

Minutes of the Board of Education

March 22, 2007

The Board of Education of Howard County held a regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, March 22, 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
Ellen Flynn Giles
Patricia Gordon
Janet Siddiqui, M.D.
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 4:10 and several student representatives led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Forum

Mr. Thurston Clay, student, Mt. Hebron HS, spoke about the benefits of the Reading Acceleration Program (RAP). Comprehension and decoding of words provides more efficiency in reading. He also spoke about the confidence he has gained through this program.

Approval of Agenda

Dr. Cousin noted the following changes to the agenda:

Change: X. D. Proclamation: 80th Anniversary of the PTA Council of Howard County -
move to evening session

Add: X. L. Scheduling

Action: Dr. Siddiqui moved approval of the amended agenda. The motion was seconded by Mrs. French and approved by the Board 7-0. The student member voted yes.

Superintendent Report

Dr. Cousin noted the following items in his report:

- Attended luncheon today with high school student government representatives and teachers. Each school recognizes one teacher who the senior class has selected as the most outstanding. This year's teachers who received recognition are:
 - Atholton – Nena Davis
 - Centennial – John Costantini
 - Glenelg – Lawrence Glaser
 - Hammond – Ben Grabenstein
 - Howard – James Burrows
 - Long Reach – Heather Johnston
 - Marriotts Ridge – Robin Grey
 - Mt. Hebron – Franco Aiello
 - Oakland Mills – Jessica Palumbo
 - Reservoir – Kelley Thomas
 - River Hill – Roger Demaree
 - Wilde Lake – Betsy Getchko
 - Homewood – Clarice Custer
- Congratulated Mrs. Teri Salmons, Rockburn ES, for being chosen The 2007 Washington Post Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher of the Year.
- Celebrated River Hill High School and Burleigh Manor Middle School's selection as Maryland Blue Ribbon Schools.
- Recognized the following teachers:
 - Richard Baker, named Maryland School Social Worker of the Year.
 - Doug Duvall, Wilde Lake HS, recently inducted into the State Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame.
 - Rick Lloyd, River Hill HS, recently honored with the State Football Coaches Association's 2006 John W. Voight Award.
- Congratulated recent State Championship teams, - River Hill HS Boys Basketball and Atholton HS Girls Basketball.

Student Member's Report

Mr. Ayele noted the following items in his report:

- 55 student leaders will be attending next week's Maryland Association of Student Councils Conference in Hagerstown.
- Of the 24 school systems, Howard County has the largest student representation.
- The Countywide Youth Summit will be held on April 27 at Marriotts Ridge HS, and Board members are invited to attend.

Student Representative Report

Students from Cradlerock School spoke about how they were motivated before Maryland Student Assessment (MSA) testing. A video was shown which featured Mr. Kevin Frazier, former Howard County student, and currently a correspondent for Entertainment Tonight, who, along with other celebrities, added enthusiastic comments to motivate students taking the MSA's.

Board Members' Report

Mrs. Mikulis introduced Ms. Tricia Gadbury, Board member from Carroll County, who is here for a Leadership Development Program.

Mrs. Mikulis spoke about her participation in the junior interviews in the high schools. She noted how she was very impressed with what students had to say including their strengths, weaknesses, career goals, and how well they conducted themselves in an interview.

Consent Agenda

Grant-Bridges Over Cradlerock School/MSDE 21st Century Community Learning Centers; Donations; Minutes of Regular Meeting of February 8, 2007; Work Session of February 13, 2007.

Action: Mrs. French moved approval of the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Ms. Gordon and approved by the Board 7-0. The student member voted yes.

Grant-Bridges Over Cradlerock School/MSDE 21st Century Community Learning Centers – Approved by the Board.

Donations – Approved by the Board.

Clarksville Middle: PTA, in the amount of \$10,000, designated for the following: Blue Ribbon Celebration, posters for the gymnasium, mats for PE, after school program supplies that includes books and chess boards for the Chess Club.

