

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HOWARD COUNTY

November 9, 2006

The Board of Education of Howard County held a regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, November 9, 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
Wossen Ayele, Student Member

Sydney L. Cousin, Superintendent, Secretary/Treasurer
Sandra Erickson, Deputy Superintendent
Raymond Brown, Chief Operating Officer
Patti Caplan, Director, Public Relations
Arlene Conway, Recording Secretary

Chairman Joshua Kaufman called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m., and Mr. Ayele led the group in the *Pledge of Allegiance*.

Members of the Centennial Lane ES Band opened the meeting with their rendition of the *Star Spangled Banner*. Ms. Shama Akhtar, Centennial Lane ES Parent, spoke to the Board on the importance of learning music in school.

Public Forum

Ms. Linda Norris, Centennial HS Media Specialist, updated the Board on databases recently added to high school media centers and thanked the Board for continued support of media services.

Approval of Agenda

The following changes were made to the agenda:

Add: Item VII.F. – Bids and Contracts.
New Item IX.A. – Approval of Glenelg HS Wastewater Management Services.
Defer: Item XIII. – Appointment – PTA Council of Howard County (defer until November 21, 2006).

Action: Mrs. Watson moved approval of the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Ms. Sigaty and approved by the members of the Board (5/0). Mr. Ayele supported the motion.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Cousin expressed appreciation to individuals who handled daily operations in his absence, especially Mrs. Sandra Erickson, Deputy Superintendent; Mrs. Mamie Perkins, Chief of Staff; and Mr. Ray Brown, Chief Operating Officer. He also announced that Mr. Brown will be leaving the school system effective January 1, 2007, to serve on the MSDE (Maryland State Department of Education) Intensive Management Capacity Improvement Team. Dr. Cousin expressed appreciation for Mr. Brown's leadership over the past years and wished him all the best in his new position.

Dr. Cousin commented on a report on the participation and performance of students in AP (Advanced Placement) courses and exams and stated that the school system is proud that more students are taking advantage of these opportunities for enrichment and challenge. The number of African American students taking the AP exam has doubled in the last two years, and the number of Hispanic students taking AP exams has markedly increased as well.

Dr. Cousin recognized the following individuals:

- Linda Martin, Pupil Personnel Worker, selected by the Maryland Association of Pupil Personnel (MAPP) to receive the 2006 Distinguished Service Award.
- Six Howard County Technology Education Teachers received Technology Education Awards of Excellence:
 - Gwedolyn Ashley, Patapsco MS, Outstanding New Teacher.
 - Dr. Robert Hawthorne and Joe Novotny, Long Reach HS, Outstanding High School Program Excellence.
 - Roy Rosnick, Marriotts Ridge HS, Distinguished High School Technology Education Teacher.
 - Dan Wood, Ellicott Mills MS, Distinguished Middle School Technology Education Teacher.
 - Abe Pancerman, Harper's Choice MS, Distinguished Middle School Technology Education Program.
- Mellie Lewis, Atholton ES Teacher, received the Marine Educator of the Year Award from the Mid-Atlantic Marine Education Association.
- Becky Clark, Centennial HS Dance Education Teacher, and Marni Rosenbaum, River Hill HS Physical Education Teacher, received the Simon McNeely Award for outstanding teaching and service by the Maryland Association for Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance.

Student Member's Report

Mr. Ayele reported that the MASC (Maryland Association of Student Councils) is holding a high school leadership conference, and the HCASC (Howard County Association of School Councils) has convened a focus group to ensure that student participation in accordance with policies will be ensured in the future. He also expressed his pleasure about joining Board members on the dias in the newly renovated Board room.

Student Representative Reports

There were no Student Representatives present to address the Board.

Consent Agenda

School Bus Contract Transfers; Financial Reports; Operating Budget Monthly Report; School Construction Report; Staff Personnel; Donations; and Minutes of October 26, 2006 (Regular Meeting) and October 26, 2006 (Closed Official and Confidential).

Action: Mrs. Mikulis moved approval of the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Ms. Sigaty and approved by the members of the Board (5/0). Mr. Ayele supported the motion.

