

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HOWARD COUNTY

February 8, 2007

The Board of Education of Howard County held a regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, February 8, 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 French
Ellen Flynn Giles
Patricia Gordon
Wossen Ayele, Student Member

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

Chairman Mikulis called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m., and Ms. Kristin Lawson, Oakland Mills HS, led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Forum

Ms. Madeleine Greene, Chairperson of the Howard County Nutrition and Physical Activity Coalition, asked the Board to continue to make good things happen around wellness. She asked for review of the amount of time students have to eat their meals and the amount of time for activity. She noted that childhood obesity has increased, and commended Swansfield ES for setting the pattern of success with a walking program.

Approval of Agenda

Dr. Cousin noted the following changes to the agenda:

Add: X. E. Scheduling
Add: VI. A. Board Member's Report

Action: Mrs. Giles moved approval of the amended agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Aquino and approved by the Board 6-0. The student member supported the motion.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Cousin gave the following report on his recent activities:

- Attended luncheon for principals and their PTA presidents to enhance communication with parents and the community.
- Delegations from China, Liberia, and Korea were welcomed in their visit to the school system.
- Has been meeting with teachers throughout the county. Three basic questions were asked:
 - What is working well in schools?
 - How might we improve?
 - What can move us from good to great?
- Congratulated the following teachers:
 - Ms. Jennifer Clements, Assistant Principal, Mt. Hebron HS, has been named Maryland State Assistant Principal of the Year by the National Association of Secondary School Principals.
 - Mr. John McDonald, teacher, Marriotts Ridge HS, has been named Howard County Outstanding Technology-Using Educator.
 - Ms. Debra Shannon, teacher, River Hill HS, received the Armed Forces Communication and Electronics Association International Education Foundation Teaching Tools Award.

Student Member's Report

Mr. Ayele reported on the following activities:

- Attended the Maryland Association of Student Councils legislative session.
- Mr. Plunkett was involved as well as other teachers.

Student Representative's Report

Ms. Kristin Lawson, Oakland Mills HS, updated the Board on the following areas of involvement:

- Students are building school spirit.
- Highlighting clubs, teams, and activities.
- Student Government Association revised their constitution.
- Had a successful Toys for Tots collection drive.
- ROTC placed 2nd out of 13 in a recent drill competition.

Board Member Report

Mr. Cohen reported that he attended the 3-day National School Board Association Federal Relations Network Conference. The topic was the reauthorization of No Child

Left Behind. He met with a number of congressional delegations who are supportive of making substantial changes to NCLB. Funding is an issue and now is the time to lobby politicians. Mrs. Mikulis added that the Board approved a position on reauthorization of NCLB.

Appointment – PTA Council of Howard County Monthly Report

There was no one present to address the Board.

Consent Agenda

Staff Personnel, Bids and Contracts, Operating Budget Monthly Report, School Construction Monthly Reports, Donations, Minutes of Regular Meeting of January 11, 2007; Retreat of January 12, 2007; Closed both confidential and public of January 19, 2007; and January 25, 2007.

Action: Mrs. Giles moved approval of the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Mrs. French and approved by the Board 6-0. The student member supported the motion.

Staff Personnel – Approved by the Board.

Resignations

Name	School	Grade or Subject	Reason	Years in Howard County	Effective Date
Frangie, Kristen	MVMS	GT	Relocation	7.6	02/23/07
Guth, Heidi	HSES	Elem. Ed.	Relocation	1.5	01/26/07
Jackson, Harvey	ReHS	Spec. Ed.	Ret. To School	3.0	06/14/07
Quintin, Denetta	LWES	Spec. Ed.	Family Obligations	.5	01/31/07
Stone, Jaime	WLMS	Math	Family Obligations	.5	01/22/07

Contracts

Name	Grade or Effective School	Subject	Place of Last Teaching Assignment	Grade/Step	Effective Date
Davis, Elizabeth	HSES	ELE	--	A-01	01/29/07
Hoover, Sophie	WLMS	MTH	Montgomery County	C-15	01/24/07
Huett, Heidi	SJLES	ELE	--	A-01	01/09/07
Merle, Christina	LWES	ELE	--	A-01	08/22/06
Mele, Nicole	TRES	ELE	--	A-01	01/10/07
Sines, Scott	SFES	ELE	--	A-01	01/16/07
Wojcik, Heather	HaHS	ENG	--	A-01	01/16/07
Waters, Constance	PMS	FCS	Wausau, WI	C-15	01/19/07

