

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HOWARD COUNTY

April 12, 2007

The Board of Education of Howard County held a regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, April 12, 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 B. Mikulis, Chairman
Frank J. Aquino, Vice Chairman
Lawrence H. Cohen
Sandra H. French
Ellen Flynn Giles
Janet Siddiqui
Wossen Ayele, Student Member (afternoon session only)

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

Presentation of Friends of Education Awards

Mrs. Mikulis provided a brief history of the Friends of Education Awards and introduced the eight nominees. Mr. Cohen, Mrs. Giles, and Mr. Aquino presented awards to the three recipients for 2007.

Nominees: Brunswick Normandy Zone, Matt Hauser/GEICO Insurance, Jeanne Kantelis, Laurie Lerman, Georgea Moore, National Federation of the Blind of Maryland, Anne Rogers, and Monique Summers.

Recipients: Christina Pistorio, Russell Poch, and Grace Community Church.

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 4:20 p.m., and Andrew Fromer, Centennial Lane ES Student, led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Forum

Ms. Lisa Regante, Centennial Lane ES Parent, spoke in support of the proposed Centennial Lane ES addition.

Ms. Sharon Nussbaum, Parent, spoke about her concern that many colleges require SAT subject tests and that no one at the high schools suggests that students take these

tests. Mrs. Erickson responded that the situation has been brought to the school system's attention and is being addressed.

Approval of Agenda

Action: Mrs. Giles moved approval of the agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cohen and approved by the members of the Board (6/0). Mr. Ayele supported the motion.

Mrs. Mikulis noted that Ms. Gordon's absence was due to her attendance at the National School Boards Association (NSBA) Conference as a voting delegate.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Cousin shared details of his recent trip to the Republic of Korea. He also reported on the County Executive's funding of the school system's capital projects, the ratification of contracts for next year, and congratulated students who recently took top honors at the Baltimore Science Fair.

Student Member's Report

Mr. Ayele reported that a videotaped press conference with the three candidates for the next Student Member of the Board of Education will be sent to each middle and high school for viewing prior to the elections. Elections are scheduled for April 17 at the middle schools and April 18 at the high schools. The goal is to have 85 percent of students participate in the elections (an increase over last year's 62-percent participation rate). Pending the Governor's signature, the new Student Member will have voting rights.

In addition, the Howard County Association of Student Councils (HCASCs) will be working with Student Government presidents to promote an anti-drug and anti-alcohol message as the prom season approaches.

Student Representative's Report

Ms. Katie Smalley, Marriotts Ridge HS Representative, reported on various activities at the school, including the prom, biannual coffee houses showcasing high school talent, drama presentations, National Honors Society (NHS) students, junior interviews, class rings, and sports competitions. In addition, Marriotts Ridge received great recognition in the April issue of Baltimore Magazine as being one of the top five public schools in the greater Baltimore area.

Board Members' Reports

There were no activities to report.

Consent Agenda

Staff Personnel; Bids and Contracts; Operating Budget Monthly Report; School Construction Monthly Reports; SB 984 Certification Letter; Donations; and Minutes of February 15 (Budget Work Session), February 22 (Regular Meeting), March 8, (Regular Meeting), and March 22, 2007 (Closed Meeting - Official and Confidential).

Action: Mrs. French moved approval of the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Aquino and approved by the members of the Board (6/0). Mr. Ayele supported the motion.

Staff Personnel – Approved by the Board.

Resignations-Violation of Contract

Name	School	Grade or Subject	Reason	Years in Howard County	Effective Date
Athey, Helen	BPES	Spec. Ed	Personal	1.6	03/12/07
Santamaria, Michelle	ReHS	Forg Lang.	Other Employment	.8	04/13/07

