

# **Board of Education Meeting Summary**

**Thursday, Oct. 27, 2005**

## **ACTION ITEMS**

- Approved a consent agenda including donations, the Emergency Management Program Grant, and minutes of Board of Education meetings.
- Approved a proclamation designating November 2005 as American Indian Heritage Month in the HCPSS.
- Approved a resolution in appreciation of Education Support Professionals and designating November 16, 2005 as Education Support Professionals Day in the HCPSS.
- Approved design reports for the new Northeastern Elementary School and a Bushy Park Replacement School.
- Deferred the Board's proposed legislation on field use fees until the 2008 legislative session.
- Approved Policy 3201 -- Enrollment, Residency, and Tuition -- with amendments and rescinded Policies 3211, Pupil Assignment, and 10122, Participation by Students in Interscholastic Athletic Programs, which have been consolidated into Policy 3201(see: "Board Updates Policies").
- Approved the Committee Charters for revisions to Policy 2700, Test Administration, Security, and Data Reporting; Policy 2411, Research Projects; and Policy 2211, Selection of Instructional Materials.

## **Public Lends Support for Student Partial Vote**

Twenty-six persons, including Delegate Liz Bobo and County Council Member Ken Ulman, testified at a public hearing on granting partial voting rights to the student member of the Board. Ms. Bobo indicated that she would vote to allow a late filing of a bill to allow the vote, if the Board decides to submit one. Mr. Ulman said he supports the student's proposal as a way to promote citizenship and the importance of voting.

Testimony was overwhelmingly in support of the proposal. Twenty-three individuals, including representatives of the PTA and the NAACP, spoke for the measure. Ann Delacey, President of the Howard County Education Association, was one of three individuals to speak against the proposal. She said it was inequitable for just one of the Board's constituent groups to be given the power of a vote when other groups, such as teachers, are not afforded the same.

The Board will consider the issue of partial voting rights for the student member at the November 10 Board meeting.

## **Superintendent Presents Attendance Area Adjustment Recommendations**

Proposed attendance area adjustments would move approximately 222 students from Clarksville Elementary and 433 students from Triadelphia Ridge Elementary to the new

western elementary school next year, according to a plan recommended by Superintendent Sydney Cousin. This would create room at Clarksville for approximately 96 students from Pointers Run Elementary. Pointers Run would then receive 138 students from Fulton Elementary.

Triadelphia Ridge would be positioned to receive approximately 120 students from Manor Woods and 102 students from West Friendship. The Superintendent's plan also calls for a small feeder alignment that would move four students from Centennial Lane Elementary to Thunder Hill Elementary.

Manager of School Planning David Drown indicated that the recommendation accommodates overcapacity and assigns students to closer schools and also positions regions for the long-term.

At the middle school level, the recommendation reduces overcapacity at Patapsco Middle and aligns feeder schools more efficiently where possible. The plan would move 104 students from Patapsco to Dunloggin Middle. To address feeder alignment, Dunloggin also would receive three students from Burleigh Manor. To accommodate the students from Patapsco, Dunloggin would send 104 students to Ellicott Mills Middle.

Further adjustments would move approximately 63 students from Mount View Middle to fill available space at Burleigh Manor. Subsequently, Mount View would receive 51 students from Folly Quarter Middle School.

At the high school level, the Board will consider whether the Green Bridge area should be permanently assigned to River Hill or Glenelg. It is recommended that the Board defer a decision on this item until 2006.

Mr. Drown noted that in the short term, the proposal established the attendance area for the new western elementary school, provides relief to Patapsco Middle School, and improves the feeders system where possible. In the long term, the plan establishes a direction that will reduce the number of "closed schools" under the Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance from 12 to 1, decreases the number of schools outside the preferred capacity utilization from 31 to 5, and positions schools to accommodate future growth.

The Board will hold public work sessions on the attendance area adjustment proposal on November 3, 15, and 17 beginning at 7 p.m. A public hearing is scheduled for 7 p.m. on November 8.

### **Board Updates Policies**

The Board approved revisions to Policy 3201—Enrollment, Residency, Student Assignment, and Admission to Prekindergarten and Kindergarten—effective January 23, 2007. The revised policy incorporates the provisions of Policy 3211, Pupil Assignment, and Policy 10122, Participation by Students in Interscholastic Athletic Programs, which the Board subsequently rescinded.

The Board heard testimony from Ellen Mugman and Sandra French at a public hearing on revisions to Policy 3711, Child Abuse and Neglect. The speakers suggested that procedures for disciplinary action and staff training related to child abuse, which exist in other documents, be included in the policy. The Board is scheduled to take action on the child abuse policy on November 10.

### **Superintendent Reports on Visits with Student Leaders**

In his report to the Board, the Superintendent commented on his meetings with student leaders at Oakland Mills High School and Glenwood Middle School. He congratulated students on their outstanding response to Katrina Relief efforts. He recognized staff for the following accomplishments:

- Robert Motley, Assistant Principal at Centennial High School, named Maryland Assistant Principal of the Year by the Maryland Association of Secondary School Principals.
- Beth Lucas, Lime Kiln Middle School, named Maryland Middle School Counselor of the Year, and Tandra Taylor, Long Reach High School, named Maryland High School Counselor of the Year by the Maryland School Counselors Association.
- Tom Fox, Elkridge Elementary School, who received the Career Elementary Teacher of the Year Award from the Maryland Art Education Association.
- Theresa Fauth, Folly Quarter Middle School, who received the Career Middle School Teacher of the Year Award from the Maryland Art Education Association.
- Peggy Coulson, Hammond High School, who received the Career High School Teacher of the Year Award from the Maryland Art Education Association.
- Greg English, Bellows Spring Elementary School, who received the New Elementary School Teacher of the Year Award from the Maryland Art Education Association.
- Rebecca Sokol, Oakland Mills Middle School, who received the New Middle School Teacher of the Year Award from the Maryland Art Education Association.
- Stacey McKenna, River Hill High School, who received the New High School Teacher of the Year Award from the Maryland Art Education Association.
- Jeff Ucciardo, of Hammond Middle School, who received the New Teacher Excellence Award, along with a Governor's Citation; and Mary Day, Principal of the Applications and Research Lab (ARL), who received the Technology Education Advocacy Award from the Technology Education Association of Maryland.
- Elementary Social Studies/ Language Arts Resource teacher John Krownapple who has been named Elementary Educator of the Year by the Maryland Council for the Social Studies (MDCSS).
- Triadelphia Ridge Elementary School Principal Sue Webster for her selection as this year's Howard County recipient of the Washington Post Distinguished Educational Leadership Award.

### **Board Receives Public Comments**

At Public Forum, Yanita Novas of Conexiones thanked the Board and Superintendent for attending Hispanic events and emphasized the importance of hiring more teachers of Hispanic descent. Student Milina Budimirovic from Burleigh Manor Middle School asked the Board about adding another cashier or cafeteria server in middle schools so students have time to eat during 30-minute lunch periods.

Also at Public Forum, parent Linda Turner spoke about the importance of collaboration between educators and parents. Parent Veronica Carella expressed concern with her daughter's exclusion from school because of a rash. Media Specialist Kathy Ross of Atholton High thanked the Board for supporting equity in media collections.

### **In Other Action...**

The Board honored former Board member Sandra French as the recipient of the 2005 Willis Award from the Maryland Association of Boards of Education.

The Board congratulated Long Reach High School student Tazuko Sugajima, whose art work was selected to adorn the program and tote bag for the Maryland Association of Boards of Education conference.

Ellen Giles, Chairman of the Citizen's Advisory Committee to the Board, reported on recent activities of the committee.