

# MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HOWARD COUNTY

May 18, 2006

The members of the Board of Education of Howard County held a special work session on Thursday, May 18, 2006, at 10:00 a.m., in the Board Room of the Department of Education, located at 10910 Route 108, Ellicott City, Maryland, to set category totals to submit to the County Council for the FY 2007 Operating Budget Request and FY 2007 Capital Budget Request, FY 2008-2012 Capital Improvement Program, and Ten-Year Long-Range Master Plan. The following were present:

Joshua M. Kaufman, Chairman	Sydney L. Cousin, Superintendent of Schools
Diane B. Mikulis, Vice Chairman	Sandra Erickson, Chief Academic and Administrative Officer
Patricia S. Gordon	Raymond Brown, Chief Operating Officer
Mary Kay Sigaty	David White, Budget Officer
Courtney Watson	Patti P. Caplan, Public Relations Officer
	Susan A. Shown, Recording Secretary

Chairman Joshua Kaufman called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m., and Ms. Gordon led the group in the *Pledge of Allegiance*.

## Approval of Agenda

*Action:* A motion to approve the agenda as presented was made by Mrs. Watson, seconded by Ms. Gordon, and approved by the members of the Board (5/0).

## FY 2007 Operating Budget Request – Category Totals

Dr. Cousin reviewed the recommended changes to the FY 2007 Operating Budget based on the latest information from the County Council on the final budget numbers. The County Council added \$220,000 to the County Executive's budget request for the Board of Education, and he recommended that the money be used to fund the positions that were proposed as reductions to the budget: two new guidance counselors, .5 psychologist, and two new custodians. The actual cost of the new positions is more than the additional funding, but savings from turnover can be used to make up the difference.

The following reductions will be made to the Board's budget request in order to balance the budget with the available funding: turnover; defer media purchases for the new northeastern elementary school; eliminate one new pupil personnel worker, three new custodian positions; reduce custodian overtime; reduction allowed by fiscal 2006 year-end transfer; reduce maintenance of older schools and school grounds; reduce grounds maintenance for Community Services; reduce funding for CATV/Video, and various other reductions (after budget amendment).

Approved – June 20, 2006

Mr. Kaufman expressed appreciation to the County Council for restoring some of the funds that were reduced by the County Executive. The Superintendent has recommended that the restored funding be used for staffing, the school system's greatest asset.

Ms. Gordon stated that she was pleased that the guidance counselor and psychologist positions were recommended to be restored. The services provided by these positions are a great value to our students.

Mrs. Mikulis and Ms. Sigaty asked what impact the reductions in facility and grounds maintenance will have on the schools and grounds. Mr. Brown explained that the reduction would make it difficult to maintain the quality of the school facilities that the community expects. The opportunity to purchase supplies for "green schools" will also be limited. The impact on grounds maintenance may not be immediately noticed as work such as overseeding will be deferred. Dr. Cousin added that the replacements of playgrounds and sidewalk repairs may also be deferred.

Dr. Cousin pointed out that maintenance inspection reports were just received for five Howard County schools from the Interagency for Public School Construction and, although the inspections resulted in good and excellent ratings, there were things identified for improvement.

Mrs. Watson asked if the \$384,000 reduction in maintenance of older schools would come from one line item. Mr. Brown responded that funding for supplies, contracted services, materials and equipment would be reduced.

Mr. Kaufman stated that he preferred not to have to reduce any items in the budget; however, he supported the Superintendent's recommendations.

Ms. Sigaty asked for an explanation of the reduction in CATV/Video. Mr. White explained that the reduction is reflective of the County Executive's decision to shift funding from a separate grant to the general fund. Mr. Robert Glascock, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, add that the reduction takes the funding back to the continuation cost of the current program and will limit the ability to enhance communication with the community. The revenues come from fees from Comcast and Verizon, and the shift of funds was not expected. The new position included in the reduction was earmarked to move forward with the wireless and paperless Board meetings, and the reduction won't eliminate, but may slow down, the implementation of those processes.

Ms. Sigaty expressed her concern with the reduction of the CATV position because it would support the Board's ability to improve communication with the community; however, as long as the implementation of the paperless Board meetings moves forward, she accepted the reduction of the new CATV position in order to fund the new custodial positions.

Mr. White pointed out that the move of CATV funding from a grant to the general fund will mean that the program would continue to compete with all other items in the general fund in future years.