Resignations

Name	School	Grade or Subject	Reason	Years in Howard County	Effective Date
Abbott, Melinda	NES	Elem. Ed	Relocation	5.0	06/14/07
Cohon, Donna	HaHS	Math	Relocation	1.0	06/14/07
Covey, Ashley	CCES	Elem.Ed	Relocation	1.0	06/14/07
Gruenberg, Chelsea	HaHS	English	Relocation	1.0	06/14/07
Guglielmo-Steas	PLES	ESOL	Family Obligations	1.6	03/09/07
Harrison, Vanessa	OMMS	Spec. Ed	Personal	1.0	06/14/07
Heuring, Tecla	LRHS	Music	Dissatisfied	4.0	06/14/07
Kesler, Ashley	ReHS	Math	Relocation	1.0	06/14/07
Kramer, Melissa	ELMS	Math	Other Employment	1.0	06/14/07
Martin, Ralph	WLMS	Science	Dissatisfied	1.0	06/14/07
Nemoseck, Catherine	LRHS	Spec. Ed	Relocation	2.6	04/20/07
Pringle, Cynthia	RBES	Tech.	Relocation	3.0	06/14/07
Reis, Cheryl	HaMS	English	Relocation	1.0	03/02/07
Severin, Richard	ReHS	Spec. Ed	Personal	2.0	06/14/07

Contracts

Name	School	Grade or Subject	Place of Last Teaching Assignment	Grade/ Step	Effective Date
Ables, Christine	BPES	SPE	Hawaii	A-08	3/26/07
Chandler, Crystal	ELMS	SST	--	A-01	3/22/07
Lowman, Christina	PRES	ELE	--	A-01	2/26/07

McMurtray, Suzanne	HWS	BUS	Private	C-05	3/23/07
Turner, Carrie	CMS	SST	--	A-01	3/12/07

Leaves of Absence

Name	School	Grade or Subject	Howard County	Effective Date
Kane, Anne Marie	BBMS	Counselor	11.6	04/02/07
Larner, Phaedra	CCES	Kindergarten	11.6	03/08/07
Mckeon, Marla	AHS	English	11.0	08/21/07
O'Connell, Char-Lynn	ReHS	Spec. Ed	3.0	08/20/07
Rowe, Bryan	ReHS	Math/Music	13.0	08/21/07

Bids and Contracts – Approved by the Board.

P-1	Warehouse Truck Pen Pontiac GMC Truck	\$66,723
P-2	Fire Sprinkler System Service and Inspection Virginia Fire Protection, Inc.	\$18,351
P-3	Paving Service A. G. Parrott Company	\$326,655
P-4	Hardwood Flooring Services	\$78,892
P-5	Painting Supplies ICI Paints Duron Paints McCormick Paint Works Company	\$14,000 est. 28,000 est. 28,000 est.
	TOTAL	\$70,000 est.

FY 2007 Operating Budget Monthly Financial Report – Accepted by the Board.FY 2007 School Construction Financial Report – Accepted by the Board.Superintendent's Certification of Reporting Requirements Under Senate Bill 984 –
Approved by the Board.

Authorized the Board Chairperson, Superintendent, and Chief Operating Officer to sign the Certification and attest to the accuracy of the Bi-Annual Report of Revenues and Expenditures through March 31, 2007.

Donations – Approved by the Board.

- Longfellow ES: Jonathan A. French Charitable Trust, in the amount of \$1000, designated to promote positive school climate through various incentives.
- Manor Woods ES: PTA, in the amount of \$6908.75, designated for the following cultural arts programs: Stained Glass Residency 2007, Bromley Productions – YOJO and Class Acts Arts – Nada Brahma.
- Glenelg HS: Boosters, in the amount of \$5870.06, designated for the World Languages Club, It's Academic Team, Special Education, and the music department.
- Mt. Hebron HS: Viking Backers, in the amount of \$6050, (\$2500) designated for spring athletic supplies (softballs, tennis balls, lacrosse balls, helmets), and (\$3550) designated for varsity letters and uniforms for the girls lacrosse team.

Minutes – Approved by the Board.

Minutes of February 15 (FY 2009 Budget Work Session); February 22 (Regular Meeting); March 8 (Regular Meeting); and March 22, 2007 (Closed Meeting – Confidential and Official Minutes).

