

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HOWARD COUNTY

April 26, 2007

The Board of Education of Howard County held a regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, April 26, 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
Patricia S. Gordon
Janet Siddiqui
Wossen Ayele, Student Member

Sydney L. Cousin, Superintendent, Secretary/Treasurer
Raymond Brown, Chief Operating Officer
Patti Caplan, Director, Public Relations
Arlene Conway, Recording Secretary

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 4:04 p.m., and Patrick Mikulis, fourth-grade student at Triadelphia Ridge ES, led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. Patrick attended the Board meeting with Mrs. Mikulis as part of Take Your Child to Work Day.

Mrs. Mikulis held a moment of silence for those who lost their lives at Virginia Tech and for kindergartener Connor Smith, who died suddenly last weekend.

Public Forum

Ms. Ann De Lacy, Howard County Education Association (HCEA) President, reported on the lack of cleanliness at Mt. Hebron HS and cited examples.

Approval of Agenda

The following item was postponed until May:

- Item IX. Appointment – HCEA Satisfaction Survey.

Mrs. French asked that the Information Item on the Television Services Task Force be moved to the Business Agenda (Item XII.E.)

Approved – May 24, 2007

Action: Mrs. Giles moved approval of the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Mr. Aquino and approved by the members of the Board (7/0). Mr. Ayele supported the motion.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Cousin reported on his recommendation to allow early dismissal or late opening for seven high schools on the days of their respective commencement ceremonies. He also reported on a visit by members of the World Bank to Centennial Lane ES and congratulated the following staff members:

- Richard Malt, Marriotts Ridge HS, who received the First Year Educator Award.
- Kathy Hanks, Wilde Lake HS, who received the Office Professionals Award.
- Laura Weir, Fulton ES, recipient of the Distinguished Assistant Award.
- Stewart Custis, West Friendship ES, who received the Custodial and Grounds Service Award.

In addition, Dr. Cousin noted that the following National Board Certified teachers were recognized at a reception prior to the Board meeting and extended congratulations to them for their hard work in becoming certified teachers.

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

Student Member's Report

Mr. Ayele reported on various topics, including the expansion of the Alpha Achievers Male Mentoring Program, the First Annual Howard County Youth Summit, and election of the 2007/2008 Howard County Association of School Councils (HCASC) Executive Officers.

Ms. Amy Butler, Wilde Lake HS Senior, shared this year's election results for the 2007/2008 Student Member to the Board of Education and introduced the winner of the election, Andrew Gavelek, Reservoir HS. Board members extended congratulations to Mr. Gavelek.

Action: Mr. Aquino moved to verify the election of Andrew Gavelek as the new Student Member of the Board of Education. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Giles and approved by the members of the Board (7/0). Mr. Ayele supported the motion.

Student Representative's Report

Mr. Daniel Steele, Howard HS SGA President, reported on the transformation, both physically and internally, of Howard HS. He indicated that school staff is dedicated to striving for excellence in every aspect of the school and noted that attention has been given to improving programs dedicated to students, recruiting quality teachers, and increasing academic resources for the school.

Board Members' Reports

Mrs. Mikulis reported on the recent NSBA (National School Board Association) Conference in San Francisco. Several Board members and staff attended the conference, which provided workshops and information sessions on various topics. Mrs. Mikulis stated that a report would be submitted to the Board as an Information Item on a future agenda.

Ms. Gordon added that NSBA Conference attendees had the opportunity to see two former presidents: Former President de Clerk of South Africa, who led South Africa's move toward integration, and former U.S. President William Clinton. Both men spoke on the topic of education, and Mr. Clinton emphasized the need to address childhood obesity issues.

Appointment – NAACP – Recognition of School Improvement

Presenter: Ms. Natalie Woodson, NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) Representative.

Members of the NAACP Education Committee recognized 52 Howard County schools that rated an "A" based on the performance of their African American students in at least one of the categories of attendance, suspension, Maryland School Assessment (MSA) Math and Reading, High School Assessments (HSAs), dropout rate, and graduation rate. The following nine schools received awards for Distinguished Performance, with "A"s or "B"s in all categories: Bushy Park ES, Clarksville ES, Fulton ES, Hollifield Station ES, Ilchester ES, Northfield ES, Thunder Hill ES, West Friendship ES, and Lime Kiln MS. Four elementary schools received awards for Exemplary Performance with "A"s in all categories: Bellows Spring, Clemens Crossing, Triadelphia Ridge, and Waverly.