Lime Kiln Middle: Chesapeake Bay Trust, in the amount of \$1545, designated for Bay grass plantings.

Lowes, in the amount of \$3800, designated for environmental educational projects.

Target, in the amount of \$1000, designated for students to participate in environmental field trips.

- Mayfield Woods: PTA, in the amount of \$1700, (\$880) designated to assist teachers with websites that provide parental access to class work and homework information and (\$820) designated for a cultural arts program, The Wild Zappers, an American Sign Language dance group.
- Atholton High: Boosters, in the amount of \$2242.90, designated for the purchase of spotlights for drama productions.
- Mt. Hebron High: Michael D. Weinstein, DDS, in the amount of \$1000, designated for the purchase of band equipment.
- Reservoir High: Ellicott City Lions Club, in the amount of \$1000, designated for the outdoor track and field team.
- Touchdown Club, in the amount of \$33,872.62, designated for the following: football equipment, football uniforms, camp transportation, football camp, banners, the annual scholar athlete award and football banquet.
- Boosters, in the amount of \$14, 837.40, designated for the purchase of gym mats and uniforms for the following athletic teams: girls and boys soccer, volleyball, field hockey and wrestling.

Minutes - Regular Meeting of February 8, 2007; and Work Session of February 13, 2007.
– Approved by the Board.

Administrative Transfer

Mrs. Erickson read the following administrative transfer:

<u>Name</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
Mary Nimmich	Assistant Principal St. John's Lane ES	Assistant Principal Veterans ES

Administrative Promotions/Appointments

Mrs. Erickson read the following administrator promotion/appointment for Board approval.

<u>Name</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
Kelley Hough	Teacher/Team Leader Talbot Springs ES	Assistant Principal Veterans ES

Action: Ms. Gordon moved approval of the administrator promotion/appointment of Ms. Hough. The motion was seconded by Mrs. French and approved by the Board 7-0. The student member voted yes.

Proclamation – Youth Art Month

Mrs. French read the following proclamation:

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HOWARD COUNTY
PROCLAMATION
DESIGNATING MARCH 2007
AS
YOUTH ART MONTH

WHEREAS Youth Art Month has been observed nationwide since 1961 and has gained acceptance; and

WHEREAS youth is our most priceless asset; and

WHEREAS childhood is the time to develop interests, skills, and aptitudes that will last a lifetime; and

WHEREAS the importance of art in education is recognized as being necessary for the full development of all children;

NOW THEREFORE IT IS PROCLAIMED that each March be observed as Youth Art Month. All citizens are urged to become interested in and give full support to quality school art programs for children and youth.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that we proclaim March 2007 at Youth Art Month.

Diane B. Mikulis, Chairman
Board of Education of Howard County

Sydney L. Cousin, Superintendent
Howard County Public School System

Action: Mrs. French moved approval of the Proclamation for Youth Art Month. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cohen and approved by the Board 7-0. The student member voted yes.

Mr. Mark Coates, presented the Board with artwork done by Mr. Anthony Pecoraro, student, Wilde Lake HS.

Proclamation – School Library Media Month

Dr. Siddiqui read the following proclamation:

PROCLAMATION
SCHOOL LIBRARY MEDIA MONTH
APRIL 2007

WHEREAS, April 2007 has been proclaimed School Library Media Month in Maryland:
and

WHEREAS, the library media program is to ensure that students and staff are effective users of ideas and information; and

WHEREAS, the library media specialist's role is to provide the leadership and expertise necessary to ensure that the library media program is an integral part of the instructional program of the school; and

WHEREAS, library media specialists in each school teach the skills of locating and using information through traditional resources and new technologies, provide literature appreciation activities, and guide and encourage content and recreational reading for every student; and

WHEREAS, lifelong learning begins and is systematically developed through the library media curriculum of the elementary and secondary schools; and

WHEREAS, the library media program contributes to the individual growth and development of all students, while fostering both excellence and equity in education; and

WHEREAS, library media centers provide materials to meet individual needs, varied interests, abilities, socioeconomic backgrounds and maturity levels of the students served;
and

WHEREAS, the library media specialists of Howard County have dedicated themselves to work for quality library media programs for all students; and therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of Howard County does hereby proclaim April as School Library Media Month in all of the public schools of Howard County and calls upon school administrators, teachers, students and citizens of Howard County to recognize and support this action and to participate throughout the month of April in the celebration of School Library Media Month.