Proclamation Honoring School Food Services Staff

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HOWARD COUNTY
PROCLAMATION
SALUTING
SCHOOL FOOD & NUTRITION SERVICE PERSONNEL

WHEREAS May 7-11, 2007 has been proclaimed as the 22nd Annual Salute to School Food and Nutrition Service Personnel Week in Maryland; and

WHEREAS the School Food and Nutrition Service Program provides a valuable service to students, staff, and citizens of Howard County; and

WHEREAS the 240 School Food and Nutrition Service employees in the public schools of Howard County are an integral part of the school system; and

WHEREAS School Food and Nutrition Service Personnel prepare and serve approximately 3,500,000 school lunches annually; and

Approved – May 10, 2007

WHEREAS the School Food and Nutrition Service Personnel of the Howard County Public School System deserve to be recognized for their dedication and continuing commitment to providing healthy, nutritious meals to students;

THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED that the Board of Education of Howard County joins with other school systems in the State of Maryland in designating the week of May 7-11, 2007 as Salute to School Food and Nutrition Service Personnel Week; and

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED that the Board of Education wishes to thank the School Food and Nutrition Service employees of the Howard County Public School System for their outstanding service and dedication.

Diane Mikulis, Chairman
Board of Education of Howard County

Sydney L. Cousin, Superintendent
Howard County Public School System

Action: Mr. Cohen moved approval of the proclamation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Aquino and approved by the members of the Board (6/0). Mr. Ayele supported the motion.

Proclamation: School Psychology Week

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HOWARD COUNTY
PROCLAMATION
HONORING
SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS

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

WHEREAS, to accomplish this mission, schools must apply sound principles of psychology to teaching and learning, and cultivate each child's intellectual, social and emotional development; and

WHEREAS, school psychologists play a vital role in the personal and academic development of students; and

WHEREAS, school psychologists help parents and educators foster healthy child development and are the school-based experts in children's learning and psychological development; and

WHEREAS, school psychologists are leaders in delivering mental health services to students; and

WHEREAS, in times of crisis, school psychologists provide critical support services to all members of the school community as part of Crisis Intervention Teams; and

WHEREAS, school psychologists are key to the school system's ability to provide a safe and nurturing environment for all students; and

THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED that the Board of Education of Howard County designates April 29 through May 4, 2007 as School Psychology Week in the Howard County Public School System as a means to call attention to the essential role of the school psychologist in our public schools; and

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED that the Board of Education extends its gratitude and appreciation for the many contributions made by school psychologists in support of our students and their intellectual, social and emotional growth.

Diane Mikulis, Chairman
Board of Education of Howard County

Sydney L. Cousin, Superintendent
Howard County Public School System

Action: Dr. Siddiqui moved approval of the proclamation. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Giles and approved by the members of the Board (6/0). Mr. Ayele supported the motion.

Proclamation: National Administrative Professionals Week

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HOWARD COUNTY
PROCLAMATION
HONORING
THE ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONALS
OF THE
HOWARD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

WHEREAS April 23-27, 2007 is designated as National Administrative Professionals Week; and

WHEREAS office professionals have served the schools and offices of the Howard County Public School System with dedication and commitment throughout the history of the organization; and

WHEREAS office professionals play a vital role in advancing the mission and goals of the school system; and

WHEREAS office professionals continue to keep pace with rapid changes in their work environment and master advanced office technology with competency; and

WHEREAS the office professionals frequently and willingly respond to needs over and above their job responsibilities; and

WHEREAS these dedicated employees consistently demonstrate the highest professional standards; and

WHEREAS the contributions of each and every office professional in the system are essential to the provision of quality public education for all children;

THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED that the Board of Education of Howard County supports efforts to express appreciation to the office professionals of the school system; and

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED that the Board designates April 23-27, 2007 as Administrative Professionals Week in the Howard County Public School System in order to recognize the many and varied contributions made by office professionals.