School Bus Contract Transfers – Approved by the Board.

<u>Contract No.</u>	<u>Old Contractor</u>	<u>New Contractor</u>	<u>Total No. of Contracts Pending This Assignment</u>
229	ABC Transportation	Alan Alston	1
385	Faith Flester	Ashwell Transportation., Inc.	3

FY 2006 Operating Budget Monthly Financial Report – Accepted by the Board.

FY 2007 School Construction Financial Report – Accepted by the Board.

Staff Personnel – Approved by the Board.

Resignations:

<u>Name</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Grade or Subject</u>	<u>Reason</u>	<u>Years in Howard County</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Dixon, Nia	Fr. Leave	Elem. Ed.	Leave Expired	3.3	10/31/06
Larson, Amy	OMHS	English	Personal	2 months	11/03/06
Matthews, Ginnette	Fr. Leave	S. Studies	Family Obligations	3.2	10/30/06

Contracts:

<u>Name</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Grade or Subject</u>	<u>Place of Last Teaching Assignment</u>	<u>Grade/Step</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Anthony-Williams, Jocelyn	BBMS	RDG	Dupont Park School	A-07	10/16/06
Arnold, John	WLHS/ HaHS	ESOL	Pittsburgh, PA	C-03	11/1/06
Bray, Jennifer	WOES	ELE	Prince George's Co.	C-13	11/1/06
Coyne, Maria	MHHS	FLA	--	A-01	10/12/06
Dixon, Joe	MHHS	SPE (K-12)	Washington, DC	D-12	10/20/06
Galbreath, Curtis	HHS	MAT	--	B-01	10/30/06
Loirch, Shari	WFES	OT	Private	C-15	11/6/06
Nicol, Kelly	CCES	ELE	--	B-01	10/19/06
Sparr, Christina	HWS	RDG	MSDE	D-15	11/6/06
Van Buskirk, William	CDC	VISION	Frederick County	C-15	11/6/06
Vazquez, Nikol	AES	OT	Anne Arundel Co.	C-06	11/1/06
Voyce, Nicole	RHS	SST	--	A-01	11/1/06
Washington, Tonya	PLES	ELE	New Jersey	B-08	10/23/06
Wilson, Kara	MHHS	SPE	Pittsburg, PA	A-02	11/1/06

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Leaves of Absence:

Name	School	Grade or Subject	Reason	Years in Howard County	Effective Date
Bear, Melissa	HSES	Elem. Ed.	Childbearing	3.2	08/22/06
Cutick, Michelle	SJES	Elem. Ed.	Personal	12.2	10/16/06
Frankovic, Karen	EES	SLP	Childbearing	6.3	11/17/06
Hall, Kerri	FRES	Kindergarten	Childrearing	4.2	10/09/06
Kasuda, Ann-Marie	WVES	Psychologist	Childbearing	7.3	11/10/06
Milam, Shannon	HOHS	English	Childbearing	12.2	10/17/06

Retirements:

Name	School	Grade or Subject	Years in Howard County	Effective Date
Arnold, Linda	HOHS	Business Ed.	28.1	11/01/06
Curtis, Trevor	PVMS	Health Ed.	8.2	11/01/06
Hattan, Dorothy	HMS	Science	13.8	10/01/06

Donations – Approved by the Board.

Hammond ES: PTA - in the amount of \$5,000 - designated for the purchase of digital video cameras and printers.

Atholton HS: Boosters - in the amount of \$3,975 - designated for the purchase of field hockey uniforms (\$2,100), and for the purchase of girls soccer team uniforms (\$1,800).

CB Flooring, LLC - in the amount of \$588 - designated for the purchase of shorts for the girls soccer team.

Centennial HS: Boosters - in the amount of \$11,096 - designated for the purchase of the following: girls JV uniforms, equipment bags, warm ups, JV boys basketball uniforms, a taping table, pep band uniforms and for the class of 2008.

Corporate Office Properties - in the amount of \$3,000 - designated for the purchase of sheet music.

Glenelg HS: Dr. Hassan - in the amount of \$1,000 - designated to help with expenses for building a robot.