Leaves of Absence

Grade or	Years in Howard	Effective
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Approved – March 22, 2007

<u>Name</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Date</u>
Anderson, Asali	CMS	Soc. Studies	2.5	01/19/07
Huguenin, Lisa	LOES	Rdg. Specialist	4.5	01/22/07
Irish, Bradley	WLHS	Bus. Ed.	4.5	01/31/07
Smith, Geri-Marie	TRES	Elem. Ed.	2.4	01/05/07*

*(Effective date corrected from 1/11/07 Board Report)

Retirements

<u>Name</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Grade or Subject</u>	<u>Years in Howard County</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Tucker, Thomas	GMS	Ind. Arts	25.2	02/01/07

Bids and Contracts – Approved by the Board.

	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
P-1	Print Shop Paper Xpedx	\$87,987.42
P-2	Art Equipment	\$108,506.45

Operating Budget Monthly Report – Accepted by the Board.

School Construction Monthly Reports – Accepted by the Board.

Donations – Approved by the Board.

The Howard County Public School System has received a donation of an EMAC G4 computer valued at approximately \$600 from Mary Kay Sigaty.

The following schools have received the following donations:

Marriotts Ridge High: Washington Post Company Educational Foundation, in the amount of a \$500 grant that was awarded to Ms. Patricia Spruill, a teacher, for her “The Roots of Rhythm” project.

Reservoir High: PTSA, in the amount of \$4585.96, designated for the purchase of agenda books, costumes, (4) scanners and an academic support speaker.

Music Boosters, in the amount of \$34,245.66, designated for the music program.

Boosters, in the amount of \$15,135, designated for various athletic teams and clubs.

River Hill High: Boosters, in the amount of \$1000, designated for the purchase of POM uniforms.

Minutes

Mrs. Giles moved approval of the minutes of the regular Board meeting of January 11, 2007; the Board retreat of January 12, 2007; the Closed meeting both confidential and public of January 19, 2007, and January 25, 2007. The motion was seconded by Mrs. French and approved by the Board 6-0.

Proclamation: National Women's History Month

Mrs. Mikulis read the following proclamation:

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HOWARD COUNTY
PROCLAMATION
DESIGNATING
MARCH 2007 AS
WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

WHEREAS, women's history in America has been the story of the struggle of women of all racial, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds to be included in the Preamble to the Constitution, "We, the people"; and

WHEREAS, women of every race, class, and ethnic background served as early leaders in the forefront of every major progressive social change movement and have continued to work tirelessly to create a more fair and just society for all; and

WHEREAS, women now serve at the highest levels of government as Secretary of State, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and in increasing numbers in the Cabinet and the United States Congress; and

WHEREAS, we recognize the role of women, who play a critical economic, cultural, and social role in every sphere of life of the Nation by constituting a significant portion of the labor force, working both inside and outside of the home; transforming culture, history and politics as leaders, writers, scientists, educators, politicians, artists, historians, and social reformers; and

WHEREAS, the Howard County Commission for Women, established in 1980 to promote the economic, social and political equality of women, organized the Women's Hall of Fame in 1996 to recognize the accomplishments of Howard County women who have made significant and lasting contributions to the county, the state, and the nation; and

WHEREAS, the school system partners with the Commission for Women to promote an essay contest for all secondary Howard County students in celebration of Women's History Month each March; and

WHEREAS, *the theme for Women's History Month in 2007, "Generations of Women Moving History Forward," recognizes the wisdom and tenacity of the generations of women who have come before us and those who will follow;*

THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED that the Board of Education declares March 2007 as Women's History Month in The Howard County Public School System; and

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED that the Board of Education encourages the community to join in celebration by expanding their knowledge of women who shaped history and their appreciation for the many contributions that women make to our community.