Diane Mikulis, Chairman
Board of Education of Howard County

Sydney L. Cousin, Superintendent
Howard County Public School System

Action: Mrs. Giles moved approval of the proclamation. The motion was seconded by Mrs. French and approved by the members of the Board (6/0). Mr. Ayele supported the motion.

Proclamation: School Nurse/Health Services Day

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HOWARD COUNTY
PROCLAMATION
DESIGNATING MAY 9, 2007
AS
SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES DAY

WHEREAS a goal of the Howard County Public School System is to provide a safe and nurturing learning environment for all students; and

WHEREAS school nurses and health assistants collaborate with parents, other health professionals and other school staff to provide services for students that promote optimum health for academic success; and

WHEREAS school nurses and health assistants assist students with chronic illness and reduce interruptions in learning; and

WHEREAS school nurses and health assistants function as part of the school's problem solving teams to bridge the gap between health, wellness and learning; and

WHEREAS school nurses and health assistants play an integral role in assisting families to access health care for their children; and

WHEREAS school nurses and health assistants assist students to develop lifelong health habits that prepare them to actively participate in a culturally diverse and changing world; and

WHEREAS school nurses and health assistants emphasize prevention of disease and promotion of health utilizing health services, health counseling, and health education;

THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED that the Board of Education of Howard County designates Wednesday, May 9, 2007, as School Health Services Day in the Howard County Public School System; and

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED that this proclamation serve to launch meaningful activities in all schools in recognition of the contributions made by our school health services professionals.

Diane Mikulis, Chairman
Board of Education of Howard County

Sydney L. Cousin, Superintendent
Howard County Public School System

Action: Dr. Siddiqui moved approval of the proclamation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Aquino and approved by the members of the Board (6/0). Mr. Ayele supported the motion.

Career and Technology Education Academies for FY 2008

Presenter: Dr. Richard Weisenhoff, Career and Technology Education (CTE) Coordinator.

Dr. Weisenhoff presented information on two new proposed Career and Technology Academies for the 2007/2008 school year. The Hotel and Restaurant Management Academy will be offered at the Applications and Research Lab (ARL). The Government, Law, and Public Administration Academy will be offered locally at each high school, depending on sufficient enrollment. This academy is based on an approved Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) career cluster pathway but will not be a complete program option for graduation.

Discussion:

Ms. Laurie Collins, Instructional Facilitator for Family & Consumer Sciences (FACS) and Career Research and Development (CRD), explained that work experience is not required for the Hotel and Restaurant Academy, but students are encouraged to seek experience in these areas.

Dr. Weisenhoff explained the three paths available for students to graduate from high school. He noted that since the Government, Law, and Public Administration Academy does not meet MSDE criteria to be considered a complete program for graduation, students in this academy will also need to complete the world language or technology requirements for graduation.

Mrs. Mikulis noted that students in the Culinary Arts and Hotel Management Cluster graduate with background qualifications and experience for immediate employment; although they may also choose to continue on to post secondary education. School system partners include local restaurants, hotels, and Howard and Anne Arundel community colleges.

Staff provided information on the challenges involved with the culinary arts competition, and Board members congratulated students on their work.

Mr. Mark Stout, Secondary Social Studies Coordinator, explained that partnerships are also being sought for the Government, Law, and Public Administration Academy, and it is anticipated that many opportunities will be available.

Mr. Cohen indicated the possible need for students to take two leadership courses in the same school year in order to meet course requirements if necessary. Mr. Stout stated that staff has discussed this issue.

Action: Mr. Cohen moved approval of the recommendation for the Career and Technology Education Academies (Culinary Arts and Hotel Management Cluster – Hotel and Restaurant Management Academy, and the Human Resources Cluster – Government,

Law, and Public Administration). The motion was seconded by Mr. Aquino and approved by the members of the Board (6/0). Mr. Ayele supported the motion.

Legislative Report – 2007 Maryland General Assembly

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

Mr. Plunkett provided a status report on the majority of bills considered by the Board during the 2007 Maryland General Assembly legislative session, as well as additional bills of interest to the school system. The session concluded on Monday, April 9, 2007, and a final summary of all bills will be shared with the Board after the General Assembly concludes all deliberations.

