

Summary of the Board of Education Meeting

Thursday, May 25, 2006

ACTION ITEMS

- Approved a proclamation recognizing Jeff Lasser for his service as the 2005-06 student member to the Board of Education.
- Approved the nomination of Patricia Gordon to serve as a member of MABE's Board of Directors.
- Approved a consent agenda including the Trends in International Math and Science Study, bids and contracts, donations, and the appointment of Joel Gallihue as Manager of School Planning.
- Approved revisions to Policy 10200, Student Representation (see: "Policy revised to provide partial voting rights for student board members").
- Approved the fiscal year 2007 Operating and Capital Budgets (see: "Board Gives Final Approval to FY07 Operating Budget").

Board gives final approval to FY07 Operating Budget

The Board approved a fiscal year 2007 Operating Budget totaling \$551,522,080; \$3.4 million less than the Board's original request. The Board also approved an FY07 Capital Budget of \$88,366,203; an FY 2008-12 Capital Improvement Program of \$381,498,000; and an FY 2007-16 Long-Range Master Plan of \$685,464,000. In addition, the Board approved General Fund Revenues, Restricted Funds Expenditures, and tuition rates for next year.

Dr. Cousin also mentioned that next year's operating budget includes \$989,000 to increase salaries on steps 1-5 of the teacher salary scale. This increase will improve the HCPSS ranking in the state for starting salaries and will support teacher recruitment and retention efforts.

Policy revised to provide partial voting rights for student board member

The Board approved revised Policy 10200, Student Representation, which includes a provision to give the student member limited voting rights. According to the policy, the student member will have an official vote, as permitted by state statute, on matters discussed in public session. The Board will submit proposed legislation relative to the student member vote to the Howard County Delegation, and subsequently the 2007 Maryland General Assembly.

Report shows high school parents most likely to use Ombudsman

Robin Shell 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.

Shell indicated 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. Shell thanked staff in the central office and in the schools for their cooperation and receptiveness to resolving concerns.

In other action...

In his report to the Board, Superintendent Sydney Cousin remarked on State Superintendent Nancy Grasmick's visit to Thunder Hill Elementary, his attendance at the Howard County Pandemic Flu Summit, and the Conexiones' Convocation Ceremony honoring Hispanic/Latino 2006 graduates. He also congratulated the 35 Howard County students named as 2006 National Merit Finalists, and recognized 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.

Coordinator of Athletics Mike Williams presented Oakland Mills High School with the 2006 Sportsmanship Cup. Oakland Mills Athletic Director Dick Hendershott accepted the award on behalf of the athletes, coaches and fans.

Music teacher Joe Fischer of River Hill High School received the Music Educator of the Year Award from the Parents for School Music. Recognized as honorees were instrumental music teachers Robert Miller of Hammond Middle and Ben Denne of Ellicott Mills Middle.

Ellen Giles, Chairman of the Citizen's Advisory Committee to the Board, presented the Board with proposed school assignments for board members, which aligns school assignments for seven members with administrative districts and clusters.

Natalie Woodson, representing the NAACP Education Committee, presented trophies and certificates to schools that received an A in one or more category on the NAACP school improvement report card. Schools receiving awards included:

High Schools

Atholton, Glenelg, Hammond, 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, Talbott Springs, Thunder Hill, Triadelphia Ridge, Waterloo, Waverly, West Friendship, Worthington