Diane Mikulis, Chairman
Board of Education of Howard County

Sydney L. Cousin, Superintendent
Howard County Public School System

Action: Ms. Gordon moved approval of the Proclamation: National Women's History Month. The motion was seconded by Mr. Aquino and approved by the Board 6-0. The student member supported the motion.

Legislative Report – Maryland General Assembly

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

Mr. Plunkett said the student voting rights bill will be heard by the House Ways and Means Committee on February 21, 2007. He thanked Mrs. French, Mrs. Giles, and Ms. Gordon for joining him in Annapolis for the legislative committee meeting.

House Bill 88 Education – Nonpublic Schools – Notification of School Administration of Enrollee with Criminal Record

Mr. Plunkett explained that this bill deals with the transmission of student records. HCPSS can receive a confidential notification from the principal of any criminal record of a student enrolled in a nonpublic school. Mrs. Giles noted that reciprocity would work as well if a HCPSS student were to enroll in a nonpublic school.

Action: Mrs. Giles moved to support the recommendation for House Bill 88 Education – Nonpublic Schools – Notification of School Administration of Enrollee with Criminal Record. The motion was seconded by Ms. Gordon and approved by the Board 6-0. The student member supported the motion.

Senate Bill 132 Education – Guidelines Governing Student Discipline

Mr. Plunkett stated that this bill has sponsorship of several members of the Howard County delegation. MABE's position is that each local education agency must determine their own guidelines governing student discipline.

Mr. Aquino said that this is another state imposition of their policy on local boards. Mr. Cohen added that HCPSS has a code of conduct and the state mandate is not necessary.

Action: Mrs. French moved to support staff recommendation to oppose Senate Bill 132 Education – Guidelines Governing Student Discipline. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cohen and approved by the Board 6-0. The student member supported the motion.

School Site Acquisition – Route 40/Marriottsville Road

Presenter: Mr. Joel Gallihue, Manager, School Planning.

Mr. Gallihue explained that St. John Evangelist Baptist Church (SJEBC) owns a 41-acre property located at 2865 Marriottsville Road. Acquisition of this site would improve the school system's inventory with enough land for either an elementary school or a middle school. The site is situated in the area where the need for a middle school is identified in the long-range capital plan.

Discussion:

- Acquisition of the property will be subject to several contingencies.
- This is a situation where both property owners benefit.
- This is a good site for a land bank for either an elementary or middle school or the land may be used for something other than a school.

Action: Ms. Gordon moved approval of School Site Acquisition – Route 40/Marriottsville Road. The motion was seconded by Mr. Aquino and approved by the Board 6-0. The student member supported the motion.

Approval of Instructional Calendar for 2007-2008

Presenter: Mrs. Patti Caplan.

Mrs. Caplan noted that the Board received a report in November 2006 for the 2007-2008 school calendar. The calendar that is being considered is the same as what was recommended with the exception that the systemwide professional development day originally scheduled for the first Monday in March has been moved to the fourth Thursday in April.

Discussion:

- Concern was raised about the number of half days students will miss as it is detrimental to the learning process.
- Teachers' concerns are understood, but it should not come in place of instruction.
- Would like to explore a full day for the teachers for professional development.
- Staff has looked at the calendar in many different ways. The half days are centered around professional development.
- Parents need to know in advance of days off for planning purposes.
- Getting from good to great, needs the full 180 days of teaching.
- Half days need to be as productive as possible.
- The necessity of midterms needs to be considered now that assessments are in place.
 - Staff would need to be consulted on midterms as this would be a policy change.
- Request was made to consider adding a day or two to the calendar.
- Another alternative is to reduce class size on the elementary school level and thereby reduce stress on teachers.
- Teacher workload will be addressed through the FY 2008 operating budget.

Action: Mr. Cohen moved approval of staff recommendation of the 2007-2008 calendar. There was no second, and the motion failed.

Action: Ms. Gordon moved that January 15, 2008, and January 16, 2008, half days be eliminated for elementary school and middle school and accept the rest of the 2007-2008 calendar. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Mikulis and approved 4-1-1. Mr. Cohen voted against and Mrs. French abstained. The student member supported the motion.

Policy 3445 - Violence and School Safety

Presenter: Dr. Craig Cummings, Coordinator, Alternative Education Programs.