Diane Mikulis
Chairman, Board of Education

Sydney L. Cousin
Superintendent of Schools

Action: Dr. Siddiqui moved approval of the Proclamation of April 2007 as School Library Media Month. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Giles and approved by the Board 7-0. The student member voted yes.

Proclamation Honoring the Educational Partners & Volunteers

Ms. Gordon read the following proclamation:

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HOWARD COUNTY
PROCLAMATION
Honoring the Contributions
Of
EDUCATIONAL PARTNERS AND VOLUNTEERS

WHEREAS, it is the mission of the Howard County Public School System to ensure excellence in teaching and learning so that each student will participate responsibly in a diverse and changing world; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education recognizes that partners in education and volunteers are vital components of a relevant educational experience and provide valuable assistance to professional educators in fulfillment of the mission of the school system; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education wishes to express sincere appreciation to all volunteers for their individual efforts in making this school system among the best in the nation; and

WHEREAS, the Board also wishes to thank the corps of volunteers who serve the Howard County Public School System for their active interest in the children of Howard County, their contributions of time and talent, and their unyielding dedication to the goals of public education; and

WHEREAS, partnerships with local businesses and organizations are a vital link between the community and its public schools;

THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED that the Board of Education designates the week of April 15 to 21, 2007 as Partnerships in Education and Volunteers Week in the Howard County Public School System; and

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED that it is the expressed wish of the Board of Education that this proclamation serve to launch meaningful volunteer recognition in all schools and that copies of this proclamation, along with Volunteer Recognition Certificates, be distributed to all schools to be used to express sincere appreciation to volunteers for their outstanding efforts and contributions.

Diane Mikulis, Chairman
Howard County Board of Education

Sydney L. Cousin, Superintendent
Howard County Public School System

Action: Ms. Gordon moved approval of the Educational Partners & Volunteers Proclamation. The motion was seconded by Mrs. French and approved by the Board 7-0. The student member voted yes.

Legislative Report

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

SB 242 – Education – Multiple Student Suspensions - Services and Actions Required

Mr. Plunkett explained that the concern with this bill is that it requires a referral to the principal within five days of the tenth day of suspension. It also requires a pupil services team meeting 10 days after the receipt of the referral. Staff workload and time would be affected since it would add another committee/team meeting to each school's schedule. It is recommended to oppose this bill.

SB 985 – Harford County – Board of Education – Appeal of Decisions of the County Board

This bill provides that a decision of the Harford County Board of Education may be appealed to the Harford County Council under specific circumstances. The appropriate review of decisions by the local boards of education rests with the Maryland State Department of Education. It is recommended to oppose this bill.

HB 155 – Education-Pre-kindergarten Programs-Alternative Providers

This bill requires county boards of education to put in their master plans the current capacity to provide pre-kindergarten programs. The bill further requires a county board to include a description of the county board's process to contract with specified alternative early learning and child care providers to provide additional capacity under specified circumstances. It is recommended to oppose this bill.

HB 639

This bill would require that a student who is subject to multiple suspensions totaling more than 10 school days in a school year be referred to the pupil services team in the student's school. In addition, a principal is required to notify the local superintendent of schools in writing if a student who has been suspended more than 10 days is subsequently suspended again.

Action: Mr. Aquino moved approval of staff recommendation to oppose SB 242, SB 985, HB 155, and HB 639. The motion was seconded by Ms. Gordon and approved by the Board 7-0. The student member voted yes.

