

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HOWARD COUNTY

May 25, 2006

The Board of Education of Howard County held a regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, May 25, 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

Sydney L. Cousin, Superintendent, Secretary/Treasurer
Sandra Erickson, Deputy Superintendent, arrived at 5:23 p.m.
Raymond Brown, Chief Operating Officer
Patti Caplan, Director, Public Relations
Arlene Conway, Recording Secretary

Chairman Joshua Kaufman called the meeting to order at 4:05 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

Dr. Cousin made the following changes to the agenda:

Add: XI. E. Administrative Appt. of Manager of School Planning (moved to Consent Agenda)
Add: XI. F. MABE Board of Directors Nomination
Delete: XII. Final Legislative Report/2006 General Assembly
Add: XIV. B. Scheduling before Adjournment

Action: Mrs. Mikulis moved approval of the amended agenda. The motion was seconded by Ms. Sigaty and approved by the Board 5-0. Mr. Lasser supported the motion.

Recognition of Student Member to the Board of Education

Board members thanked Mr. Lasser for his service and commitment as the student member to the Board. Mr. Kaufman read the following proclamation:

Approved – July 13, 2006

Proclamation
Honoring
Jeffrey C. Lasser
2005-06 Student Member to the Board of Education

WHEREAS, Jeffrey C. Lasser has served in an exceptional manner as Student Member to the Board of Education for the 2005-06 school year; and

WHEREAS, during his term Jeff has demonstrated genuine interest in educational issues and has brought an informed, responsible student perspective to Board deliberations and discussions; and

WHEREAS, Jeff has distinguished himself through his intelligent, knowledgeable, and insightful participation, and specifically through his advocacy to secure partial voting rights for the Student Member to the Board; and

WHEREAS, Jeff has made significant contributions to Atholton High School as President of the school's Information Technology Academy, as Senior Computer Network Administrator, and as Student Representative on the Atholton PTSA Executive Board; and

WHEREAS, Jeff has served as an accomplished member of the National Honor Society, the Harvard Model Congress, the Maryland Association of Student Councils, the Spanish National Honor Society, the Future Business Leaders of America, Students Helping Other People, the American Computer Science League, the *It's Academic* Team, and the Math Team; and

WHEREAS, Jeff has greatly influenced other students from across the county to participate in student government, at the school, county, and state level; therefore,

BE IT PROCLAIMED, that the Board of Education of Howard County congratulates Jeff Lasser for his numerous accomplishments and wishes him continued success in all future endeavors; and

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED, that the Board of Education of Howard County expresses sincere appreciation to Jeff Lasser for his commitment and responsible participation during his term as Student Member to the Board of Education; and

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED, that this document be adopted by the Board of Education of Howard County and entered into the official record, and that Jeff receive a copy in appreciation for his outstanding service on behalf of the students of the Howard County Public School System.

Joshua Kaufman, Chairman

Sydney L. Cousin, Superintendent

Action: Mrs. Mikulis moved approval of the Proclamation Honoring Mr. Jeff Lasser, Student Member to the Board of Education. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Watson and approved by the Board 5-0.

11th Annual Sportsmanship Award

Presenter: Mr. Michael Williams, Coordinator Athletics.

Mr. Williams presented the 11th Annual Sportsman Cup, which honors the philosophy and mission of the Howard County Public School System's Interscholastic Athletic Program, to Oakland Mills HS. Accepting for Oakland Mills HS was Mr. Dick Hendershott, Athletic Director. Reservoir HS and Howard HS were acknowledged as runners up.

Music Educator of the Year Award

Presenter: Mr. Rob White, Instructional Facilitator, Music.

Mr. White thanked all those who supported the music program in Howard County. He introduced Ms. Hillary Stishan, Chairperson of the Howard County Parents for School Music, who recognized the following teachers: Mr. Joe Fisher, music teacher, River Hill HS, received the Music Educator of the Year Award from the Parents for School Music. Mr. Robert Miller, instrumental music teacher, Hammond MS, and Mr. Ben Denne, instrumental music teacher, Ellicott Mills MS, were recognized as honorees.

Citizens Advisory Committee Monthly Report

Mrs. Ellen Giles, Chairman, noted the following areas that CAC has been involved in:

- Reorganization of cluster assignments for the Board, taking into account new schools and new Board members. The committee is recommending aligning administrative directors' schools with the Board's cluster assignments.
- The mock congressional hearings are at 19 schools now, and it is an impressive display of the students' knowledge of constitutional principles. Staff is to be congratulated with their work on this program.

NAACP – Recognition of School Improvement

Mrs. Natalie Woodson, Chairperson, NAACP Education Committee, stated that the purpose of the Education Committee is to encourage and inspire excellence, and schools are beginning to show great promise and achievement. Some schools have no grades below C, and this is the first time since 1999. Mrs. Woodson thanked the teachers, parents, and administrators for their work.