Mr. Plunkett pointed out that no action was taken on the following bills, which may resurface during next year's session.

- SB 109 – Education – Geographic Cost of Education Index – Funding (Board Position – Supported).
- HB 139 – Education – Geographic Cost of Education Index – Funding (Board Position – Supported).
- SB 241 – Education – Alcohol and Drug Testing for Pupils in Public or Private Schools (Board Position – Opposed).

In addition, staff will be monitoring SB 132 – Education – Guidelines Governing Student Discipline (Board Position – Opposed). HCPSS already has a very active Positive Behavior Intervention Supports (PBIS) program, and is well on its way to adhering to any guidelines that will be established by MSDE in support of this legislation.

Mrs. Mikulis thanked Mr. Plunkett, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Aquino, and Mrs. French for their work during the legislative process.

Design Report – Centennial Lane ES

Presenters: Mr. Ken Roey, Executive Director for Facilities Planning and Management, and Mr. Tony Machowski, Principal, SMG Architects.

A Design Report was presented which describes proposed additions to Centennial Lane ES. The addition is intended to increase capacity of the school by 125 students. The project is scheduled for completion and occupancy in August 2008.

Proposed Additions:

- Five additional classrooms, one of which has built-in flexibility to be converted to a kindergarten room.
- Enlarge cafetorium.
- Add one art room, music room, and physical education classroom.

Mr. Roey explained that the Curriculum Office indicated that the physical education classroom should be approximately two-thirds the size of the gymnasium. The gym will consist of 3300 sq. ft., and the physical education classroom will consist of 2200 sq. ft.

Action: Mr. Cohen moved approval of staff's recommendation for the Design Report for Centennial Lane ES. The motion was seconded by Dr. Siddiqui and approved by the members of the Board (6/0). Mr. Ayele supported the motion.

Anticipated School Opening/Closing Times for 2007/2008

Presenter: Mr. David Drown, Director of Pupil Transportation.

Highlights of Recommended Opening and Closing Times

- The current operational window will remain unchanged.
 - All high schools will open at 7:25 a.m.
 - The latest elementary school will open at 9:25 a.m.
 - All high schools will close at 2:20 p.m.
 - The latest elementary school will close at 3:55 p.m.

The following schools are recommended for a time change:

<u>School</u>	<u>Current Opening/Closing</u>	<u>Recommended Opening/Closing</u>
Burleigh Manor MS	7:55-2:40	8:00-2:45
Hollifield Station ES	9:20-3:50	8:45-3:15
Phelps Luck ES	8:45-3:15	8:55-3:25
Veterans ES	N/A	9:25-3:55

All principals of affected schools have been notified of recommended changes, and adjustments may be made based on feedback from the schools and community. A final opening and closing time chart will be presented at the Board meeting scheduled for May 10, 2007.

Mr. Drown explained that the Hollifield Station ES community has been requesting a change in their opening and closing times, and the opening of Veterans ES provided the opportunity to make this change.

Relocatable/Modular Classroom – Assignment

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

The recommendation for reassignment of relocatable classrooms for 2007/2008 is as follows:

<u>Elementary School</u>		<u>Middle School</u>		<u>High School</u>	
Centennial Lane	+2			Reservoir	+3
Phelps Luck	+1			Howard	-4
St. John's Lane	-2			Hammond	+1
Ilchester	-1				

Staff will continue to review feedback from school administration and make a final recommendation at the Board meeting scheduled for April 26, 2007. A decision will be necessary at that time to facilitate timing of applications for required permits and site planning needs.

Discussion:

Mr. Gallihue noted that staff is considering additional options that will be presented with the capital budget, including additional moves or demolition of units rather than repair.

Dr. Cousin explained that a study is needed to evaluate many of the units to determine their condition and make recommendations about whether the units should be renovated and upgraded. The cost of purchasing a unit approaches that of moving one, and in many cases the recommendation is to leave them in place until an evaluation is performed to determine whether they should be taken out of use or rehabilitated through renovation. In addition to moving the units, there are costs involved with providing the services of a regular classroom such as cabling for technology and addressing safety issues. Costs for restoring the sites when the units are moved are also involved.