HB 513 – Howard County – Board of Education – Qualifications and Election of Student Member

Mrs. French requested that this Board take an official position on this bill.

Action: Mrs. French moved confirmation of continued support of HB 513. The motion was seconded by Ms. Gordon and approved by the Board 7-0. The student member voted yes.

High School Assessments

Mr. Plunkett noted the following recommendations:

- Support the development of an independent task force to study the HSA's.
- Support a delay in linking passing of HSA's and high school graduations for all students.
- Concern was voiced over equity for students in partially delaying passing of HSA's.

Discussion:

- Equity issue is well documented if there is a partial delay.

Action: Mr. Cohen moved support to delay a linking of the HSA's to graduation for all students until all concerns raised by stakeholders have been adequately addressed as supported by Dr. Cousin and staff. The motion was seconded by Ms. Gordon and approved by the Board 7-0. The student member voted yes.

All-Day Kindergarten Phase V Additions Design Documents

Presenters: Mr. Ken Roey, Executive Director, Facilities Planning and Management; and Mr. Michael Lahowin, Principal, TCA Architects.

Mr. Roey stated that to be in compliance with the Maryland General Assembly's mandate for the full-day kindergarten requires HCPSS to double its existing kindergarten program capacity. This report is to review Phase V of the long-term implementation process for providing full-day kindergarten at all elementary schools.

The recommendation of staff is as follows:

- Stevens Forest – defer to Phase VI – due to projections and future systemic renovation.
- West Friendship – defer to Phase VI due to limited flexibility regarding septic issues and declining enrollment.

- Longfellow – 1 classroom kindergarten, 1 classroom prekindergarten, and 1 classroom RECC addition – will require sprinkler system coverage of the entire building.
- Bollman Bridge - convert 2 classrooms to 2 RECC classrooms.
Mr. Lahowin reviewed the design plans for phase V for all-day kindergarten.
- Ilchester ES – 2 classroom kindergarten addition.
- Laurel Woods ES – 2 classroom kindergarten + 1 classroom pre-kindergarten addition.
- Pointers Run ES – 1 classroom kindergarten addition.
- Swansfield ES – 2 classroom kindergarten + 1 classroom pre-kindergarten addition.
- Talbott Springs ES – 1 classroom kindergarten addition.

Discussion:

- Kindergarten and prekindergarten rooms are comparable in size and can be interchanged.
- There is no word on funding from the state at this point.
- The renovations will proceed on schedule with or without funding from the state.
- Staff does not anticipate the prekindergarten program growing.

Action: Mrs. French moved approval of Phase V All-Day Kindergarten Addition Design Program. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Giles and approved by the Board 7-0. The student member voting yes.

Approval of the Schematic Design for the Mt. Hebron HS Renovation

Presenter: Mr. Roey

Mr. Roey gave an update on the following areas:

- Plumbing system was analyzed.
- Staff survey.
 - 200 issues were identified, majority classified as minor maintenance.
 - 70% have been assigned to the Automated Service Request Internet System (ASRIS), prioritization and scheduling in progress.
- Major concerns are addressed in existing renovation plans.
- Gilbert Architects to conduct a facility assessment survey of Mt. Hebron, Atholton, Centennial, and Hammond High Schools.
- Expect to use the same approach for the comprehensive facilities assessment of all schools.
- With the needs that are known today, staff recommends Option 2B.

Discussion:

Approved – April 26, 2007

- Analysis of the assessment including inspection of the old second floor, and underground, at the foundation, to check the condition of the cast-iron piping.
 - Staff is comfortable that there are no major issues with the piping.
- Mold – ceiling tiles have been replaced and leak was repaired.
 - HVAC system will have to be shutdown to permanently correct the problem, and that will not happen until summertime.
- Inoperable and drafty windows, carpet, lighting, wiring issue in computer labs, and pest management.
 - These issues can be started right away during spring break.
- State funding may come through in the amount of \$25 million, but there still leaves a gap of local funding.
- Facility study needs to remain in the budget. This will determine that programs do work in the existing buildings but does not bring the buildings up to educational specifications.
- All schools' needs must be considered.
- Staffing formula is another factor.

