOLUTION

”SALUTE TO SCHOOL FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE PERSONNEL”

WHEREAS, May 1 – 5, 2006 has been proclaimed as the 21st annual “Salute to School Food and Nutrition Service Personnel Week” in Maryland; and

WHEREAS, the School Food and Nutrition Service Program provides a valuable service to students, staff, and citizens of Howard County; and

WHEREAS, the 240 School Food and Nutrition Service Employees in the public schools of Howard County are an integral part of the Howard County Public School System; and

WHEREAS, the aforementioned School Food and Nutrition Service Personnel prepare and serve approximately three-and one-half million school lunches annually; and

WHEREAS, the School Food and Nutrition Service Personnel of the Howard County Public School System deserve to be recognized for their dedication and continuing commitment to feeding students; and therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of Howard County joins with other school systems in the state of Maryland in proclaiming the week of, May 1 – 5, 2006, as the 21st annual “Salute to School Food and Nutrition Service Personnel Week”; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution be adopted by the Board of Education of Howard County as of this date commending, in particular, the School Food and Nutrition Service Employees of the Howard County Public School System in recognition of their outstanding service and dedication.

Joshua Kaufman
Chairman, Board of Education

Sydney L. Cousin
Superintendent of Schools

Motion: Mrs. Watson moved approval of the Resolution, Salute to School Food and Nutrition Service Personnel. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Mikulis and approved by the Board 5-0.

Proclamation for Volunteers

Mrs. Watson read the following proclamation:

**A SPECIAL THANKS
To the Educational Partners and
Volunteers 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.

The Board of Education recognizes that partners in education and volunteers are vital components of an effective educational experience and provide valuable assistance of professional educators in fulfillment of the mission of the school system.

The Board of Education wishes to express sincere appreciation to all volunteers for their individual efforts in making this school system among the best in the nation by designating the week of April 23 to 29, 2006 as Partnerships in Education and Volunteer Week.

The Board also wishes to thank the corps of volunteers who serve The Howard County Public School System for taking an active interest in the children of Howard County, for their contributions of time and talent, and for their unyielding dedication to the goals of public education.

It is the expressed wish of the Board of Education that this proclamation serve to launch meaningful volunteer recognition in all schools.

A copy of this Proclamation, along with Volunteer Recognition certificates, will be distributed to all schools to be used to express the Board of Education's sincere appreciation to volunteers for their outstanding efforts and contributions.

Joshua M. Kaufman, Chairman
Howard County Board of Education
System

Sydney L. Cousin, Superintendent
The Howard County Public School

Action: Ms. Gordon moved approval of the Proclamation to the Educational Partners and Volunteers of the HCPSS. The motion was seconded by Ms. Sigaty and approved by the Board 5-0.

Proclamation for School Psychology Week

Mrs. Erickson read the following proclamation:

PROCLAMATION SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY WEEK

WHEREAS, April 30 to May 6, 2006 is School Psychology Week in Maryland; and

WHEREAS, children have a natural desire and propensity to learn and the inalienable right to education; and

WHEREAS, to enhance the total environment in which children live and grow, schools must apply sound psychology principles to instruction and learning, cultivate children's intellectual, social and emotional development, meet the educational needs of our

culturally diverse student population, and promote early intervention to ensure students' scholastic success; and

WHEREAS, school psychologists help parents and educators foster healthy child development and are the school-based experts in children's learning and psychological development; and

WHEREAS, school psychologists are leaders in delivering mental health services to students; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of Howard County recognizes the important and vital role that school psychologists play in the personal and academic development of students.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of Howard County supports efforts to express appreciation to school psychologists; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Howard County Public School System declare the week of April 30 to May 6, 2006 to be School Psychology Week.

Joshua Kaufman, Chairman
Board of Education of Howard County

Sydney L. Cousin, Superintendent
Howard County Public School System

Action: Mrs. Mikulis moved approval of School Psychology Week. The motion was seconded by Ms. Sigaty and approved by the Board 5-0.

Proclamation – National Administrative Professionals Week

Mr. Kaufman read the following Proclamation:

PROCLAMATION
Appreciation of Administrative Professionals

WHEREAS, April 25-29, 2005, is National Administrative Professionals Week and;

WHEREAS, office professionals have served the schools and offices of The Howard County Public School System with dedication and commitment throughout the history of the organization; and

WHEREAS, office professionals play a vital role in advancing the mission and goals of the school system; and

WHEREAS, office professionals continue to keep pace with rapid changes in their work environment and master advanced office technology with competency; and

WHEREAS, the office professionals of The Howard County Public School System frequently and willingly respond to needs over and above their job responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, the office professionals of The Howard County Public School System consistently demonstrate the highest professional standards; and

WHEREAS, the contributions of each and every office professional in the system are essential to the provision of quality public education for all children in Howard County; and

WHEREAS, National Administrative Professionals Week provides an opportunity to recognize the many and varied contributions made by office professionals;

THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED, that the Board of Education of Howard County supports efforts to express appreciation to the office professionals of the school system; and

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED that this resolution be adopted by the Board of Education of Howard County as of this date, in recognition of and in appreciation for the high quality of service provided by office professionals in support of The Howard County Public School System.