Mr. Gallihue stated that a survey form goes out to school administrators each year regarding relocatable classroom needs, and staff discusses recommendations with principals. It has been indicated that Mt. Hebron HS could probably accommodate one more unit. Centennial Lane ES requested more relocatables, but it is not possible to supply them because of the projects that are currently in progress at that site.

Mr. Aquino expressed concern regarding the removal of units at Howard HS because the projections indicate that Howard will be above 110-percent capacity in the long-range plan. Mr. Gallihue noted that redistricting is planned for Howard HS students to move to Long Reach HS in the future, but that may not actually occur. He stated that the situation would be reviewed to determine if some units could remain at Howard, but he also noted that moving the units currently there would improve operations at the school.

Mrs. French expressed concern that a unit was not being placed at Atholton HS and indicated that there was an equity issue involved with Centennial HS having four relocatables and 20 fewer students than projected for Atholton. Mr. Gallihue responded that the capacity projection for Atholton HS next year is 106.8 percent, and the school did not request any portables. Mrs. French noted the need for balance and indicated that it is the Board's responsibility to ensure equity. Mrs. Giles stated that there needs to be an overall plan to evaluate the best utilization of resources and ensure that needs are

addressed across the system. Dr. Cousin noted that these issues would be included as part of the study and that not all schools want relocatables on their sites.

Dr. Siddiqui suggested that future reports contain information regarding the rationale for the requested number of units by each school.

Mr. Cohen asked about the cost of maintaining the units. Mr. Gallihue indicated that the costs can vary dramatically depending on the age of the units, but it is somewhere in the range of \$5,000 per year. Mr. Cohen noted that the units do provide an opportunity for extra classrooms, which may alleviate the need for floating teachers.

Mr. Brown pointed out that detailed information regarding relocatables will be provided to the Board as part of the FY 2009 Capital Budget presentation.

Audit Recommendations Status Report

Presenter: Mr. Casey Burns, Accounting Officer.

Mr. Burns presented the Audit Recommendations Status Report. The report contains the following information:

- Findings and recommendations resulting from the independent audit of financial statements for FY 2006.
- Management's response to the findings and recommendations and the status of management's corrective action plans.

Mr. Burns explained that backup tapes of the HCPSS financial system are taken offsite each evening, and student data records and the accounting system are backed up offsite in California. Staff is currently working with the county government's information technology director to create redundancies for the HCPSS data system.

Board of Education Meeting Schedule

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

Recommended Changes:

- Work Session and Approval of FY 2009 Capital Budget and FY 2010-2014 Capital Improvement Program – Tuesday, October 2, 2007.
- Regular Board Meeting – Thursday, October 11, 2007.

Other Considerations:

- Change time of work session and approval of the capital budget to 7:30 p.m.
- Move meeting with PTA Presidents and Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC) to 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, October 18, 2007.
- Provide time for both an afternoon and evening session at the regular Board meeting on Thursday, October 11, 2007.

Ms. Caplan also noted that it is anticipated that the Governor is going to move the primary election date in 2008 from March 4 to February 12, which would require a change in the HCPSS Instructional Calendar as well.

Board members agreed to the following changes:

- Tuesday, October 2, 2007 – 7:30 p.m. - Work Session, and Approval of the FY 2009 Capital Budget & FY 2010-2014 Capital Improvement Program.
- Thursday, October 11, 2007 – 4:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. – Regular Board Meeting.
- Thursday, October 18, 2007 – 7:30 p.m. – Board meets with PTA and CAC (Citizens' Advisory Committee).
- Move the Thursday, November 1, 2007, Public Hearing and Work Session on the Long-Range Attendance Area Plan to Thursday, November 8, 2007 (7:30 p.m.).
- Move the February 12, 2008, Public Work Session III on the Superintendent's Proposed FY 2009 Operating Budget to February 13, 2008 (7:00 p.m.).
- Amend the HCPSS 2007/2008 Instructional Calendar by moving the primary election day from March 4 to February 12, 2008, pending the Governor's signing of related legislation.