Long Reach HS: Mr. Ted Gettinger, 3rd - in the amount of \$1,500 - designated for the purchase of a golf cart for the marching band.

Marriotts Ridge HS: Boosters - in the amount of \$2,400 - designated for the purchase of madrigal costumes.

Mt. Hebron HS:	Boosters - in the amount of \$3,900 - designated for the purchase of a turf vehicle.
Oakland Mills HS:	Ahold Financial Services - in the amount of \$2,470.42 - designated for the purchase of a computer and AV equipment.
Reservoir HS:	Dart Group II Foundation - in the amount of \$4,000 - designated for the Academic Life Skills program.
River Hill HS:	Mr. William Burgy - in the amount of \$1,000 - designated to assist the music program.

Minutes of October 26, 2006 (Regular Meeting); October 26, 2006 (Closed Official and Confidential). – Approved by the Board.

Policy 11400-Parent/Community Involvement

Presenter: Ms. Diane Martin, Director of Student, Family, and Community Services.

Ms. Martin presented highlights of the proposed changes to Policy 11400. The policy is consistent with current federal, state, and county initiatives and includes a stronger mandate for parent, family, and community involvement. Changes are effective January 23, 2007.

Discussion:

It was noted that principals will be responsible for developing appropriate programs for their particular schools, and there will be opportunities to share ideas. In addition, there are common practices regarding problem-solving processes and training and resources which are shared throughout the school system by the Student, Family, and Community Services office.

Action: Ms. Sigaty moved approval of Policy 11400 as proposed. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Watson and approved by the members of the Board (5/0). Mr. Ayele supported the motion.

Policy 3131-Publications/Communications – Committee Charter

Presenter: Ms. Patti Caplan, Director of Public Relations.

Ms. Caplan presented the Committee Charter for the revision of Policy 3131 - Publications/Communications. This policy provides direction on the distribution of materials in schools and on school campuses, and covers school-sponsored student publications such as student newspapers, as well as nonschool-sponsored publications such as underground types of publications. It also covers publications and materials distributed by organizations other than the school system. The committee will also consider the appropriateness of dividing the policy into two separate policies: one for the distribution of community information; the other for distribution of student publications.

The Board will receive a report on April 12, 2007; hold a public hearing on May 10, 2007; and take action on June 13, 2007. The policy will have an effective date of July 1, 2007.

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Discussion:

Board members and staff noted the need to address electronic communications. It was explained that this committee will also interact with the committee revising Policy 1501, which deals with electronic communications, both internally and externally. Ms. Caplan noted that school administrators have also recently been provided with guidelines for the use of the E-School Newsletter. Other comments included the possibility of students working with adults on the development of a policy on student journalism, as well as the need to reference specific laws in the policy.

Glenelg HS Wastewater Management Services

Presenter: Mr. Ken Roey, Executive Director of Facilities Planning and Management.

Mr. Roey provided a brief history of the difficulties and complicated negotiations associated with this project over the last ten years. Staff requested Board approval of the supplemental contract agreement and indicated that this is a fair contract that will enable the school system to build the addition at Glenelg HS and to service it well into the future.

Mr. Roey explained that the school system will build a single shared septic system which will service not only the high school but also a new development of 30 homes being constructed next to the school. The school system will be working cooperatively to build the system and will provide water and sewer services for the homeowners as well.

Action: Mrs. Mikulis moved approval of the Supplemental Contract Agreement; Declaration of Easements, Covenants, and Restrictions; and Maryland Environmental Service Contract for Operation and Maintenance required to proceed with the Glenelg HS renovation project. The motion was seconded by Ms. Gordon and approved by the members of the Board (5/0). Mr. Ayele supported the motion.