Dr. Cummings presented recommended changes to Policy 3445, Violence and School Safety. He noted that the revisions refocus the policy, emphasizing safe school environments rather than violence. The policy has been updated to add language regarding bullying and cyber-bullying, and replaces the terms "assault" and "battery" with "physical attack" and "threat." The Board will hold a public hearing on the proposed policy changes on March 8, 2007, and take action on April 12, 2007, with an effective date of July 1, 2007.

Discussion:

- Hazing could occur in nonschool-sponsored clubs that meet in schools.
 - Provisions of this policy would be applied.
- Cyber bullying – are parents going to expect school system to police what students are doing in the evening.

Approved – March 22, 2007

- Parent of a victim will notify the school system and will provide printouts as verification of the allegation.
- Verbal bullying outside of school - code of conduct consequence for bullying is broad.
 - More specific language is needed to state violation to cyber bullying.
 - Specific wording is needed that gives the school system the right to take action.
 - Staff will bring back with a better definition.
- Gang activity is not addressed. Staff wants this policy to reflect positive behavior supports. Assault and battery is in another policy.
 - School system is actively involved in recognizing and preventing gang activities.
- Staff will take suggestions under advisement and will go back to the committee.

Policy 1211 – Citizens Advisory Committee to the Board of Education and School System and Policy 1221 – Citizens Advisory Committee to the Board of Education

Presenters: Mrs. Ellen Miller, Specialist, Policy and Charter Schools; and Mrs. Patti Caplan.

Policy 1211 now includes details related to forming advisory committees, revised guidelines for appointing committees and selecting membership, and identifies school improvement teams as advisory committees subject to the policy.

Discussion:

Proposed Amendment – adds that for nonprogram advisory committees, include recommendations of the committee when they differ from the final report and should characterize the diversity of opinion around key issues.

Staff accepts this as a friendly amendment.

Action: Mrs. Giles moved acceptance of Policy 1211 as submitted by the superintendent. The motion was seconded by Mr. Aquino and approved by the Board 6-0. The student member supported the motion.

Policy 1221 – Citizens Advisory Committee to the Board of Education

Policy 1221 was expanded to include all advisory committees to the Board and changes the name of the Citizen's Advisory Committee to the Community Advisory Council. The policy also requires committees to the Board to comply with the Open Meetings Act.

Discussion:

Language regarding membership in the CAC was modified.

Action: Mr. Cohen moved approval of Policy 1221 as amended. The motion was seconded by Mrs. French and approved by the Board 6-0. The student member supported the motion.

Policy 11200 - Public Hearings

Presenters: Mrs. Ellen Miller and Mrs. Patti Caplan.

Policy 11200 was revised to cover public participation in meetings of the Board. The policy makes it clear that the general public is invited to attend and observe open sessions of the Board, while setting parameters for participation.

Discussion:

Modifications were made to language regarding the timing of the public hearings, the chairman's role in presiding at the meetings, and the superintendent ensuring that there will be an efficient and fair public participation at all public hearings and meetings.

It was noted that, in the registration process, sign up is by a phone call to the executive assistant. Registration by e-mail or fax is not accepted but may be considered in the future. At the present time, this has not been a problem.

Action: Mr. Aquino moved approval of Policy 11200 – Public Hearings with modifications in the language. The motion was seconded by Ms. Gordon and approved by the Board 6-0. The student member supported the motion.

Proposal for Policy Renumbering

Presenter: Mrs. Ellen Miller.

Mrs. Miller explained that the current categorization system was developed in 1989. Of the fourteen categories adopted at that time, five currently have no policies and two have only one each. HCPSS categories do not align well with those currently used by surrounding systems. A new categorization system could allow for greater ease of navigation on our website.

Mrs. Miller presented a proposal to the Board that calls for the renumbering and reorganization of all Board policies. The proposed change will provide better alignment with the policy categories used by surrounding counties and will allow for greater ease of navigation on the website.

Discussion:

- Realign policies in different order.
- Definition of what the category is intended to embrace is needed.
- Board members will bring questions to staff next week.

Scheduling: The Board discussed items to be scheduled.

Adjournment: The chairman adjourned the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

Information Items

Food and Nutrition Services Financial Report