Consent Agenda

Bids and Contracts; Nontenured Teachers; Termination of School Bus Contracts; Donations; and Minutes of February 20 (Budget Work Session), March 22 (Regular Meeting), and April 12, 2007 (Closed Meeting – Official and Confidential).

Bids and Contracts – Approved by the Board.

| | | |
|-----|---------------------------|---------------|
| P-1 | Student Transportation | |
| | Precious Cargo | \$ 50,400 |
| | 4 K's Bus Service | 52,560 |
| | C.B.M. Transportation LLC | 59,265 |
| | Baruch Transportation | <u>62,865</u> |
| | TOTAL | \$225,090 |

Approved – May 24, 2007

P-2 Student Transportation
Cancel two routes.

P-3 Technology Replacement Plan: Phase 1.5 – Lease Agreement
Apple Financial Services \$6,408,316

Nontenured Teachers – Approved by the Board.

| Name | School | Grade or Subject | Reason | Years In Howard County | Effective Date |
|-------------------|------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|----------------|
| Daniel Alburger | Oakland Mills High | English | third year, non-tenured | 2.0 | 6/20/07 |
| Doris Austin | Mount View Middle | Special Education | third year, non-tenured | 2.0 | 6/20/07 |
| Christopher Doody | Hammond Middle | Science | third year, non-tenured | 2.0 | 6/20/07 |
| Myra Keeler | Murray Hill Middle | Special Education | third year, non-tenured | 2.0 | 6/20/07 |
| Catherine Millar | River Hill High | ESOL | third year, non-tenured | 2.0 | 6/20/07 |
| Lauren Usatch | Dayton Oaks Elementary | Special Education | third year, non-tenured | 2.0 | 6/20/07 |

Non-renewal of Teacher's Contract – Approved by the Board.

| Name | School | Grade or Subject | Reason | Years In Howard County | Effective Date |
|-----------------|-------------|------------------|-------------|------------------------|----------------|
| Clarence McCray | Atholton HS | Math | Non-renewal | 1.0 | 6/20/07 |

School Bus Contract Termination – Approved by the Board.

School Bus Contracts 544 and 563 (awarded in spring of 2005 to T & R Transportation) must be terminated due to the inability of the business to secure financing to purchase school buses as called for in the bid specification. The contract will be rebid for the 2007/2008 school year, and the existing contractor will continue to operate the buses for these contracts until the conclusion of the 2006/2007 school year.

Donations – Approved by the Board.

- Clemens Crossing ES: Renee Scruggs, in the amount of \$1100, designated for the purchase of an Elmo Camera. An Elmo Camera is a cross between an overhead projector and a camera.
- Hollifield Station ES: PTA, in the amount of \$1000, designated for the purchase of materials for the Write Traits Program, a writing enhancement program for students.
- Glenwood MS: Javier Sarno, in the amount of \$2500, designated for the purchase of a MacBook Pro to be used by the 6th grade social studies students.
- Atholton HS: Target, in the amount of \$698.03, designated for the purchase of an LCD projector for the Media Center.
- Hammond HS: Hammond Kick Off Club, in the amount of \$4000, designated for the purchase of uniforms, footballs, mouthpieces, pads, equipment and water bottles.
- Howard HS: Band Boosters, in the amount of \$6154.09, designated to offset the cost of the band trip to Myrtle Beach.
- Oakland Mills HS: Boosters, in the amount of \$4000, designated for softball coaches clinic, a computer monitor, logo chairs for the gymnasium, scholar athlete awards dinner and softball supplies.
- River Hill HS: Phil Salopek, in the amount of \$1000, designated for the purchase of equipment for the weight room.
- Eva Anderson, in the amount of \$700, designated for the Caitlen Dunbar Memorial Fund.
- Boosters, in the amount of \$1100, designated for cheerleading uniforms and supplies.
- Wilde Lake HS: Boosters, in the amount of \$1000, designated for the purchase of printers for the Special Education Department, the Fine Arts Lab and the World Language Lab.

Minutes – Approved by the Board.

Minutes of February 20 (Budget Work Session), March 22 (Regular Meeting), and April 12, 2007 (Closed Meeting – Official and Confidential).

