

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HOWARD COUNTY

January 25, 2007

The Board of Education of Howard County held a regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, January 25, 2007, 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:

Diane Mikulis, Chairman
Frank Aquino, Vice Chairman
Lawrence Cohen
Sandra H. French, arrived 5:30 p.m.
Ellen Flynn Giles
Patricia Gordon
Wossen Ayele, Student Member

Sydney L. Cousin, Superintendent, Secretary/Treasurer
Sandra Erickson, Deputy Superintendent
Patti Caplan, Director, Public Relations
Florence Jackson, Recording Secretary

Chairman Mikulis called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m., and Mr. Ayele led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Forum

Mrs. Natalie Woodson, Chairman, NAACP Education Committee, presented the Board with the 2007 Education Report Card for African American Students. Mrs. Woodson noted that 55 of the 68 schools, assessed in the report card, received a grade of "A" in one or more of the assessed areas. Progress has been made in the areas of elementary attendance, graduation rates, dropout rates, and Grade 4 reading.

Joshua Kaufman, former member of the Board of Education, presented information about "Project Citizen," which teaches political efficacy to middle school students. He added that he would like to see a pilot program initiated next year at the middle school level.

Ms. Lynn Melan parent, expressed her concern with the school system's prohibition of nonstudents shadowing students in school and how this negatively impacts exchange programs sponsored by the Rotary.

Approval of Agenda

Dr. Cousin noted the following change to the agenda:

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Delete: VII. C. Staff Personnel.

Action: Ms. Gordon moved approval of the amended agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cohen and approved by the Board 5-0. The student member supported the motion.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Cousin reported on the following activities he has been involved in:

- On January 16 met with the Special Education Citizens Advisory Committee.
- On January 23 attended the cluster meeting with about 30 teachers from various schools to see what is working and not working.
- On January 24 the Board members and county officials met in Annapolis to appeal to the State Board of Public Works for funding for the school system's capital projects.

Thanks to the efforts of Ms. Donna Heller, Coordinator, Health Services and her staff, all but 35 students have met immunization requirements.

The following teachers have achieved National Board Certification:

- Ms. Carol Carter, Dayton Oaks ES.
- Ms. Mica Kerley, Hammond MS.
- Ms. Sara Hancock, West Friendship ES.

Student Member's Report

Mr. Ayele noted the following recent activities:

- Nominations for student member to the Board of Education are still being accepted.
- A record number of students are registered for the Maryland Association of Student Councils Legislative Session Conference.

Student Representative's Report

Mr. Ziyed Hedfi, student, Long Reach HS, noted the following items in his report:

- Being a school of diversity brings different backgrounds together.
- Events take place for the enjoyment of the students and also to raise money to give back to the community.
- Homecoming and a winter dance were successful events.

Consent Agenda

Bids and Contracts; School Bus Contracts Termination and Transfer; Donations; Minutes of Work Session of November 16, 2006; Regular Meeting and Approval of Boundary Lines of November 21, 2006; Regular Meeting of December 14, 2006; Budget Presentation of January 4, 2007; Board of Education/County Council Meeting of October 11, 2006; Retreat of January 12, 2007; Closed, Confidential and Public of January 11, 2007.

Action: Ms. Gordon moved approval of the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Aquino and approved by the Board 5-0. The student member supported the motion.

Action: Mr. Aquino moved to rescind the January 11, 2007, approval of the minutes of the Work Session of November 16, 2006; and the Regular meeting and Approval of Boundary Lines of November 21, 2006. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cohen and approved by the Board 6-0. The student member supported the motion.

Action: Mrs. Mikulis recessed the Board meeting and convened a meeting of the committee set up by the previous Board. Ms. Gordon moved approval of the minutes of the Work Session of November 16, 2006; the Regular meeting of November 21, 2006; and the October 11, 2006, Board of Education/County Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Mikulis and approved 2-0.

Mrs. Mikulis reconvened the Board meeting.

Bids and Contracts – Approved by the Board.