Proclamation: In Honor of Veterans

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HOWARD COUNTY, MARYLAND
PROCLAMATION
IN HONOR OF
VETERANS DAY
November 11, 2006

WHEREAS, Veterans Day was established in 1954 by an Act of Congress as a day to honor American veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good; and

WHEREAS, in 1918 the armistice between the Allied nations and Germany was declared on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month to end the hostilities of World War I; and

WHEREAS, between 1938 and 1954, the nation observed November 11 as Armistice Day, a legal holiday dedicated to veterans of the first world war and to the promotion of enduring peace through good will and mutual understanding between nations; and

WHEREAS, Veterans Day serves to remind us of the immeasurable sacrifices made by past generations to preserve the freedoms we cherish; and

WHEREAS, Veterans Day offers an opportunity to instruct current generations about the historical significance of the date and to acknowledge and honor the men and women who have served so valiantly on the seas, in the air and on foreign shores to preserve our heritage of freedom;

THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that the Board of Education of Howard County salutes those men and women who have fought and those who have sacrificed their lives while serving our county; and

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED that the Board of Education intends that this proclamation serve to launch meaningful activities in all Howard County public schools to honor American veterans, both living and deceased.

Joshua Kaufman, Chairman
Board of Education of Howard County

Sydney L. Cousin, Superintendent
Howard County Public School System

Action: Ms. Gordon moved approval of the proclamation. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Watson and approved by the members of the Board (5/0). Mr. Ayele supported the motion.

Mr. Kaufman pointed out that this is the first time in recent years that the school system has developed a proclamation in honor of Veterans Day and noted the timeliness of the event due to the current conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq.

In addition, it was noted that The Maryland General Assembly authorized the state board of education last year to issue high school diplomas to former high school seniors who left school to enlist in the armed forces in time of war. HCPSS is developing a process to reach out to the public and encourage any former Howard County students who may be eligible to receive a high school diploma to engage in this process.

Naming – New Northeastern Elementary School

Presenter: Ms. Marion Miller, Administrative Director for Elementary Schools.

A committee met to examine suggestions for naming the new school from the general public, students, parents, staff from feeder elementary schools, and from committee members. After discussing each suggestion, the committee agreed upon and recommended for approval the name of Veterans ES for the new elementary school to open in August of 2007.

Names chosen by the committee in order of preference:

1. Veterans ES – (30 points)

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2. Veterans Ridge ES (9 points)
3. Veterans Heights ES (6 points)

Motion: Mrs. Watson moved approval of the name Veterans ES for the new elementary school. The motion was seconded by Ms. Gordon.

Discussion:

Ms. Sigaty expressed concern regarding the recommendation because she did not feel it adhered to the school system's policy of naming schools after geographical locations. She noted that the definition of geographic terms includes physical geographic features, water bodies, land forms, or geographic features such as names of communities, towns, cities, or street names.

Staff noted that the committee felt that the VFW Lodge was a historical structure and an organization in the area for over 55 years.

Ms. Gordon indicated that the policy is subject to interpretation and that she interpreted the VFW Post as a landmark. She noted that other schools have been named after landmarks and commented on the need for flexibility. She pointed out that the committee spent a great deal of time interpreting policy and discussing recommendations.

Mrs. Mikulis expressed concern that the report indicated the committee's desire to honor the VFW Post that sold land to HCPSS for the school, and she did not feel that should be the reason for choosing the recommended name. She noted future problems that could occur in the naming of schools by honoring a seller of land. She stated her desire to honor veterans but indicated the need to include a geographic term in the school name.

Board members discussed the possibility of asking the committee to reconvene and recommend another name that would better adhere to current policy, but the majority of the Board expressed support for the committee's work and recommendation. Mrs. Watson pointed out that there was also a great deal of community support for the name of Veterans ES. She validated Ms. Sigaty's concern and indicated her agreement to waive the policy if that would bring the Board to consensus.

Mrs. Mikulis expressed her belief that the Board should make an independent decision in this instance where there is disagreement with the recommendation. Mr. Ayele acknowledged Ms. Sigaty's and Mrs. Mikulis' reservations and felt that it was up to the Board to make the decision at this point and not request additional work by the committee.

Action: The motion to approve the name of Veterans ES was approved by the Board (3/2), with Mrs. Mikulis and Ms. Sigaty voting no. Mr. Ayele opposed the motion.