Joshua Kaufman
Chairman, Board of Education

Sydney L. Cousin
Superintendent of Schools

Action: Mr. Kaufman moved approval of the Proclamation for National Administrative Professionals Week. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Mikulis and approved by the Board 5-0.

Proclamation: School Nurse/Health Services Day

Mrs. Erickson read the following Proclamation:

**Proclamation
School Health Services Day
May 10, 2006**

WHEREAS school nurses and health assistants collaborate with parents, other health professionals and other school staff to provide services for students that promote optimum health for academic success, and

WHEREAS school nurses and health assistants assist students with chronic illness and reduce interruptions in learning, and

WHEREAS school nurses and health assistants function as part of the school's problem solving teams to bridge the gap between health, wellness and learning, and

WHEREAS school nurses and health assistants plan an integral role in assisting families to access health care for their children, and

WHEREAS school nurses and health assistants assist students to develop lifelong health habits that prepare them to actively participate in a culturally diverse and changing world, and

WHEREAS school nurses and health assistants emphasize prevention of disease and promotion of health utilizing health services, health counseling, and health education.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HOWARD COUNTY DOES HEREBY PROCLAIM WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 2006 AS SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES DAY.

Joshua Kaufman, Chairman
Board of Education of Howard County

Sydney L. Cousin, Superintendent
Howard County Public School System

Action: Mrs. Mikulis moved approval of the Proclamation for School Health Services Day. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Watson and approved by the Board 5-0.

Proclamation: National Academy Foundation

Dr. Cousin read the following Proclamation:

**Proclamation
For
National Academy Foundation
Membership Agreement**

WHEREAS, the National Academy Foundation (NAF) model embodies six core principles for improving the American Educational system including: personalized learning environments, academic engagement of all students, empowered educators, accountable leaders, engaged communities and youth, and an integrated system of high standards, curriculum, institutional assessment and supports; and

WHEREAS, the NAF Academy model central focus is to insure that all youth are ready for college, career and active civic participation; and

WHEREAS, the Howard County Public Schools NAF Academies of Finance and Information Technology have engaged the local business community in partnerships with strong advisory board involvement; and

WHEREAS, the Howard County Public Schools NAF Academies have experienced longevity and ongoing success since 1999 which support high academic standards for all students;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the members of the Board of Education of the Howard County Public School System enthusiastically approves the National Academy Foundation Membership Agreement for the Academy Of Finance and Academy of Information Technology.

Sydney L. Cousin, Superintendent

Joshua Kaufman, Chairman

Action: Ms. Sigaty moved approval of the Proclamation for National Academy Foundation Membership Agreement. The motion was seconded by Ms. Gordon and approved by the Board 5-0.

2006-2007 Board of Education Meeting Schedule

Mrs. Mikulis suggested having a Coffee and Conversation session in the evening.

Action: Mrs. Watson moved approval of the 2006-2007 Board of Education Meeting Schedule with one change in the date of the Coffee and Conversation session from March 17 to March 14 at 7:30 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Mikulis and approved by the Board 5-0. Mr. Lasser supported the motion.

Scheduling – Board Meetings and Other Activities

Board members had discussion on appropriate routing of an appeal, and Thursday, May 11 at 3:00 p.m. was decided upon for a Work Session and follow up to the retreat held on January 21.

Report for Policy 2211 Selection of Instructional Materials

Presenter: Mrs. Carol Fritts, Coordinator of Media and Educational Technology.

Mrs. Fritts noted that proposed revisions to the policy were in place and asked Board members if they had any questions. There were no questions.

Action: Mrs. Watson moved approval of Report for Policy 2211 Selection of Instructional Materials. The motion was seconded by Ms. Gordon and approved by the Board 5-0. Mr. Lasser supported the motion.

Policy 3412 Trespassing or Willful Disturbance

Presenter: Mrs. Linda Wise, Assistant Superintendent School Administration.

Mrs. Wise noted, that as a result of the initial report and public hearing, the policy statement has been revised and the definition of trespassing has been amended. Amendments were also added in implementation procedures.

Action: Mrs. Mikulis moved approval of the Revision of Policy 3412 Trespassing or Willful Disturbance. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Watson and approved by the Board 5-0. Mr. Lasser supported the motion.

Policy 3431 Discipline

Mr. Kaufman noted that this policy was finished at the previous meeting but asked Board members if there were any questions. There were no questions.

Code of Conduct

Discussion:

Mr. Kaufman asked if someone destroys property, is there potentially an expulsion. Dr. Craig Cummings, Coordinator of Alternative Education Programs, said that, in cases of vandalism, staff is seeking restitution rather than expulsion.

Mr. Kaufman asked if there is a contingency in place for an emergency that a student is allowed to keep a cell phone with them. Mrs. Wise said students are allowed to have them during the school day but not to have them visible.

Mrs. Mikulis questioned if the drug violation was lowered in consequence due to students having Tylenol or similar medications in their possession. Mrs. Wise said that is correct.