	Description	Amount
P-1	Architect/Engineer/Consultant Services	
	Architects	
	Fox Architects, P.C.	
	Gannett Fleming	
	Gilbert Architects	
	Schamu Machowski Greco Architects	
	Waldon Studio Architects	
	TOTAL	\$600,000 (est.)
	Mechanical/Electrical Engineers	
	EBL Engineers, LLC	
	Gannett Flemming	
	Gipe Associates, Inc.	
	KCI Technologies	
	TOTAL	\$550,000 (est.)
	Civil Engineers	

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ADTEK Engineers, Inc.	
Brudis Associates, Inc.	
TOTAL	\$125,000 (est.)

Roofing Consultant	
Gale Associates, Inc.	
TOTAL	\$475,000 (est.)

School Bus Contracts Termination and Transfer – Approved by the Board.

School Bus Contract Terminations

It is recommended that the following contracts be terminated: Contract #s 196, 231, 281, 296, 316, 342, 348, 349, 538.

School Bus Contract Transfers

It is recommended that contracts # 160, 162, and 300 be transferred from Ms. Shirley C. Harding to Ms. Susan D. Miles.

Donations – Approved by the Board.

The following schools have received the following donations:

Bushy Park Elementary:	Wayne Livesay, in the amount of \$1124.88, designated to purchase new mats to be used in the gymnasium.
Clarksville Middle:	PTA, in the amount of \$1000, designated to purchase landscaping for the entrance to the building.
Patapsco Middle:	Howard County Youth Program, in the amount of \$8,200, designated to purchase two gymnasium basketball backboards.
Atholton High:	A+ Reunions, LLC/AHS Class of 1986, in the amount of \$1460, designated to purchase stools for the Family and Consumer Science classroom.
Glenelg High:	Cepromar, Inc., in the amount of \$2000, designated for the Students Helping Other People (S.H.O.P.) club. The monies will be used to help families in need.
Howard High:	Gregory Prestel, in the amount of \$6000, designated for the football program.
Marriotts Ridge High:	Boosters, in the amount of \$750, designated for the Artist in Residence Program.

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River Hill High: Ravens Act Foundation, in the amount of \$2000, designated for the football program.

Boosters, in the amount of \$540, designated for the purchase of wrestling head gear.

Proclamation in Honor of Joshua Kaufman

Ms. Gordon read the following proclamation:

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HOWARD COUNTY

**PROCLAMATION
HONORING
JOSHUA KAUFMAN
FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO EDUCATION AND
THE STUDENTS OF HOWARD COUNTY**

WHEREAS, Joshua Kaufman served the citizens of Howard County in an outstanding manner for three years as a member of the Board of Education; and

WHEREAS, during his three years on the Board and one year as Board Chairman, Mr. Kaufman provided leadership that advanced the mission and goals of the Howard County Public School System; and

WHEREAS, under Mr. Kaufman’s leadership the Board enhanced fiscal accountability through the establishment of the Board of Education’s Operating Budget Review Committee and the position of Internal Auditor; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kaufman promoted efforts to ensure community concerns would be addressed in a fair and timely manner, including the establishment of the Ombudsman position; and

WHEREAS, during his time on the Board, Mr. Kaufman effectively advocated for more transparency and stakeholder participation in the procedures and practices of the school system;

THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED that the members of Board of Education of Howard County wish to express appreciation to Joshua Kaufman for his service on the Board and wish him success in all his future endeavors; and

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED that this document be adopted by and entered into the official record of the Board of Education in recognition of Joshua Kaufman’s dedicated service on behalf of public education and the students of the Howard County Public School System.

Diane Mikulis, Chairman

Sydney L. Cousin, Superintendent

Board of Education of Howard County Howard County Public School System

Action: Ms. Gordon moved approval of the proclamation in honor of Joshua Kaufman. The motion was seconded by Mr. Aquino and approved by the Board 5-0. The student member supported the motion.