Proposed School Calendar 2007/2008

Presenter: Ms. Patti Caplan, Director of Public Relations

Ms. Caplan reported that the Calendar Committee is recommending that two additional early dismissal days be added for elementary and middle schools for the 2007/2008 school year.

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Members felt strongly that elementary and middle school teachers needed more time at the end of the second quarter for correcting local assessments, figuring and recording grades, planning, data review, and team meetings. She indicated that administrators also need additional time for school-based professional development.

The committee has proposed that all schools close 3 hours early for three days during high school exam week in January. Currently, only high schools have three early dismissal days.

Mrs. Sandra Erickson suggested that other options exist for providing elementary teachers with additional planning and team meeting time, but they have price tags. Alternatives will be considered during the fiscal year 2008 budget development process.

Discussion:

Board members expressed concerns related to the number of half days in the calendar, including issues regarding teacher workload, instructional time, and parental concerns.

Mrs. Erickson spoke of the need to consider a full range of solutions, which could include providing extra teachers at the elementary level. This would also provide additional planning time for elementary teachers, but budget implications will have to be considered.

Ms. Caplan stated that approval of the calendar could be pushed back if necessary in order to accommodate budgetary decisions made at the end of February.

Mrs. Mikulis brought up the issue of National Take Your Child to Work Day and the need for HCPSS to evaluate the practice in consideration of its effect on instructional time. Ms. Gordon noted that the event was created to encourage girls to pursue careers, and she indicated her belief that the original goal has been accomplished.

Ms. Caplan stated that the school system can look at ways to encourage parents to take their children to work with them at a time that will not interfere with school instruction. Board members asked the Superintendent to study the issue and bring a recommendation back to the Board.

A public hearing on the proposed calendar will be held on December 14, 2006.

BOE Audit Committee Report

Ms. Gordon reported that the audit for Mayfield Woods MS has been completed and the report issued. Audits for Oakland Mills HS and Elkridge ES are nearly complete. Reports for both schools will be issued after comments from both principals have been considered. She thanked Mr. John Connors, Internal Auditor, and Mr. Ray Brown for their help in this process.

The report indicates that additional time and/or resources will be necessary to complete the current audit schedule. Mr. Connors explained that the scope of the audit has been increased to attempt to address risks identified by the external auditor such as payroll, computers, information technology, and inventory control.

Mrs. Mikulis spoke about the state realizing the need to educate their auditors regarding school system operations in order expedite the legislative process for school audits.

Scheduling – Board Meetings and Other Activities

There were no items pending.

BTE Goal II Annual Report: Survey Results, Suspension, and Attendance Data

Presenter: Mrs. Sandra Erickson, Deputy Superintendent.

Mrs. Erickson reported that HCPSS has made significant strides in providing structure and accountability to its effort for reaching Goal II:

Mrs. Linda Wise, Assistant Superintendent for School Administration, reported that strategies for ensuring schools are safe and nurturing environments are making a positive difference. Those strategies include the Summer Institute for School Improvement, the Positive Behavioral Intervention and Support Initiative, campus security measures, cultural proficiency training, anti-bullying programs, and initiatives to reduce suspensions.

In the area of attendance, Ms. Terry Alban, Director of Assessment, reported that all elementary, all middle, and eight high schools met the satisfactory standard. Thirty-three schools met the excellent standard with an attendance rate of 96 percent or higher.

Maintaining a safe and nurturing environment requires that students demonstrate safe behavior and follow the HCPSS Code of Conduct. Students who demonstrate disruptive or unsafe behavior will be suspended from school. The Maryland State Department of Education has established a standard for safe schools, which states that 2 percent or less of a school's student population will demonstrate unsafe behavior. HCPSS elementary schools have a suspension rate of 0.8 percent. The suspension rate for middle schools is 5.7 percent and for high schools is 5.5 percent.

Ms. Alban also presented data from the School Environment Survey conducted in the spring of 2006. The survey measured five key categories: Welcoming Environment, Physical Environment, Discipline, Nurturing Learning Environment, and Diversity and Commonality.