The following schools scored an A in one or more areas:

High Schools

Atholton, Glenelg, Hammond, Long Reach, Reservoir, River Hill

Middle Schools

Burleigh Manor, Clarksville, Folly Quarter, Glenwood, Hammond, Lime Kiln, Mayfield Woods, Patapsco

Elementary Schools

Atholton, Bellows Spring, Bushy Park, Centennial Lane, Clarksville, Clemens Crossing, Deep Run, Elkridge, Forest Ridge, Fulton, Gorman Crossing, Guilford, Hammond, Hollifield Station, Ilchester, Jeffers Hill, Lisbon, Longfellow, Manor Woods, Northfield, Pointers Run, Rockburn, Running Brook, Swansfield, Talbot Springs, Thunder Hill, Triadelphia Ridge, Waterloo, Waverly, West Friendship, Worthington.

Student Representatives' Reports

Ms. Haley Katsman and Ms. Abby Schwarz, Marriotts Ridge HS

Ms. Katzman and Ms. Schwarz gave the following highlights of their year at Marriotts Ridge:

- Students took advantage of opportunities in clubs, teams, and other activities because the school was small.
- Leadership opportunities were also available.
- Teams had successful seasons, and some teams went to the state level.
- The Music Department brought home 22 trophies from the Virginia Beach competition.
- In the future they suggested that new schools be in more of a finished state before opening.
- Communications about activities is a problem.
- More interaction with the Guidance Department would be helpful.
- As students start to look at colleges next year, they would like more direction from the Guidance Department.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Cousin gave the following report on his recent activities:

- The simulated congressional hearings are a rewarding experience for students and adults.
- Attended the Howard County Pandemic Flu Summit and added that there are two committees planning for the eventuality of a flu epidemic.
- Attended a convocation honoring Hispanic and Latino students who will be graduating next week.

- Noted that there were 35 National Merit Finalists in the county – at least one from every high school.
- Congratulated Ms. Lynn Birdsong and the mentors of the Secondary Content Mentoring Program for receiving the Excellence in Staff Development Award from the Maryland Council of Staff Developers.
- Congratulated Mr. Jeff Lasser for his contributions and technological support during his tenure as student member of the Board of Education.

Student Member Report

Mr. Lasser thanked the Board and Superintendent for their guidance and suggestions over the past year. He also thanked Mr. Roger Plunkett for his guidance and many others who have been supportive of him during his year as student member. He said it was his hope to see the student member position encompass more areas, and the student member would be an equal voting member of the Board.

Consent Agenda

Trends in International Math and Science Study, Bids and Contracts, Donations, Administrative Appointment, Maryland Association of Boards of Education, Board of Directors Nomination

Action: Ms. Gordon moved approval of the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Mikulis and approved by the Board 5-0. Mr. Lasser supported the motion.

Trends in International Math and Science Study – Approved by the Board.

Bids and Contracts – Approved by the Board.

	Description	Amount
P-1	Domestic Water and Fire Protection Sprinkler Service Manor Woods ES Iacoboni Site Specialists, Inc.	\$ 486,055
P-2	Electrical Service for Portable Classrooms Reedy Electrical Services, Inc.	529,725
P-3	Roofing Replacement at Bryant Woods ES Cole Roofing Co., Inc.	602,239
P-4	Roofing Replacement at Waterloo ES Cole Roofing Co., Inc.	750,224
P-5	Bread and Rolls Schmidt Baking Co., Inc.	203,616.30

P-6	Dairy Products Dairy Maid Dairy	608,973.73
-----	------------------------------------	------------

Donations – Approved by the Board.

Talbott Springs ES: MedStar Health, in the amount of \$6,000 designated for student activities that will increase students' knowledge of health, related professions, and the need to live a healthy lifestyle.

Howard HS: Balfour, in the amount of \$1,000 designated for the principals' scholarship fund.

Long Reach HS: The Pepsi Bottling Group, Inc., in the amount of \$500 designated for a leadership assembly.

Boosters, in the amount of \$3,500; \$1,000 designated for girls' basketball uniforms; \$1,000 designated for girls' lacrosse uniforms; \$1,000 designated for boys' basketball uniforms; \$500 designated for cheerleading mats.

Administrative Appointment – Approved by the Board.

<u>Name</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
Joel A. Gallihue	Maryland National Capital Park And Planning Commission Community Planner and Zoning Analyst	Facilities Planning and Management Manager of School Planning

MABE Nomination of Ms. Gordon and Mrs. Mikulis to the MABE Board of Directors – Approved by the Board.

Ombudsman's Report

Presenter: Mrs. Robin Shell, Ombudsman.