Proclamation in Honor Mary Kay Sigaty

Mrs. Mikulis read the following proclamation:

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HOWARD COUNTY

**PROCLAMATION
HONORING
MARY KAY SIGATY**

FOR HER CONTRIBUTIONS TO EDUCATION AND
THE STUDENTS OF HOWARD COUNTY

WHEREAS, Mary Kay Sigaty served the citizens of Howard County in an outstanding manner for two years as a member of the Board of Education; and

WHEREAS, during her two years on the Board, Ms. Sigaty provided leadership that advanced the mission and goals of the Howard County Public School System; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Sigaty has demonstrated her commitment to education as a teacher, an artist-in-residence, the President of the Board of Directors of the Wilde Lake Children's Nursery, a member of local school PTAs and School Improvement Teams, a member of the Citizen's Advisory Committee to the Board of Education, and as a member of numerous school system committees; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Sigaty extended her efforts on behalf of education to the state and national levels through her membership on the steering committee of the Arts Education in Maryland Schools Alliance, the Maryland State Department of Education's Fine Arts Education Advisory Panel, and the National School Boards Association's Federal Relations Network; and

WHEREAS, during her time on the Board, Ms. Sigaty served as an able advocate for arts education, increased student involvement, and the effective use of technology;

THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED that the members of Board of Education of Howard County wish to express appreciation to Mary Kay Sigaty for her service on the Board and wish her success as a member of the County Council of Howard County and in all her future endeavors; and

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED that this document be adopted by and entered into the official record of the Board of Education in recognition of Mary Kay Sigaty's

dedicated service on behalf of public education and the students of the Howard County Public School System.

Diane Mikulis, Chairman
Board of Education of Howard County

Sydney L. Cousin, Superintendent
Howard County Public School System

Action: Mrs. Mikulis moved approval of the Proclamation in Honor of Mary Kay Sigaty. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cohen and approved by the Board 5-0. The student member supported the motion.

Proclamation in Honor of Courtney Watson

Mr. Aquino read the following proclamation:

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HOWARD COUNTY
PROCLAMATION
HONORING

COURTNEY WATSON

FOR HER CONTRIBUTIONS TO EDUCATION AND
THE STUDENTS OF HOWARD COUNTY

WHEREAS, Courtney Watson served the citizens of Howard County in an outstanding manner for four years as a member of the Board of Education; and

WHEREAS, during her four years on the Board and two years as Chairman, Mrs. Watson provided leadership that advanced the mission and goals of the Howard County Public School System; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Watson demonstrated her commitment to public education at the state level as a member of the Willis Award Committee and the Legislative Committee of the Maryland Association of Boards of Education; and

WHEREAS, Courtney Watson's contributions to the community extend beyond her Board of Education service and include her involvement on local School Improvement Teams and PTAs, and membership on the County's Spending and Bond Affordability Committee and Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance Committee; and

WHEREAS, under Mrs. Watson's leadership, the Board of Education established the Howard County Educational Foundation, advanced public private sector partnerships, and turned on the lights at high school stadia;

THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED that the members of Board of Education of Howard County wish to express appreciation to Courtney Watson for her service on the Board and wish her success as a member of the County Council of Howard County and in all her future endeavors; and

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED that this document be adopted by and entered into the official record of the Board of Education in recognition of Courtney Watson's dedicated service on behalf of public education and the students of the Howard County Public School System.

Diane Mikulis, Chairman
Board of Education of Howard County

Sydney L. Cousin, Superintendent
Howard County Public School System

Action: Mr. Aquino moved approval of the Proclamation in Honor of Courtney Watson. The motion was seconded by Ms. Gordon and approved by the Board 5-0. The student member supported the motion.

New Initiatives for Howard County Association of Student Councils

Presenter: Mr. Roger Plunkett, Business, Community, Government Relations Officer.

Mr. Plunkett outlined the current and recommended future direction for the Howard County Association of Student Councils. He introduced advisors and student members of HCASC, who provided the Board with information about the structure of the Association of Student Councils at the school, county, state, and national levels.