Administrator Promotions/Appointments – Approved by the Board.

| <u>Name</u> | <u>From</u> | <u>To</u> |
|-------------|--|--------------------------------|
| Paul Owens | Assistant Principal Hollifield Station ES | Principal Cedar Lane School |

Action: Mrs. French moved approval of the Administrator Promotions/Appointments. The motion was seconded by Mr. Aquino and approved by the members of the Board (7/0). Mr. Ayele supported the motion.

Appointment of Elementary, Middle, and High Summer School Principals – Approved by the Board.

K-8 Summer School (held at Clemens Crossing ES) – Gavin West, Principal
Comprehensive High School (held at Atholton HS) – Rick Robb, Principal

Action: Mrs. Giles moved approval of the Summer School Principal Appointments. The motion was seconded by Mrs. French and approved by the members of the Board (7/0). Mr. Ayele supported the motion.

Proclamation Honoring Pupil Personnel Workers

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HOWARD COUNTY
PROCLAMATION
HONORING
PUPIL PERSONNEL WORKERS

WHEREAS the Howard County Public School System recognizes each child is unique and valuable and must experience good mental, emotional and physical health to be successful in school; and

WHEREAS Pupil Personnel Workers work to foster awareness of the unique characteristics of every child and the importance of their education in the home, school and community; and

WHEREAS Pupil Personnel Workers help children recognize and solve problems that impede their ability to reach their full potential; and

WHEREAS in their role on Student Support Teams, Pupil Personnel Workers develop and participate in the planning of educational programs that promote academic success; and

WHEREAS Pupil Personnel Workers serve as child advocates by assisting parents in bridging the gap between home and school in issues dealing with a child’s physical, psychological, social and intellectual growth, and

WHEREAS Pupil Personnel Workers serve as liaisons with community, social services agencies, and organizations to ensure that families and children are aware of and have access to appropriate services;

Approved – May 24, 2007

THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED that the Board of Education of Howard County designates the week of May 7-11, 2007 as Pupil Personnel Worker Week in the Howard County Public School System; and

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED that the Board intends that this proclamation serve to launch appropriate activities in recognition of the vital role that Pupil Personnel Workers play in the personal and academic development of students.

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 Mrs. Giles and approved by the members of the Board (7/0). Mr. Ayele supported the motion.

Proclamation – Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HOWARD COUNTY
PROCLAMATION
DESIGNATING MAY 2007
AS
ASIAN/PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

WHEREAS Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month celebrates the cultural, intellectual, economic, and social contributions of Americans of Asian/Pacific heritage; and

WHEREAS more than 13.1 million Americans are of Asian/Pacific Islander origin and Asian/Pacific Islanders number over 25,000 in Howard County alone; and

WHEREAS the school system has 7,426 students and 222 employees of Asian/Pacific American origin; and

WHEREAS the vitality of the community can be seen in the three Chinese Language schools, over 14 Korean churches, one Buddhist temple, and a number of ethnic businesses contributing to the community; and

WHEREAS Asian/Pacific Americans bring to our society a rich heritage representing more than 47 ethnic groups of many languages, cultural and religious traditions; and

WHEREAS family members, citizens, and involved members of the community, Asian/Pacific Americans reinforce the values and ideals that are essential to the continued well-being of our nation and our community; and,

WHEREAS Asian/Pacific Americans, one of the fastest growing segments of our population, support the standard of educational excellence for every child; and

WHEREAS the theme in 2007 is: *Pursuing Excellence Through Leadership, Diversity, and Unity;*

Approved – May 24, 2007

THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED that the Board of Education declares May 2007 as Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month in the Howard County Public School System; and

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED that the Howard County community join the celebration by expanding their knowledge of the contributions Asian/Pacific Americans make to our culturally diverse community.

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 Mr. Aquino and approved by the members of the Board (7/0). Mr. Ayele supported the motion.

Relocatable/Modular Classroom – Assignment

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

Mr. Gallihue presented the recommendation for reassignment of relocatable classrooms for the 2007/2008 school year. Changes were made from the previous report for Howard HS, Long Reach HS, Ilchester ES, and Old Bushy Park. It was also confirmed that Atholton HS is not requesting a relocatable at this time; however, an assignment may be considered in future years for relief.

| <u>Elementary School</u> | | <u>Middle School</u> | | <u>High School</u> | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|--|--------------------|----|
| Centennial Lane | +2 | | | Reservoir | +3 |
| Phelps Luck | +1 | | | Howard | -2 |
| St. John's Lane | -2 | | | Hammond | +1 |
| Ilchester | (move 1 unit onsite) | | | Long Reach | +2 |
| Old Bushy Park | -5 | | | | |

Mr. Gallihue explained that the decision was made to move the relocatable at Ilchester ES onsite rather than remove the unit. Future capacity utilization at Howard HS was also considered, which resulted in the move of only two units.