Ms. Marcy Leonard, Atholton HS Principal, introduced school staff and students who participate in the school's Youth Action Corps, which is a mentoring program for African American males. The Action Corps is one initiative contributing to the decline in the school's overall suspension rate from 6.7 percent in 2005 to 3.9 percent in 2005. During the first semester in 2005/2006, Atholton had 48 suspensions, half of which involved African American males. During the first quarter of this year, the school had only seven suspensions, two of which involved African American males. Students spoke to the Board about their positive experiences with the Youth Action Corps.

Discussion:

Board members commented on the importance of this report and pointed out that Goal II is becoming increasingly more important as the student community becomes more diverse.

Congratulations were extended to everyone in the school system who has worked hard over the past year to obtain these results.

Ms. Gordon commented on the reduction in the number of suspensions and asked that some of the strategies be shared with the Board that have been used throughout the county to reduce the suspension rate. She expressed congratulations to the students, mentors, and principal at Atholton HS for their success.

Mrs. Erickson pointed out that Ms. Natalie Woodson and the Council of Elders have worked diligently with the school system to provide two elders to each high school to help with this initiative. High school suspension rates have been reduced from 6.6 percent to 5.5 percent, and people in the community have developed relationships at schools and devoted much time to these efforts.

Recess: The meeting was recessed by the Chairman at 6:01 p.m. and reconvened at 7:30 p.m.

Public Forum

Ms. Linda Turner, parent, presented comments about getting to know children with learning disabilities.

Public Hearing - Policy 1311-Procurement of Materials, Supplies, Equipment, and Services

No testimony.

Public Hearing - Policy 3611 – Confidentiality of Student Records

Ms. Linda Turner, Parent

- Encouraged parents to review their child's records and ensure their confidentiality.

Public Hearing - Proposed Attendance Area Adjustments

Thirty-four persons testified on the proposed attendance area adjustments for the 2007/2008 school year. Testimony centered on five recommendations from the plan. Speakers from the neighborhoods of Brampton Hills and Wheatfield asked that the Board consider sending their children to the new Veterans Elementary School. Parents from the Glenwood MS area opposed moving students out of Glenwood. Some individuals spoke against the recommendation to move a neighborhood to Thunder Hill ES that currently attends Northfield, and others opposed moving students from Waverly ES to St. Johns Lane ES. Bryant Woods ES parents spoke against a plan to move students from Bryant Woods ES to Running Brook ES.

Mr. Jerry Krasnick

- Opposed to redistricting of elementary students who live on Banneker Road from Bryant Woods ES to Running Brook ES.
- Indicated that only four students would be affected by this move, and the bus ride would be increased for those students.
- Asked that the Board reconsider the redistricting plan for Banneker Road and stated that the plan does not make geographical sense.

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Ms. Joanna Mellert, Woodmark Community

- Asked that the Board return children from the Woodmark community to River Hill HS.
- Stated that the effects of last year's redistricting has left the community with a 2.8 percent feed from Folly Quarter MS to Marriotts Ridge HS, which will continue until a new middle school is built in 2013.
- Indicated that it is the Board's responsibility to abide by their own policies and correct the small feed created by the Board.

Scott Harding, Peter Laport, Jean Chaisson, Georgea Lee Moore, Jack Milani, Glenwood MS Parents

- Asked that the Board keep Polygons 212, 213, and 215 at Glenwood MS.
- Emphasized the following points:
 - Glenwood MS enrollment is decreasing.
 - Financial and education costs to leave Folly Quarter MS at its current capacity are negligible.
 - There are no negative septic issues to be concerned with.
 - Growth is limited in the west, and leaving Glenwood MS as is allows for future flexibility and lessens the likelihood of redistricting back to Glenwood in 2009.
 - Policy 1675 directs that redistricting only occur where there is a need.

Dave Catania, Linda Bowers, Wendy Moomaw, Wheatfield Community

- Spoke on behalf of the Wheatfield Community in support of children attending Veterans ES.
- Provided a history of redistricting events affecting Wheatfield and asked that the neighborhood be kept in the northeast quadrant with Montgomery Road.
- Asked that the Board keep the feeder system intact, which ensures that students will attend Ellicott Mills MS.