Ms. Sigaty asked about the change in range of consequence from what is currently published to what is being proposed. She noted for example, cheating and academic dishonesty has been moved up to possibility of expulsion. Mrs. Marion Miller, Elementary Director, said staff was being consistent with the definition of plagiarism. Mrs. Wise added that they are trying to give administrators some range – taking into account severity and also previous infractions.

Ms. Sigaty asked about consequences of bullying, intimidation, and harassment. Mrs. Miller said that is taken very seriously.

Policy 3441 Student Responsibilities and Rights/Code of Conduct

Ms. Sigaty noted that a policy is supposed to define a “what.” In this particular policy, under Standard B, it does not say what are the rights and responsibilities. In implementation, it indicates what they are, but their rights and responsibilities need to be in the policy because it is not a “how.”

Mr. Dave Bruzga, Administrative Director-Secondary, said the committee discussed this question, and there were two views on it.

1. The policy should be as brief and direct in enumerating specific rights. The committee agreed that if it were too lengthy, in this area, it could expand the size of the policy beyond usefulness.
2. The other thought was that the rights that are listed here are being affected by other policy revisions at the current time. The concern about including more detail in each of these listed rights, under standards, could be considered.

Mr. Kaufman expressed concern that implementation procedures are inconsistent in the way they are written. Some statements may belong in policy rather than in implementation. Ms. Gordon concurred in that some of them do not lend themselves to implementation procedures, and it is actually a statement of rights and responsibilities.

Mr. Lasser added that detailing specifically what the rights are, in a broad sense, should be in the policy section. Implementation can make reference to the other policies so that they can be easily changed without revising the entire policy.

Mrs. Ellen Miller, Specialist for Policy and Charter Schools, said the committee will go back and reword statements to be broader but not duplicative. A lot of the implementation procedures are in the other policies.

Mrs. Erickson said the practice has been to wait until after the public hearing before staff makes changes for the Board.

The public hearing for this policy is to be on May 23, 2006, with action taken at the following meeting.

Ms. Sigaty raised questions regarding:

- Nonschool-sponsored clubs.
- Wording of student requirement to salute the flag and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. Mikulis had questions on the following topics:

- Interscholastic Athletic Activities.
- Symbolic expression and “gangs.”

Mr. Kaufman made the following notations:

- Students should have due process when allegations are made.
- Nondiscriminatory practices as it relates to sexual orientation.
- Student expression as it relates to religion.

- Assembly – Are there actual procedures?
- Religious exercises –One minute of silent meditation should not be in implementation procedures.

Policy 3443 Student Search and Seizure

Mr. Kaufman questioned the wording that authorized searchers do not include a school's resource officer. Mr. Blom explained that school resource officers are police officers of the county, and they follow the constitutional standard of police officers to conduct searches, which is higher than this standard. Ms. Gordon noted that a teacher may exercise the right of search and seizure and questioned how well he or she is trained. Mr. Blom added that the mechanism for teacher training has not been determined. The police officer is pursuing criminal conduct. Mr. Blom said Mr. Steve Drummond, Coordinator of School Security, is the only person in the school system who has received a written appointment from the Governor to legally conduct student searches.

Mr. Kaufman asked for clarification in that police officers do have the right to search students but not under this policy. Mr. Blom said this is correct.

Ms. Sigaty asked for the description of *reasonable belief* to be defined in the policy.

Ms. Sigaty said that the policy notes that school officials may search school lockers. She asked if parents should be notified of this and if this information appears in the student handbook. Mr. Bruzga responded that this information is in the handbook, and students sign a locker card.

Mr. Kaufman noted several inconsistencies in the implementation procedures.

Recess: The chairman recessed the meeting at 6:35 p.m. and reconvened at 7:30 p.m.

Public Forum

There was no one present to address the Board.

PTA Council of Howard County

Mrs. Mary Jane Barbato-Grauso, President of PTA Council

Mrs. Grauso shared the following update on recent PTA Council activities:

- Participates in policy reviews.
- Concerned with ongoing problems with the Student Information Management System (SIMS).
- Requests continued involvement in whatever issues are forthcoming.
- Suggests that "respect" be adopted as the school system motto for the upcoming school year.

Dr. Cousin said the problems with SIMS are recognized and are being worked on. The decision on the program will be made by the end of the month. Staff has been working with the schools to resolve the problems.

Student Member Report (deferred from afternoon session)

Mr. Lasser gave an update on the following recent activities:

- The Howard County Association of Student Councils created a video tape with the assistance of the Television and Video Production Services with the candidate speeches and opinions on issues for student member to the Board. This tape will be distributed to all the high schools and will be aired on Channel 72.
- Howard County has a number of representatives from the Maryland Association of Student Councils attending the three-day annual convention in Ocean City.

Public Hearing

Mr. John Newhagen, parent

- Gave a history of the Dayton and Glenelg areas.
- Suggested the name of The New Dayton Oaks ES.

Deferred action item from afternoon session.

Action: Mrs. Mikulis moved approval of the minutes of March 23, 2006, Confidential and Official. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Watson and approved by the Board 5-0.

Information Items

Food and Nutrition Service

Adjournment: The chairman adjourned the meeting at 7:55 p.m.