Mrs. Shell thanked staff both in the central office and in the schools for their cooperation in resolving concerns. She reported on the number and types of concerns brought to her attention during her first year as the school system's Ombudsman. Of the 130 cases handled, 36 percent involved concerns with school administration, such as parental concerns with staff, procedures, and implementation of policies. Fourteen percent of the cases dealt with student discipline issues, 11 percent with bullying, and another 11 percent with special education. Mrs. Shell added that 42 percent of the cases came from high schools, 26 percent from middle schools, and 18 percent from elementary schools. Seventy-seven percent of the cases were initiated by parents.

Approved – July 13, 2006

Discussion:

Mrs. Watson said Mrs. Shell has done a very good job serving the community. Mrs. Shell said she encourages parents to work with their school's administrators and then the administrative director, and if necessary, she is available. She added that she sees herself as a facilitator of issues.

Ms. Sigaty suggested that Mrs. Shell continue to let Board members identify areas for improvement. All Board members were in agreement that Mrs. Shell has been an asset to the school system in defining the role of Ombudsman.

Policy 10200 – Student Representation

Presenter: Mr. Roger Plunkett

In working with Mr. Mark Blom, General Counsel, it has been determined that the student member cannot receive confidential personnel information. Staff has outlined the items the student member should not be involved in.

Discussion:

Mrs. Watson noted her understanding that the Board will pass the policy which will give the intent of what the student member can and cannot vote on. The legislation that comes to the Board in August will mirror the policy the Board votes on. The state delegation can always change what the Board puts forward.

Ms. Sigaty stated that staff structured this policy differently than what the Board wanted to see happen. The Board made a decision letting the student vote on Bids and Contracts, yet it does not appear here.

Mr. Plunkett explained that, after conferring with Mr. Blom, the three items on which the Board took a vote - Bids and Contracts, Appointments and Promotions of Staff, and Site Acquisitions -cover confidential information. Therefore, staff recommendation is that the Board reconsider the straw vote in order not to violate the current law for next year.

Ms. Sigaty said other counties do not have a prohibition for a student to vote on those items.

Mr. Kaufman said he defers to the Superintendent and the committee on these items. Mrs. Watson added that she would like to get this passed, but there will be the opportunity to amend in the future.

Action: Mr. Kaufman moved approval of Policy 10200 – Student Representation and further moved that the Board direct staff to prepare legislation to be consistent with this policy to be submitted at the appropriate time for the next legislative session in

Annapolis. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Mikulis. Mrs. Watson offered a friendly amendment that staff prepare legislation to be presented to the Board in August and then presented to the state delegation in September. The motion was approved by the Board 5-0. Mr. Lasser supported the motion.

Budget Adoption

Dr. Cousin addressed the issue of teachers leaving the profession in the first five years, and Howard County wants to be competitive in salaries especially in the first five steps. He said compensation was added as incentive to retain new teachers.

Mr. David White, Budget Officer, said the county government has not made any changes to the budget since the Board last discussed it.

Operating Budget

General Fund Categorical Totals

Action: Mrs. Watson moved approval of Administration category total of \$9,162,030. The motion was seconded by Ms. Gordon and approved by the Board 5-0. Mr. Lasser supported the motion.

Action: Ms. Gordon moved approval of Instructional Salaries category total of \$232,888,730. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Mikulis and approved by the Board 5-0. Mr. Lasser supported the motion.

Action: Mrs. Mikulis moved approval of Instructional Texts category total of \$11,597,400. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Watson and approved by the Board 5-0. Mr. Lasser supported the motion.

Action: Ms. Sigaty moved approval of Instructional Other category total of \$2,699,230. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Watson and approved by the Board 5-0. Mr. Lasser supported the motion.

Action: Mr. Kaufman moved approval of Pupil Services category total of \$2,330,190. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Mikulis and approved by the Board 5-0. Mr. Lasser supported the motion.

Action: Mrs. Watson moved approval of Health Services category total of \$4,438,680. The motion was seconded by Ms. Gordon and approved by the Board 5-0. Mr. Lasser supported the motion.

Action: Ms. Gordon moved approval of Transportation category total of \$30,006,000. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Watson and approved by the Board 5-0. Mr. Lasser supported the motion.

Action: Mrs. Mikulis moved approval of Operation of Plant category total in the amount of \$34,661,160. The motion was seconded by Ms. Gordon and approved by the Board 5-0. Mr. Lasser supported the motion.

Action: Ms. Sigaty moved approval of Maintenance of Plant category total in the amount of \$16,688,320. The motion was seconded by Ms. Gordon and approved by the Board 5-0. Mr. Lasser supported the motion.

Action: Mr. Kaufman moved approval of Fixed Charges category total in the amount of \$88,375,070. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Watson and approved by the Board 5-0. Mr. Lasser supported the motion.