Robert Callahan, Brampton Hills

- Spoke on behalf of Brampton Hills neighbors to urge the Board to redistrict the neighborhood to Veterans ES.
- Indicated that placing the Montgomery Road communities at the new schools is the best geographical fit.
- Stated that the Board needs to take advantage of open western seats now by moving students westward to allow the east to also accommodate growth.

Steve Walker, Wheatfield Community

- Supported the redistricting of the Wheatfield community to Veterans ES.
- Stated that other proposals assign the community to Veterans ES and provide the added benefit of using available capacity throughout the county and better position the county for future changes in population and demographics.
- Noted the importance of an elementary school serving its surrounding communities.

Debbie Bures-Walker, Wheatfield Community

- Spoke in support of redistricting Wheatfield to Veterans ES.
- Provided data on several elementary schools with open seats and asked that the Board move elementary students west to fill empty seats.

- Asked that the Board adopt the Community Plan ES-A, which would provide room so that all Rt. 103 neighborhoods could attend Veterans ES.

Cathy Smith, Brampton Hills

- Asked that the Brampton Hills neighborhood be moved to Veterans ES with all Montgomery Road neighbors.
- Provided a history of redistricting of Brampton Hills.
- Asked that the Board continue the trend of uniting the Montgomery Road communities by keeping Polygons 98, 74, and 100 together and rejoining Brampton Hills with Stonecrest neighbors at Veteran ES.

Cystale Dunham

- Addressed specific issues and concerns regarding children who currently attend Bryant Woods ES from the College Square community.
- Asked about the effects of moving 66 students from Running Brook ES to Bryant Woods ES.
- Indicated that Board members must ensure that all options have been considered.

Mark Valavanis

- Stated that the consensus reached within the Attendance Area Adjustments (AAA) committee was that Glenwood MS should not be redistricted.
- Commented on improving the planning process by measuring variance and sensitivity.
- Noted the need for a transition plan to provide transportation to Glenelg HS students from the Greenbridge area.

Andrea Kozikowski, Brampton Hills

- Emphasized the importance of the rapport established by teachers when working with the same families from year to year.
- Stated that the Brampton Hills neighborhood (Polygon 98) needs to be placed at Veterans ES so that children will have stability in their relationships with teachers, school staff, and classmates throughout their elementary school years.
- Asked that the Board give Brampton Hills one final move to their community school to provide children with stability and to minimize future impact on families.

Brian Hubbard, Brampton Hills Resident

- Spoke in support of moving the Brampton Hills and Montgomery Road neighbors to Veterans ES.
- Commented on the significant impact that redistricting has had on his family in the past.
- Pointed out that Brampton Hills currently attends an elementary school that is geographically located outside its community.

Sabra Conley, Wheatfield Resident

- Urged the Board to not split the Route 103 community.
- Asked that the Board begin the process of fixing Howard County's geographic issues once and for all.
- Expressed hope that the Route 103 community be sent together to the new school or be kept together in the Waterloo community.

Ray Lischner, AAA Committee Member

- Commented on two alternative plans: Elementary School B and Elementary School D.
- Urged the Board to accept the entirety of the Elementary School D plan and not redistrict Polygons 149 and 302.
- Asked that the Board also consider his final rendition of Elementary School B redistricting plan and provided information on the strengths and weaknesses of the plan.

Cherie Hromek, Wheatfield Resident

- Supported keeping Polygons 74, 98, and 100 together unconditionally.
- Stated that consistency is vital to the educational welfare of children, and a community cannot be redefined every time it is convenient for redistricting.
- Asked that the Board move Polygons 74, 98, and 100 together to Veterans ES.

Jason Tripp, Northfield ES Parent

- Stated that the plan to move 33 students from Northfield ES to Thunder Hill ES is undesirable and unnecessary.
- Expressed concern that a combination of BRAC (base realignment and closure) and new development will send additional students to Thunder Hill ES in the future, which will require additional redistricting.
- Asked that the Board wait five years before moving small groups of students.