Action: Mrs. French moved approval of the 2007/2008 Board of Education Meeting Schedule as amended by consensus. The motion was seconded by Mr. Aquino and approved by the members of the Board (6/0). Mr. Ayele supported the motion.

Action: Mrs. Giles moved approval of the proposed changes to the HCPSS Instructional Calendar relative to rescheduling of the primary election, based on the decision of the Governor. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cohen and approved by the members of the Board (6/0). Mr. Ayele supported the motion.

FY 2007 Categorical Budget Transfer

Presenter: Mr. Ray Brown.

Mr. Brown presented year-end revisions to the FY 2007 General Fund categorical operating budget and recommended Board approval of the amended transfer request to be submitted to the County Council for action at its June legislative session. Revisions will accomplish the following:

- Balance Mid-Level Administration category, which is anticipated to be overspent in FY 2007.
- Balance Operation of Plant category, which is expected to be overspent because of increased utility costs.

Action: Mr. Aquino moved that the Board accept the FY 2007 Categorical Budget Transfer Request as presented. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Giles and approved by the members of the Board (6/0). Mr. Ayele supported the motion.

Scheduling

Board members set dates for upcoming meetings and appeals.

Recess – The meeting was recessed by the Chairman at 6:20 p.m. and reconvened at 7:30 p.m.

Public Hearing - Report of the Review Committee for Policy 1501 [8080] Acceptable Use of Computer Technology

Mr. Chris Wertman, Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) Vice Chairman, and CAC Representative to Policy 1501 Committee

- Complimented Jose Stevenson, his staff, and committee members for their efforts and progress to improve the outdated policy.
- Provided information on three major areas of the policy that need more work and specificity:
 - System Management and Control
 - Configuration Control
 - System Security

Ms. Rose Dennison, CAC Chairman

- Stated that the policy committee did not utilize all resources available to assist in developing a comprehensive plan.
- Recommended that the Board return the policy to the committee for further work.
- Recommended that the Board clearly enlist the assistance and support of members of the Technology Advisory Committee (TAC) to make the policy the comprehensive document it must be to guide HCPSS over the next few years.

Ms. Caryn Lasser, Technology Advisory Committee (TAC) Representative

- Thanked the policy review committee for their many dedicated hours of work to produce the new version of Policy 1501.
- Presented questions the TAC had after reviewing the proposed policy.
- Asked that the concerns be addressed and changes be made before Policy 1501 is implemented.

Ms. Mary Jane Grauso, President, PTA Council of Howard County (PTACHC)

- Suggested that there be clarity on what this policy is supposed to encompass.
- Suggested that additional policies and procedures may be necessary to address other issues.
- Presented a list of concerns including the definition of the term “System Administrator,” the need for establishment of a mechanism for allowing access to centralized infrastructure, and the need for annual review and inclusion of a list of devices considered in the development of this policy.

Ms. Linda Turner, Parent

- Spoke about the importance of technology to children with special needs.

- Indicated that there is often limited accessibility to assistive technology for special needs students.
- Stated that parental involvement regarding technology is also important in moving forward.

Discussion:

Mrs. French asked about the impact of delaying approval of the policy. Mr. Robert Glascock, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction, and Technology, stressed the importance of moving forward with approval of the policy, which is designed to support the Technology Plan. He acknowledged that no policy is perfect and that improvement will be ongoing. He indicated that some of the areas mentioned by speakers were deliberately left unaddressed at this time because no means for enforcement currently exist. He stated that changes and additions to the policy would be brought forward as necessary.

Dr. Cousin recommended that this policy be placed on a different cycle than other policies and pointed out that the existing policy is a lot less adequate than the revised one. He also suggested that the approved policy be brought back for amendment and changes as the school system works through implementation of the Technology Plan.

