

Summary of the Board of Education Meeting Thursday, January 12, 2006

ACTION ITEMS

- Approved a consent agenda including staff personnel; bids and contracts; operating budget monthly report; school construction monthly reports; mathematics/science partnerships program grant; request for external research; northeastern elementary school drainage easement; capital budget transfer; donations; and board minutes.
- Approved staff promotions (see: Board Approves Administrative Transfer, Promotions, and Appointment)
- Approved a Resolution proclaiming the week of February 6-10, 2006, as Employee Appreciation Week. Approved a Proclamation designating February 2006 as African American History Month.
- Approved a Proclamation designating February 6-10, 2006, as National School Counseling Week.
- Approved the Maryland Association of Boards of Education's positions on legislative issues affecting education.

Board Approves Administrative Transfer, Appointments, and Promotions

The Board approved an administrative transfer, two appointments, and five promotions.

- Kimberlyn Pratesi, Principal of Lisbon Elementary, was named Principal of the western (unnamed) elementary school in Dayton, effective January 19, 2006.
- Carolyn Walker, Interim Title I Coordinator, was appointed Title I Coordinator.
- David Drown, Manager of School Planning, was appointed Director of Transportation, effective January 13.

Promotions include (effective January 19, 2006):

- Kathy Jacobs from Assistant Principal at Jeffers Hill Elementary, to Principal of Waverly Elementary.
- Jayne Diggs from Assistant Principal at Longfellow Elementary, to Principal of Lisbon Elementary
- Sandra Vecera from teacher at Longfellow Elementary, to Acting Assistant Principal at Longfellow Elementary
- Cathleen Lopez from Grade 3 Instructional Team Leader at Atholton Elementary, to Assistant Principal at Jeffers Hill Elementary
- Cameron Rahnama from Acting Assistant Principal to Assistant Principal at Glenelg High.

Outcome of MABE's Education Forum

Roger Plunkett, Business, Community, & Government Relations Office, reported on the outcome of the Maryland Association of Boards of Education's (MABE) *What Counts in Education* forum, which took place in Howard County. MABE facilitates three such forums a year in different counties, to give community members the opportunity to meet with their local Board and school system staff members to explore how the effectiveness and quality of public schools should be measured. Plunkett presented several recommendations for next steps in applying the feedback:

1. Continue to create opportunities to capture the opinions of students in the decisions made by the Board and the Superintendent of Schools.
2. Expand the current Coffee and Conversation sessions into community forums during the 2006-07 school year.
3. Link the focus of the community forums to the Bridge to Excellence Master Plan in order to ensure alignment with Goal 1 and Goal 2.
4. Develop a system-wide parent outreach and involvement program.
5. Continue to expand school/business partnerships, aligned with school system Goal 1 and Goal 2.
6. Continue to pursue diverse community representation on all committees.

Board members stressed the importance of sustaining the enthusiasm of the forum and to make sure that the information is applied. Sandra Erickson, Deputy Superintendent, suggested that many of the recommendations could be plugged into structures that already exist within the school system.

Formation of HCPSS Foundation Moving Forward

Roger Plunkett reported on the progress of the school system's Foundation Steering Committee, which consists mostly of members of the Howard County business community, in planning the formation of an educational foundation. The foundation would be an autonomous entity that would raise funds for items that staff and students need, but are not in the system's budget. The steering committee recommended a structure for the foundation. Plunkett reported that two central themes evolved from discussions with foundation members of other school systems:

- School system foundations are most successful when they are aligned with the school system's goals and when they support student and staff initiatives, and
- The foundation should support the school system in achieving equity of resources.

The Board approved the foundation's vision and mission, and authorized the recruitment of initial applicants for the Board of Directors. The Board postponed the approval of bylaws and Articles of Incorporation until members have a chance to review them.

Work Session Held on Wellness Policy 9521

A work session was held to discuss the components of a new wellness policy, which will fulfill the mandate of the Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004. Those on hand to present and answer questions included Ray Brown, Chief Operating Officer; Mary Klatko, Administrator of Food and Nutrition Services; and Linda Rangos, Coordinator of Physical Education, Health Education, and Dance.

The Board agreed that the nutrition portion of the policy should focus on food served during the school day, not during after-school activities. Board members hesitated to include nutritional restrictions on snacks brought into schools by parents for celebrations, etc., because teachers cannot be expected to police such a restriction. The discussion also

included sugar and fat content, calories, physical activity, vending machines, and snacks brought from home. A revised policy will be brought to the Board on February 23.

In other Action:

Diane Martin, Director of Student, Family, and Community Services, submitted a charter for Policy 11400 Parent/Community Involvement, which is being revised. The revised policy will come before the Board this fall.

Approval of the 2006-07 School Calendar was postponed until January 26.

In Public Forum, Marcelino Bedolla, vice president of Conexiones, expressed his concern regarding the lack of achievement among Spanish students in Howard County, and the need to increase efforts to raise achievement levels for those students. Ms. Veronika Carella spoke on Policy 3711 Child Abuse and Neglect, individual health care plans, the Coalition for Healthier Schools, and Montgomery County's Green Schools Program.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Education is scheduled for 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 26, 2006.