Action: Mr. Aquino moved that the Board postpone taking any action on the current staff proposals regarding various options for the renovation or replacement of Mt. Hebron HS and that the Board direct staff to provide the Board with a report on the facilities survey, currently under way on Mt. Hebron, Centennial, Hammond, and Atholton High Schools as soon as is reasonably possible and at that time present a comprehensive analysis of the report and its impact, if any, on staff's recommendation at Mt. Hebron HS. The motion was seconded by Ms. Gordon and approved by the Board 7-0. The student member voted yes.

Board members thanked Mr. Roey and staff for their work.

Resolution: No Child Left Behind

Mr. Cohen read the following Resolution:

Resolution: No Child Left Behind Improvements Act of 2007

WHEREAS, on January 8, 2002, President Bush signed into law the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001, which applies to all school districts and schools within states that accept federal Title I dollars; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of Howard County supports the goals of NCLB of raising student achievement; closing the achievement gap, and ensuring that each child has a highly qualified teacher; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Education of Howard County continues to welcome accountability for improving student and school performance; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of Howard County has had four years of operational experience in implementing NCLB and;

WHEREAS, The Board of Education of Howard County has identified improvements that could be made to NCLB that would eliminate barriers to full implementation of the federal law; and

WHEREAS, the National School Boards Association (NSBA) developed draft legislation based on boards and improve the implementation of NCLB; and

WHEREAS, in April 2006 the NSBA Delegate Assembly reaffirmed its support of federal legislation that is consistent with the NSBA draft legislation, and
WHEREAS, in January 2007 Representative Don Young (R-AK) reintroduced legislation, the No Child Left Behind Improvements Act of 2007, H.R. 648, that is consistent with the NSBA draft legislation;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of Howard County urges Congressman Elijah Cummings and Congressman John Sarbanes to fully support H.R. 648 by becoming co-sponsors of the bill, to seek full funding for the implementation of No Child Left Behind, to support the recommendations put forth by The Maryland Association of Boards of Education, (MABE), and to support the 40 recommendations brought forth by the National School Board Association in the reauthorization of No Child Left Behind.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of Howard County seeks the support of local community and civic leaders and appropriate members of the Maryland General Assembly in encouraging Congressman Elijah Cummings and Congressman John Sarbanes to become co-sponsors of H.R. 648, and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be sent to members of the Maryland U.S. Congressional Delegation, the Governor, the members of Maryland General Assembly, local public governing officials, and the State Superintendent of Schools.

Diane B. Mikulis, Chairman
Board of Education of Howard County

Sydney L. Cousin
Secretary/Treasurer and Superintendent
Of Schools

Action: Mr. Cohen moved that the Board accept the Resolution: No Child Left Behind Improvements Act of 2007. The motion was seconded by Dr. Siddiqui and approved by the Board 7-0. The student member voted yes.

Mrs. French asked for a friendly amendment to change the word *accept* to *adopt*. Mr. Cohen accepted the amendment. The friendly amendment was approved by the Board 7-0. The student member voted yes.

MABE Committee Assignments

Mrs. Mikulis explained that Board members are encouraged to serve on at least one committee. Mrs. French said that, Ms. Gordon is the chairman, but there could be a separate member of the Budget and Planning Committee. Dr. Siddiqui agreed to be the representative to this committee.

2007-2008 Board of Education Meeting Schedule

Presenter: Mrs. Caplan.

Mrs. Caplan reiterated that Comar states that the Board must have a minimum of 24 Board meetings per year or at least two per month except in July and August when there can be one meeting. Mrs. Caplan presented the schedule, which Board members then reviewed.

Quarterly Agenda

Board members discussed modifications to the Quarterly Agenda.

Action: Mrs. Giles moved approval of the draft of the Quarterly Agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Mr. Aquino and approved by the Board 7-0. The student member voted yes.