Mrs. Watson stated that the guidance counselor and psychologist positions have a strong impact on the classroom. She suggested that the staffing model for those positions might need to be reviewed as both social and academic challenges faced by students continue to increase.

Following a general consensus by the Board to support the Superintendent's recommendation for adjustments to the Board's FY 2007 budget request, the Board approved the budget category totals to submit to the County Council for its action.

*Action:*

A motion to approve Administration in the amount of \$9,162,030 was made by Mrs. Watson, seconded by Ms. Gordon, and approved by the members of the Board (5/0).

A motion to approve Instructional Salaries in the amount of \$232,888,730 was made by Ms. Gordon, seconded by Mrs. Watson, and approved by the members of the Board (5/0).

A motion to approve Instructional Texts in the amount of \$11,597,400 was made by Mrs. Mikulis, seconded by Mrs. Watson, and approved by the members of the Board (5/0).

A motion to approve Instructional Other in the amount of \$2,699,230 was made by Ms. Sigaty, seconded by Ms. Gordon, and approved by the members of the Board (5/0).

A motion to approve Pupil Services in the amount of \$2,330,190 was made by Mr. Kaufman, seconded by Mrs. Watson, and approved by the members of the Board (5/0).

A motion to approve Health Services in the amount of \$4,438,680 was made by Mrs. Watson, seconded by Mr. Kaufman, and approved by the members of the Board (5/0).

A motion to approve Transportation in the amount of \$30,006,000 was made by Ms. Gordon, seconded by Mrs. Mikulis, and approved by the members of the Board (5/0).

A motion to approve Operation of Plant in the amount of \$34,661,160 was made by Mrs. Mikulis, seconded by Mrs. Watson, and approved by the members of the Board (5/0).

A motion to approve Maintenance of Plant in the amount of \$16,688,320 was made by Ms. Sigaty, seconded by Mrs. Mikulis, and approved by the members of the Board (5/0).

A motion to approve Fixed Charges in the amount of \$88,375,070 was made by Mr. Kaufman, seconded by Mrs. Mikulis, and approved by the members of the Board (5/0).

A motion to approve Mid-Level Administration in the amount of \$42,877,840 was made by Mrs. Watson, seconded by Ms. Gordon, and approved by the members of the Board (5/0).

A motion to approve Community Services in the amount of \$4,763,680 was made by Ms. Gordon, seconded by Mrs. Mikulis, and approved by the members of the Board (5/0).

A motion to approve Capital Outlay in the amount of \$1,015,470 was made by Mrs. Mikulis, seconded by Mrs. Watson, and approved by the members of the Board (5/0).

A motion to approve Special Education in the amount of \$70,018,280 was made by Ms. Sigaty, seconded by Mrs. Mikulis, and approved by the members of the Board (5/0).

A motion to approve the FY 2007 Operating Budget Request in the amount of \$551,522,080 was made by Mr. Kaufman, seconded by Mrs. Watson, and approved by the members of the Board (5/0).

Dr. Cousin noted that the Board would take action on May 25, 2006, to approve its final FY 2007 Operating Budget after the County Council approves its county budget.

### **FY 2007 Capital Budget Request**

Mr. Brown reported that the County Council restored funding for the Clarksville MS renovation project. Planning funds for the new maintenance/warehouse facility was deferred to FY 2008, as well as funding for educational specifications modernization and planning for the renovation of the former Cedar Lane School.

Dr. Cousin added that preliminary planning for the Cedar Lane project have been completed, but the plans are not ready to be presented to the Board.

*Action:* A motion to approve the amended FY 2007 Capital Budget Request in the amount of \$88,366,203 to be submitted to the County Council was made by Mrs. Watson, seconded by Ms. Gordon, and approved by the members of the Board (5/0).

*Action:* A motion to approve the amended FY 2008-2012 Capital Improvement Plan in the amount of \$381,498,000 to be submitted to the County Council was made by Mr. Kaufman, seconded by Ms. Gordon, and approved by the members of the Board (5/0).

*Action:* A motion to approve the amended FY 2007-2016 Long-Range Master Plan in the amount of \$685,464,000 to be submitted to the County Council was made by Mrs. Watson, seconded by Ms. Gordon, and approved by the members of the Board (5/0).

**Adjournment** – There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

### **Attachments**

- A - FY 2007 Operating Budget Request Summary
- B - FY 2007 Capital Budget Request
- C - FY 2008-2012 Capital Improvement Program Request
- D - FY 2008-2012 Long-Range Systemic Renovation Projects
- E - FY 2007-2016 Long-Range Master Plan