Ms. Debbie Schub, President, HCASC, stated that the mission of HCASC is to provide a mechanism for the students of the HCPSS to initiate educational reform and promote positive relationships among all schools. A well-functioning organization provides a forum for students to express their opinions, act on directives of students when appropriate, and express the collective opinions of the HCPSS students. Ms. Schub then reviewed the HCASC goals, which are to:

- Develop student leadership capacity in high schools and the Homewood Center.
- Promote the opportunity for all students to be involved in student government.
- Ensure equity and consistency in the implementation of student government across all high schools and the Homewood Center.

Discussion:

- Suggested bringing in at-risk students and middle schools.
- Lobbying day in Annapolis is February 22, 2007.
- Recommendation was offered to bring back former student leaders to be speakers at meetings and conferences for current SGA members.

Legislative Report

Presenter: Mr. Plunkett.

Senate Bill 44 - Vehicle Laws – Use of Wireless Communication Devices While Driving – Prohibitions

Mr. Plunkett explained that this bill prohibits a driver of a Class H (school) vehicle from using wireless communication devices; prohibits a holder of a learner's instructional permit or provisional driver's license, who is 18 years of age or older, from driving a motor vehicle while using wireless communication devices; and prohibits a

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driver of a motor vehicle that is in motion from using the driver's hands to use specified wireless communication devices except under specified circumstances. The measure also states that a person convicted of a violation is subject to penalties.

This bill is in line with HCPSS policy specifically in that bus drivers are required to pull over if they need to use the phone. Staff recommendation is that this bill be amended to have bus drivers not grouped with those who have provisional licenses but with emergency personnel. Also, amend the bill under (2) III to add *school bus drivers*. Mr. Plunkett said staff will work with the Maryland Association of Boards of Education to use appropriate language. This bill outlines the penalties if someone were to violate the policy of the law.

Action: Mr. Aquino moved that the Board accept staff recommendation for Senate Bill 44 with the change to add *school bus drivers* to section B (2) III. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cohen and approved by the Board 6-0. The student member supported the motion.

Howard County Public Schools Educational Foundation Update

Presenters: Ms. Mary Schiller, Manager, Partnerships Office; and Mr. Doug Hostetler, Hostetler Church, LLC.

Ms. Schiller noted that last spring the Board established bylaws for an education foundation that would be separate from the Board and HCPSS and would be governed by its own Board of Directors. Four Foundation Board Directors have been approved and four meetings have been held. Six other Board members have been approved and four committees have been established; namely:

- Executive.
- Finance.
- Nominating.
- Fundraising.

The Foundation is working to get policies and procedures in place and are also looking at fundraising strategies and goals. The Foundation is also looking to expand the Board of Directors to as many as 30.

Discussion:

- The Foundation is formulating the process and procedures for disbursement of funds with equity as an issue that the Foundation is committed to.
- One of the reasons to expand the Board of Directors to 30 is for fundraising capabilities.
- A suggestion was made to look into the escheat funds in order to garner funds when heirs do not claim their inheritance. Staff recommendation was requested on this topic.

Presentation of Schematic Design Brochure for the Mt. Hebron HS Renovation

Presenters: Mr. Ken Roey, Executive Director, Facilities Planning and Management; Mr. James Emir, President, Smolen-Emir & Associate Architects; Mr. John Jenkins, Construction Manager, J. Vinton Schafer & Sons.

Mr. Roey stated that the Mt. Hebron project first appeared in the 2006 FY Capital Budget. Mt. Hebron has had numerous additions over the years. Classroom space and different programs have been added on over the years. In 1999 a 31,000 square foot addition opened up, which included 10,000 square feet of renovated space in other areas of the school. There have also been science labs, classrooms, and the entire auditorium renovated.

The planning committee met earlier this year and focused on a number of areas; namely:

- Fine arts suite.
- Athletic suite.
- Administration.
- Interior corridor.
- Exterior site circulation.

