

# MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HOWARD COUNTY

**January 12, 2007**

The members of the Board of Education of Howard County held a retreat on Friday, January 12, 2007, at 12:00 p.m., in the Severn Room of the Faulkner Ridge Center, 10598 Marble Faun Court, Columbia, MD 21044. The meeting was open to the public. The following were present:

Diane B. Mikulis, Chairman  
Frank J. Aquino, Vice Chairman  
Lawrence H. Cohen  
Sandra H. French  
Ellen Flynn Giles  
Patricia S. Gordon  
Kitty Blumsack, Facilitator, Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE)  
Sydney L. Cousin, Superintendent  
Sandra J. Erickson, Deputy Superintendent  
Raymond H. Brown, Chief Operating Officer  
Mamie J. Perkins, Chief of Staff  
Linda Wise, Assistant Superintendent, School Administration  
Susan A. Shown, Board of Education Office  
Florence Jackson, Board of Education Office

Chairman Mikulis called the meeting to order at approximately 12:30 p.m.

Ms. Blumsack facilitated the discussion among Board members.

Sharing – Items of interest and/or concern related to the education of Howard County students, including among others:

- Evaluation of the effectiveness of Board meetings.
- Board of Education goals.
- Committee work.
- Evaluation of existing programs.
- Language immersion schools.
- Communication.
- Technology.
- Middle schools.
- School calendar.
- Capital investment, sources of capital funding, and facility needs.
- Opportunities for all students.
- “Us vs. Them.”
- Hiring and retaining teachers.
- Engaging parents in their children’s education.

Approved – February 8, 2007

Howard County Board of Education Mission Statement – Revised March 2005

The mission of the Howard County Board of Education is to provide leadership for excellence in teaching and learning by fostering a climate for deliberative change, through policy and community engagement

Board of Education Meeting Evaluation

Discussion concerning the conduct of recent Board meetings, noting:

- Mutual respect shown for each other.
- Physical and technological improvements in the Board Room.
- Meeting logistics (seating arrangements, TV recording, sound).
- Meeting presentations and discussion.
- Protocols for meeting participation.

Board of Education Norms

- Come prepared to participate.
- Make decisions based on the good of the entire system.
- Be sure your part in the discussion adds value to the decision making process.
- Be open and inviting in order to foster participation.
- Keep confidences and expect others will.
- Support decisions made by the Board as a corporate body.
- Respect divergent opinions.
- Articulate reasons for the votes of Board members.
- Students come first.

Recognition of Board members and staff during meetings and work sessions

- At the Board table - Address individuals (Board and staff) by titles, i.e. Dr., Mr. Miss, Ms., Mrs.
- During work sessions seated around a table – The use of first names is acceptable.
- On reports, list names of presenters – On the “front sheet” give presenter information.

Board of Education Goals

Board members reviewed and discussed the Board’s approved goals for 2004-2005, 2005-2006, and 2006-2007.

The following goals were established for the 2007-2008 school year:

- Improve communications and public relations. (Gordon, Giles, Cohen)
- Board self-development/self-assessment. (French, Mikulis)
- Implement committee structure
- Governance (French, Giles, Gordon)

Committees

- Audit Committee (replaces The Finance, Audit and Budget committee).
- Legislative Committee - Formalize legislative process by creating protocols for dealing with legislation and regulation. Protocols will be presented to the Board by the first meeting in February.

- Policy – Ask staff to provide a status of policies for this year. The goal is to begin this committee September 1 after new Board members have been through a policy cycle. Review and revise the committee charter as well as improve the charters for individual policies.
- Facilities and School Planning – Staff suggested that this purpose could be better served with an overall Strategic Planning Committee.
- Curriculum and Strategic Planning – It will be a staff function to make curriculum-related recommendations to the Board.
- Strategic Planning – Create a committee that ties this into Bridge to Excellence – Board members to be part of the Master Plan development.

#### Next Steps

- Review goals.
- Review committee and other work items.
- Set dates for implementation.
- Plan another retreat for June 2007.

#### Retreat Evaluation

Board members evaluated the retreat process and outcomes and made suggestions for future retreats.

#### Adjournment

The retreat concluded at 4:45 p.m.