Action: Mrs. Watson moved approval of Mid-Level Administration category total in the amount of \$42,877,840. The motion was seconded by Ms. Gordon and approved by the Board 5-0. Mr. Lasser supported the motion.

Action: Ms. Gordon moved approval of Community Services category total in the amount of \$4,763,680. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Mikulis and approved by the Board 5-0. Mr. Lasser supported the motion.

Action: Mrs. Mikulis moved approval of Capital Outlay category total in the amount of \$1,015,470. The motion was seconded by Ms. Sigaty and approved by the Board 5-0. Mr. Lasser supported the motion.

Action: Ms. Sigaty moved approval of Special Education category total in the amount of \$70,018,280. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Mikulis and approved by the Board 5-0. Mr. Lasser supported the motion.

Action: Mr. Kaufman moved approval of the budget total of \$551,522,080. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Mikulis and approved by the Board 5-0. Mr. Lasser supported the motion.

General Fund Revenues

Action: Mrs. Watson moved approval of County general fund revenue in the amount of \$393,710,890. The motion was seconded by Ms. Gordon and approved by the Board 5-0. Mr. Lasser supported the motion.

Action: Ms. Gordon moved approval of the State general fund revenue in the amount of \$152,004,150. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Watson and approved by the Board 5-0. Mr. Lasser supported the motion.

Action: Mrs. Mikulis moved approval of Federal general fund revenue in the amount of \$540,000. The motion was seconded by Ms. Sigaty and approved by the Board 5-0. Mr. Lasser supported the motion.

Action: Ms. Sigaty moved approval of Other general fund revenues in the amount of \$5,267,040. The motion was seconded by Ms. Mikulis and approved by the Board 5-0. Mr. Lasser supported the motion.

Action: Mr. Kaufman moved approval of the Total general fund revenues of \$551,522,080. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Watson and approved by the Board 5-0. Mr. Lasser supported the motion.

Restricted Funds Expenditures

Action: Mrs. Watson moved approval of Food and Nutrition restricted funds expenditures in the amount of \$10,998,750. The motion was seconded by Ms. Gordon and approved by the Board 5-0. Mr. Lasser supported the motion.

Action: Ms. Gordon moved approval of Worker's Compensation restricted funds expenditures in the amount of \$1,950,110. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Watson and approved by the Board 5-0. Mr. Lasser supported the motion.

Action: Mrs. Mikulis moved approval of Health and Dental restricted funds expenditure in the amount of \$69,828,920. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Watson and approved by the Board 5-0. Mr. Lasser supported the motion.

Action: Ms. Sigaty moved approval of Information Management restricted funds expenditure in the amount of \$3,618,900. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Watson and approved by the Board 5-0. Mr. Lasser supported the motion.

Action: Mr. Kaufman moved approval of Printing/Duplicating restricted funds expenditures in the amount of \$2,405,100. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Watson and approved by the Board 5-0. Mr. Lasser supported the motion.

Action: Mrs. Watson moved approval of Grants Fund restricted funds expenditures in the amount of \$24,680,000. The motion was seconded by Ms. Sigaty and approved by the Board 5-0. Mr. Lasser supported the motion.

Tuition Rates

Action: Mrs. Watson moved approval of one half-day Kindergarten tuition rate In-State \$4,110, Out-of-State \$5,750. The motion was seconded by Ms. Gordon and approved by the Board 5-0. Mr. Lasser supported the motion.

Action: Ms. Gordon moved approval of Elementary/Secondary tuition rate In-State \$8,210, Out-of-State \$11,500. Mr. Kaufman offered a friendly amendment to include full-day kindergarten. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Watson and approved by the Board 5-0. Mr. Lasser supported the motion.

Action: Mrs. Mikulis moved approval of Special Education tuition rate In-State \$24,630, Out-of State \$34,500. The motion was seconded by Ms. Gordon and approved by the Board 5-0. Mr. Lasser supported the motion.

Capital Budget

Action: Mrs. Watson moved approval of FY 2007 Capital Budget in the amount of \$88,366,203. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Mikulis and approved by the Board 5-0. Mr. Lasser supported the motion.

Action: Ms. Gordon moved approval of the Capital Improvement Program totaling \$381,498,000. Mrs. Watson offered a friendly amendment to include FY 2008-2012. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Watson and approved by the Board 5-0. Mr. Lasser supported the motion.

Action: Mrs. Mikulis moved approval of FY 2007-2016 Long-Range Master Plan totaling \$685,464,000. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kaufman and approved by the Board 5-0. Mr. Lasser supported the motion.

Board members commented on the very smooth process of this budget process, and thanked staff for all their work.

Scheduling

Board members discussed dates for a work session and a closed session.

Adjournment

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 6:05 p.m.

Information Items

- A. Independent Study of Food and Nutrition Program
- B. Physical Education Grant Report