Regarding the additional unit at Phelps Luck ES, Mr. Gallihue noted that this is a Title I school that also hosts an ESOL program and the prekindergarten program for Jeffers Hill ES. It was determined that it would not be prudent to place two additional relocatables on the site as requested, but staff would proceed with that request if requested by the Board.

Mrs. Giles noted that Phelps Luck would now have seven relocatables and indicated the need to include the school as a priority for renovation if space is needed for program capacity. Mrs. French asked about the possibility of moving one of the programs to Jeffers Hill, which has a larger school site. Mr. Gallihue stated that staff would continue

to study relocatable issues and come back to the Board with recommendations during the capital budget process.

Regarding Reservoir HS, Mr. Gallihue noted that high school redistricting is being planned for 2010, and capacity utilization at the school drops within the acceptable range at that time.

Mr. Gallihue also spoke about costs associated with relocatable classrooms. It will cost approximately \$50,000 to move the unit at Ilchester ES onsite. Moving units from one school to another will cost approximately \$83,000, while new units will probably cost over \$100,000.

Mr. Cohen asked about providing three units to Centennial Lane ES, as requested by the school. He noted that the principal has indicated that the school has a tendency to increase kindergarten enrollment over the summer. An additional ten students would require the need for a fifth kindergarten class, and space for that class would need to be located within the school.

Mr. Gallihue explained the difficulties associated with placing a sixth unit at Centennial Lane, including student safety issues and problems with finding space on the site. In response to Mr. Cohen, Mr. Ray Brown stated that the Board could amend the staff recommendation and authorize staff to place three units at Centennial Lane, pending the determination of a suitable site for the third relocatable.

Mrs. French expressed concern regarding funding for the third relocatable and suggested that the Board approve the current recommendation with the understanding that if staff believes another unit can be sited at Centennial Lane and funding is available, to bring a request back to the Board in the future.

Mr. Gallihue stated that the relocatable requests were reconfirmed with administrators, and administrators are also aware of the schools that will lose units. He pointed out that capacity utilization at Centennial Lane with five relocatable units is in the mid-nineties and with six relocatables, the utilization drops to almost 90 percent.

Action: Mrs. French moved approval of staff's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Aquino and approved by the members of the Board (7/0). Mr. Ayele supported the motion.

Board members expressed appreciation to Mr. Gallihue for following up with concerns and providing information to the Board so quickly.

Dr. Cousin stated that staff will be looking at the condition of existing relocatables as part of the facilities assessment and will make recommendations in a comprehensive and rational way of addressing existing and future needs for relocatable classrooms.

Superintendent's FY 2008 Operating and Capital Budget Priorities in Response to the County Executive's Proposed Budget

Presenter: Dr. Sydney Cousin.

Dr. Cousin presented a status report on the FY 2008 Operating and Capital budgets. The County Executive's budget provides \$427,176,316 in county funds for FY 2008. This represents an 8.5-percent increase in funding over the current year and is \$2.4 million short of the Board of Education's request.

The County Executive proposed \$57.4 million in capital funds for the school system, which represents funding for all requested projects except for \$18.9 million for the Mt. Hebron HS renovation project. The Board of Education, Superintendent, and staff will work with the County Council during May to review both budget requests. The Council's public hearing on the education budgets is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 5, 2007.

Television Services Task Force

Mrs. French provided some suggestions for changes in the language of the charter for the taskforce. She indicated the need for the Board to be included as part of the mix in effective communications with the community.

Dr. Cousin noted that this is a Superintendent's committee and stated that the change in language would be considered. He also noted that staff will be reporting to the Board on this committee and on the communication audit that has recently taken place. Recommendations will be made about how to better communicate with the public, which will involve all aspects of the school system and the Board.

Scheduling

Board members scheduled a training session on the Feasibility Study/Capital Budget process.

Recess: The meeting was recessed by the Chairman at 5:40 p.m. and reconvened at 7:30 p.m.

Public Forum

Ms. Diane Goodridge, Parent, testified on lessons learned as a result of the Worthington ES asbestos abatement project.