After the design team presented the proposal, staff did an initial review and there were concerns. The first concern was that the mechanical and infrastructure needs of the building were not being comprehensively addressed. Staff has directed the design team to do an analysis of alternatives, looking at a variety of options, then come back with a recommendation.

Mr. Roey said the design team came back with five different options which he then reviewed. The option, which was determined to be the most prudent is 2B at a cost of \$50 million. Mr. Roey explained how the cost is driven by fire code design – based on a new code and the different mechanical systems in the building. Mr. Roey stressed the need to do a facility assessment and added that Mt. Hebron is not unique, and there are other schools of similar age and issues that also need to be addressed.

Discussion:

- Request was made for a comparison of how any concept meets educational specifications. Staff will provide the details.
- Educational specifications were meant for new buildings. Classroom sizes cannot change in a renovation project.
- Howard HS renovation cost approximately \$30 million. The increase is due primarily to construction escalation, fire code compliance, and mechanical upgrades.

- The cost of concept 4 is \$80 million, and the cost of concept 5 is approximately \$81 million.
- Staff will be coming back to the Board on March 22, 2007, (tentatively) with detailed design work associated with option 2B.
- This project qualifies for state funding, and the maximum state contribution expected is \$15 million.

Bridge To Excellence – HCPSS Technology Plan

Presenter: Mr. Robert Glascock, Assistant Superintendent, Curriculum, Instruction and Technology.

Mr. Glascock introduced a report on the school system's Technology Plan. He said that today's education system faces irrelevance, unless we bridge the gap between how students live and how students learn. Members of the technology staff reported on the use of technology for student learning and professional development to help staff use technology effectively and efficiently.

Mr. Tom Miller, Executive Director of Instructional and Business Technology reported that the goal of his department is to align integration of technology operations with instructional and administrative goals and objectives. Technical services, network support, information management, print services, telecommunication, cable and TV services have been restructured and reorganized to maximize staff's ability to provide resources and expertise.

Ms. Elaine Stengel, teacher, Waterloo ES, reported on how she uses technology in her classroom to support instruction and accelerate learning. Ms. Elizabeth DeFrances, Technology Support Teacher, Atholton HS, explained her role to help teachers integrate technology into their lessons and use technology to communicate with students and parents.

Discussion:

- Question was raised if computers are needed for each student.
- MSDE is promoting the laptop and PDA use for secondary students.
- Technology teachers will have time in their schedules to support other classroom teachers in the use of technology.
- Media specialists and assistants will also support teachers.
- Teachers' response is positive.

Recess: The meeting was recessed by the Chairman at 7:00 p.m. and reconvened at 7:45 p.m.

Public Forum

Mrs. Linda Turner, parent, reported to the Board her concern that she had not been able to view her daughter's quarterly assessments.

Appointment – Citizens Advisory Committee

Mrs. Rose Dennison, Chairman, CAC reported on the following activities of the committee:

- Thanked Board members for joining in the committee's January meeting.
- Met with the Backpack Task Force.
- Questioned how staff will monitor and evaluate learning from technology.
- Raised concerns about the physical strain of computer overuse.

Public Hearing – Property Acquisition 2865 Marriottsville Road.Dr. C. Vernon Gray, member, St. John Evangelist Baptist Church (SJEBC)

- Church has been in this community for 35 years.
- Marriottsville Road site is appropriate for HCPSS use.
- Church site at Tamar Drive and Route 175 will be a stabilizing meeting place for the community.

Mr. Clinton Sellers, member SJEBC

- Members would like to remain in Columbia.
- The site on Marriottsville Road can be well used for a future school.
- Stated that this is a win-win situation for both parties.

Mr. Marc Norman, parent

- Concerned about the adequate facilities and questioned the timeline of the process.
- Feels there are issues relating to wetlands, toxic chemicals from Turf Valley, and Marriottsville Rd. access.

Dr. Cousin noted that the Board will take action at the regular meeting on February 8, 2007.

Adjournment: The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 8:15.

Information Items

Implementation Plan for Pandemic Influenza