Susan Hinton, Waverly ES Parent (Polygon 160)

- Asked that the Board keep Polygon 160 with Polygon 162 at Waverly or redistrict them to St. John's Lane ES.
- Stated that there is no cost advantage to moving Polygon 160 and noted the hardships that will be placed on parents if students attend a school with an earlier start time.
- Expressed concern that moves are being made based on overcrowded situations that do not occur until 2015 at the elementary level and 2012 at the middle school level.
- Expressed support for the movement of Wheatfield and Brampton Hills to Veterans ES.

Roger Medoff, Northfield ES Parent

- Spoke about the potential negative impacts on moving his daughter (as one of 33 students in Polygons 149 and 302) from Northfield ES to Thunder Hill ES.
- Emphasized the importance of considering a student's educational welfare in making redistricting decisions.
- Pointed out safety risks associated with transportation due to this proposal.
- Expressed opposition to redistricting Polygons 149 and 302 to Thunder Hill ES.

John Hannay, Running Brook ES Parent

- Expressed concern regarding the data and assumptions used to formulate a recommendation to move 66 students from Bryant Woods ES to Running Brook ES.
- Indicated that increasing the population at Running Brook ES would put a strain on meeting the needs of the current students, which includes individualized space and small group interventions.
- Insisted that the school system provide adequate resources for Running Brook to meet the needs of current and reassigned students.

Mike Dombrowski, Hollifield Station ES PTA

- Stated that enrollment patterns have slowly changed, and actual enrollment is lower than expected.
- Stated that removing 153 students could cause Hollifield's enrollment to fall below 90 percent and cause negative impacts on program viability.
- Asked that the Board retain existing boundary lines for Hollifield Station ES.

Gary Sutton, Dorsey Hall Resident

- Spoke against the proposal to send 33 students in Polygons 149 and 302 from Northfield ES to Thunder Hill ES.
- Stated that these areas are part of a contiguous neighborhood of Dorsey Hall, and would require an increase in transportation costs.
- Indicated that this proposal would be disruptive to friendships and after-school activities throughout elementary school and will have a negative effect on educational welfare.

David Parry

- Noted the increased transportation time for students in Polygon 215 moving from Glenwood MS to Folly Quarter MS
- Stated that school district lines should be drawn radial from the school, which is a hub of the community.
- Stated that if redistricting is unavoidable then the school system should ask for volunteers to move to a new school district, and students in the current school should be allowed to complete their tenure there.

Mark Corbin, Northfield ES Parent

- Indicated the need to keep communities together.
- Requested that the Board not move the small number of 33 students in Polygons 149 and 302 to Thunder Hill ES.

Peter Hagan

- Spoke against the move of Polygons 149 and 302 from Northfield ES to Thunder Hill ES.
- Spoke about the negative human element of moving small portions of students.
- Noted the importance of keeping neighborhoods together.

Dave Hurley, Hollifield Station ES Parent

- Stated that it would make better sense to place an addition at Hollifield Station ES rather than Waverly ES.
- Asked the Board to consider options of leaving students at St. John's Lane ES, providing an addition and leaving Polygon 161 at Hollifield Station, filling St. John's Lane ES with students from Waverly ES.

Laura Muntz, Waverly ES Parent

- Commented on the emotional needs of fourth- and fifth-grade students and proposed that fifth graders be allowed to stay at their elementary schools.
- Expressed support for the movement of Wheatfield and Brampton Hills to Veterans ES.

- Asked that Polygon 162 remain at Waverly and that some students be allowed to stay at St. John's Lane ES.

Denise Tripp

- Spoke against the proposal to move 33 students from Northfield to Thunder Hill ES.
- Noted that 95 townhomes will be built in the Thunder Hill district over the next three years, and the school may be overcrowded by moving students into the school now.

The Board will hold work sessions on the proposed attendance area adjustments on Tuesday, November 14, and Thursday, November 16, at 7:00 p.m. and is scheduled to take action on the proposal on November 21, 2006.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned by the Chairman at 9:23 p.m.

Information Items

Food and Nutrition Service Financial Report

Class Size Report

Annual Report – Grants

Annual Report – Policy 3711/Child Abuse and Neglect

Report on Participation and Performance in Advanced Placement Courses and Exams for 2006