Ms. Kimberly Bronow, Parent, asked the Board to ensure immediate, full, and complete disclosure of all data, results, and reports related to the air tests conducted at Worthington ES.

Dr. Cousin responded that staff has determined that the abatement project scheduled for May 5, 2007, will not take place onsite as previously indicated. Shortcomings in communication with parents will be addressed, and Mr. Ray Brown and his staff will also hold a community information meeting to address issues that have been raised. Dr. Cousin also stated that the goal is to ensure that these projects are performed in the safest way possible.

Ms. Linda Dewberry, Parent, reported on the illegal storage of school buses and resulting traffic issues caused by a bus contractor in the Mt. Airy area.

Appointment – Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) Monthly Report

Ms. Rose Dennison, CAC President, reported on recent activities of the CAC, including the results of the election of officers and approval of bylaws. The bylaws also include a name change to Community Advisory Council, effective July 1, 2007. Policy review committees and the backpack taskforce are wrapping up their work, and budget testimony is being drafted for presentation to the County Council on May 5, 2007.

Pupil Transportation Study

Presenters: Mr. David Drown, Director of Transportation.

Mr. Drown introduced Mr. Glenn Johnson, Consultant, to present an overview of the study. The report includes a history of bus contracting in Maryland and Howard County, a survey of neighboring school systems, current operation of HCPSS transportation, and a comparison of public versus private school bus operations.

Pupil Transportation officials are finding it more difficult to secure bus contracts and have seen a decline in the availability of certified bus drivers. The study was contracted to explore viable options for maintaining service in the future.

Recommendations stemming from the report suggest that the Board continue to contract bus services using the competitive bidding process, but consider implementing a limited form of public ownership to supplement the contracted operation. Mr. Johnson proposed a phase-in, with a focus on special needs contracts, beginning with the 2008/2009 school year. He suggested that the Board wait until after the second round of bidding in February to get a better picture of need.

Discussion:

Board members discussed issues related to the recommendation of a limited self-operating system, including bus storage, repair facilities, hiring of personnel, and capital budget needs. Mr. Johnson indicated that HCPSS could work with the county government in terms of facilities to house buses and for maintenance of vehicles. He also stated that some school systems have public drivers of private vehicles.

Mr. Ray Brown pointed out that this study is the first step, and staff will be reviewing the data and recommendations and receiving additional input to bring back to the Board with a recommendation.

Mrs. Mikulis mentioned that former Board member and current County Council member, Mary Kay Sigaty, had raised concerns in the past about problems associated with school bus transportation contracts. Mrs. Giles indicated the need for careful study and evaluation of alternatives to the current situation.

Mrs. Mikulis expressed appreciation to Mr. Johnson for his work on the report and stated that the Board looks forward to hearing staff's recommendations, questions, and comments on the study.

Bridge To Excellence – ESOL Program

Presenters: Ms. Debbie Espitia, World Languages & ESOL Coordinator, and Ms. Young-Chan Han, International Student and Family Services Specialist.

Ms. Espitia reported that HCPSS enrolls students from 77 different countries, speaking 67 different languages. In a Bridge to Excellence Status report on English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) programming, Ms. Espitia called on administrators and staff from four schools to showcase various aspects of the program.

Reports featured the ESOL Newcomers Program at River Hill HS, content-based ESOL instruction at Patapsco MS, co-teaching at Hollifield Station ES, and community outreach at Bollman Bridge ES. Ms. Young-Chan Han reported on services provided through the Office of International Student and Family Services, including translation and interpreting services, the International Student Registration Center, bilingual community liaisons, education seminars for families and staff, and the International Parent Leadership Program.

Discussion:

Mrs. Mikulis noted that a vast majority of school systems do not have these programs available for students and how fortunate HCPSS is to have them.

In response to Ms. Gordon, Mrs. Espitia explained that students who begin in kindergarten are expected to exit the program upon completion of elementary school. Students exit the program at varying rates because language learning is time dependent and progresses at different rates and levels for different individuals. The majority of HCPSS students exit within three to four years at the elementary school level. Prior literacy skills that a student brings in their first language will help accelerate the language-learning process in the second language.

Board members expressed appreciation to everyone who presented information and to the educators and administrators who work with the families and community.

Mrs. Mikulis extended an invitation to the community to join Board members for Coffee and Conversation on Saturday, April 28, 2007, at Thunder Hill ES, from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned by the Chairman at 9:30 p.m.