Mrs. French asked about instruction of keyboarding at the elementary school level. Mr. Glascock stated that students will have dedicated time for technology instruction, which will increase access to keyboarding as a specific skill at the elementary school level.

The Board is scheduled to take action on the policy at the Board meeting scheduled for May 10, 2007.

Report of the Review Committee for Policy 3445 [1040] Violence and School Safety

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

Dr. Cummings presented highlights of the committee's work and proposed changes, including a list of committee members and the policy as originally proposed. Three sets of amendments were provided as proposed by staff to address input from Board members and the community.

The new policy includes a definition of "bullying," consistent with the Safe School Reporting Act; replaces "assault" and "battery" with "physical attack" and "threat;" and includes standards and expectations for employees and third parties.

Dr. Cummings recommended that the Board adopt Policy 3445 (which will be renumbered 1040) as recommended, including a change in title (Safe School Environments), with an effective date of July 1, 2007. It was also recommended that the

Board take action to amend the Student Code of Conduct by adding the terms cyber-bullying and gang-related activity.

Board members also added language related to the use of profanity and definitions and language related to gang activity.

Mrs. Ellen Miller, Policy Specialist, explained that the definition of hazing was included and indicates what hazing is outside of school. A standard was also included to explain that hazing is a violation when it is committed with respect to a school-related organization, etc., regardless of whether the hazing occurs on school property or not. Hazing is also considered a form of harassment, which has its own special context.

Action: Mrs. French moved that the Board adopt Policy 1040, including the proposed amendments. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cohen and approved by the members of the Board (6/0). Mr. Ayele supported the motion.

Mrs. French asked why the disciplinary action level in the Student Code of Conduct was set so low for gang-related activity and cyber bullying. Dr. Cummings stated that depending on the nature of the activity, there are some instances where parent contact and a parent conference with the child would be sufficient, particularly when dealing with younger children. Going to the extent of suspension or exclusion from school may not be necessary.

Action: Mr. Aquino moved to amend the Student Code of Conduct in accordance with the recommendations of staff to make it consistent with the new Policy 1040. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Mikulis and approved by the members of the Board (6/0). Mr. Ayele supported the motion.

Minor Revisions to Policy 2121 [8030] Graduation Requirements

Presenter: Dr. Clarissa Evans, Executive Director for Secondary Curricular Programs.

Dr. Evans presented revisions to Policy 2121, which has been modified to permit students to satisfy the program choice option for meeting graduation requirements through American Sign Language. The change becomes effective with the class of 2008 and reflects the change in local terminology from “foreign language” to “world language.” Proposed revisions also remove references to the geometry assessment in response to a modification in COMAR to remove the requirement that students take a Maryland School Assessment (MSA) for geometry, which is no longer administered by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE).

Discussion:

Mr. Aquino noted that some colleges have indicated that they will not accept American Sign Language as fulfilling their entry requirements for world languages. He indicated that this information must be conveyed to students and parents.

Dr. Evans stated that language could be added to the Catalog of Approved High School Courses to clarify that although the course is acceptable for high school graduation, students should check with colleges to which they are considering applying to find out their requirements. Information on this could also be provided to students during their high school counseling sessions.

Action: Mr. Aquino moved that the Board accept minor revisions to Policy 2121 (soon to be Policy 8030), in amending the graduation requirements. The motion was seconded by Dr. Siddiqui and approved by the members of the Board (6/0). Mr. Ayele supported the motion.

Appointment – PTA Council of Howard County Monthly Report

Ms. Mary Jane Grauso, President of the PTA Council, spoke about Healthy Schools Day on April 30 and the status of the Backpack Committee work.

Public Forum

Ms. Linda Turner, Parent, asked why certain children are allowed to go to special schools and others are not.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned by the Chairman at 8:35 p.m.

Information Items:

- A. Food and Nutrition Services Financial Report
- B. Fundraising/Donations FY 2006 Report
- C. Policy 9040 (3611) – Confidentiality of Student Records – Minor Changes/Procedures
- D. March 13, 2007 – Board Audit Committee Report
- E. Technology Replacement Plan 1.5