Scheduling

Board members discussed dates for future meetings.

Recess: The chairman recessed the meeting at 6:30 p.m. and reconvened at 7:38 p.m.

Public Forum

Mrs. Linda Turner, parent, stated that she was here on behalf of her daughter who has a disability. She noted that it was difficult getting information regarding children with disabilities. She also felt that the treatment of her child in school was unfair.

Proclamation: 80th Anniversary of the PTA Council of Howard County

Mr. Aquino read the following proclamation:

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HOWARD COUNTY
PROCLAMATION
IN HONOR OF
THE 80th ANNIVERSARY
OF THE
PTA COUNCIL OF HOWARD COUNTY

WHEREAS, the Howard County Parent Teacher Association was established on April 8, 1927 and has served as an advocate for Howard County children and public schools for 80 years; and

WHEREAS, the PTA Council of Howard County has its roots in the Patrons and Friends Club of the Ellicott City High School established in the early 1900s; and

WHEREAS, the first President of the Howard County Parent Teacher Association, Mrs. Robert Peddicord, is considered the “Mother” of the county’s PTA; and

WHEREAS, the efforts of those first PTA members and those who followed resulted in better schools, better health care, and better conditions for all children; and

WHEREAS, today’s PTA Council of Howard County, with its current membership of nearly 28,000, continues to promote the welfare of children and youth in the home, school, and community; to secure adequate laws for the care and protection of children; and to support the home-school partnership as an essential element of student academic success; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of Howard County acknowledges the PTA Council of Howard County as a vital, respected partner united with the Board in common commitment to excellence in teaching and learning;

THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED that the Board of Education of Howard County designates April 13, 2007 as PTA Day in the Howard County Public School System in recognition of the 80th Anniversary of the founding of the PTA Council of Howard County; and

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED that this document be adopted by the Board of Education of Howard County on this date and presented to the PTA Council of Howard County in recognition of and appreciation for the immeasurable contributions the association and its individual members make to the children and youth of Howard County.

Diane Mikulis, Chairman
Board of Education of Howard County

Sydney L. Cousin, Superintendent
Howard County Public School System

Action: Mr. Aquino moved acceptance of the Proclamation: 80th Anniversary of the PTA Council of Howard County. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Giles and approved by the Board 7-0. The student member supported the motion.

Citizens Advisory Committee Appointment

Mrs. Rose Dennison, President, CAC, noted the following activities:

- Process of nominating officers for next year has begun.
- Proposed amended bylaws were presented to the membership for review.
- Discussed the High School Assessments and reflected on the concerns the community raised.
- Mt. Hebron HS was discussed and the CAC recommends postponing any decision until the comprehensive facility study is developed including all schools in the county.

- Backpack task force recently met, and short-term recommendations were discussed.
 - Work continues on mid- and long-term recommendations.

Bridge to Excellence – Fine Arts

Presenter: Mr. Thomas Payne, Coordinator, Advanced Programs and Fine Arts.

Mr. Payne introduced a report on the school system's dance, music, theatre and visual arts programs. He noted that participation and performance by Howard County students in fine arts programs continues to grow and improve. The maintenance and enhancement process is ongoing and outlined in the Fine Arts *Bridge to Excellence Plan*.

Ms. Brooke Kuhl-McClelland, Dance Lead Teacher; Ms. Pamela Land, Theatre Lead Teacher; Mr. Rob White, Music Instructional Facilitator; and Mr. Mark Coates, Art Instructional Facilitator; reported on their respective programs and the numerous opportunities for student participation.

Discussion:

- Board members commented on the wonderful presentation and the impressive work of the fine arts program.
- It was noted that the teacher of the theatre arts program also runs the yearbook program, which is a large responsibility.
- The arts program shapes and enhances education.

Adjournment: The chairman adjourned the meeting at 8:37 p.m.

Information Item

Board of Education Cluster Assignments, Revised, 2006/2007