

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HOWARD COUNTY

May 10, 2007

The Board of Education of Howard County held a regularly scheduled meeting on May 10, 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
Sandra Erickson, Deputy Superintendent
Raymond Brown, Chief Operating Officer
Patti Caplan, Director, Public Relations
Arlene Conway, Recording Secretary

Chairman Diane Mikulis called the meeting to order at 4:06 p.m., and student Phil Lasser, newly elected HCASC (Howard County Association of Student Councils) President for 2007/2008, led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Forum

Holly Schemm, Hammond HS Student, presented her Gifted and Talented independent research project on the New Face of Hammond High, which is a redesign of the current facility for efficiency purposes.

Student Amy Beers reported on her positive experience in the television production class.

Barbara Wasserman, MD, asked the Board to evaluate the implementation of the Wellness Policy to date, specifically regarding the school meal program and the physical education program.

Parent Cindy Ardinger stressed the need to fund the Mt. Hebron HS project in the FY 2008 capital budget.

Approved – June 14, 2007

Approval of Agenda

The following changes were made to the agenda:

Add: Item XIII. – Mt. Hebron HS Project Discussion.
Move (to next meeting): Item XIV.F – Septic System Requirements at Folly Quarter MS and Triadelphia Ridge ES.

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

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Cousin expressed his appreciation for the work of all educators in the system, remarking that this is an outstanding school system because of the outstanding staff. He congratulated the following individuals:

- Patricia Phillips, Phelps Luck ES, this year's Howard County Teacher of the Year.
- Linda Scrivener, Elkridge Landing MS GT Resource Teacher, named 2007 Howard County History Day Teacher of the Year.
- Charlotte Lollis, Triadelphia Ridge ES; Arlene Katz, Clarksville MS; Molly Gearhart, River Hill HS; and Diane Kelley, Atholton HS, recipients of the Counselor/Advocate of the Year Award.
- Student Board Member Wossen Ayele, recipient of the Columbia Foundation's Ernesto Phillip Scholarship for Talented Youth.

Mr. David White, Budget Officer, informed the Board that based on an updated projection from the school system's actuary, the \$2.3 million cut to the FY 2008 Operating Budget Request can be absorbed through a reduction in next year's self-insurance fund. The self-insurance program costs included in the budget request were based on earlier projections from the actuary.

Mr. Ray Brown explained that the reason the school system is in this positive position is because of efficiencies generated from moving to self-insurance last year.

Student Member's Report

Mr. Ayele reported on the first County Youth Summit, which was held on Friday, April 27, 2007. He expressed appreciation to Mr. Roger Plunkett, Business, Community and Government Relations Officer; Mrs. Giles; and Mrs. Mikulis for their participation in the event. Mr. Phil Lasser, newly elected HCASC President, provided details about the summit and future plans.

Mrs. Mikulis and Mrs. Giles commented on the success of the Youth Summit and noted that it was completely student organized and facilitated.

Mr. Ayele also reported that the Governor is scheduled to sign HB 513 (Student Representation for the Board of Education) on May 17, 2007. This bill provides partial voting rights to the Student Member to the Howard County Board of Education.

Student Representative's Report

Mr. Blair Burnett, Wilde Lake HS SGA (Student Government Association) President, reported on events taking place at the school, including AP registration and testing, improvements in attendance, fundraising events, achievements made by students in fine arts department, and upcoming senior activities.

Board Members' Reports - There were no items to report by Board members.

Signing of Negotiated Agreements

Presenter: Ms. Sue Mascaro, Director of Staff Relations.

Ms. Mascaro explained that the final agreements are the direct result of collaborative efforts between the individual unions and Board negotiating teams.

American Federation of State, City, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)

Ms. Mascaro invited Dr. Cousin; Mrs. Mikulis; Mr. George Gisin, Chief Negotiator for AFSCME; Mr. James Hackett, AFSCME President; and Ms. Sandra Jones, AFSCME Secretary to the table to sign the new agreement.

On behalf of the employees represented by Local 1899 (custodians, maintenance, grounds, and warehouse), Mr. Hackett expressed appreciation for support of the contract package. Ms. Mascaro asked that members of the union and Board negotiating teams stand and be recognized.

Howard County Administrators' Association (HCAA)

Ms. Mascaro invited Ms. Sue Webster, President of HCAA, and Ms. Lauren Bauer, HCAA Secretary, to the table to sign the new agreement. She also asked members of the negotiating teams for the HCAA agreement to stand and be recognized.

Consent Agenda

Staff Personnel; Bids and Contracts; Operating Budget Monthly Report; School Construction Monthly Reports; Appointment of Local Representative PL81-874 (Impact Aid); Project Discovery – Grant from Developmental Disabilities Council; Donations; and Minutes of April 12 (Regular Meeting), April 19 (Official and Confidential – Closed Meeting), and April 26, 2007 (Official and Confidential – Closed Meeting).

Action: Ms. Gordon moved approval of the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Aquino and approved by the members of the Board (7/0). Mr. Ayele supported the motion.

Staff Personnel – Approved by the Board.

Resignations:

Name	School	Grade or Subject	Reason	Years In Howard County	Effective Date
Allen, Kristin	Fr. Leave	Elem. Ed.	Personal	17.0	06/30/07
Archer, Alexis	REH	Counselor	Relocating	2.0	06/30/07
Avis, Jodi	Fr. Leave	Bus. Ed	Personal	4.0	06/30/07
Belsky, Mia Severin	HES	Spec. Ed.	Personal	3.0	06/14/07
Billey, Sonya	Fr. Leave	Elem Ed	Family Obligations	9.0	06/30/07
Borowski, Kelly	Fr. Leave	Asst. Princ.	Family Obligations	21.0	06/30/07
Corales, Cherry	SFES	Elem. Ed.	Family Obligations	1.0	06/14/07
Connelly, Cally	HoHS	Math	Relocation	2.0	06/14/07
Connelly, Ross	HoHS	Math	Relocation	2.0	06/14/07
Corpora, Adam	CES	Music	Relocation	2.0	06/14/07
Dayball, Carrie	SFES	Sp. Path.	Relocation	2.0	06/14/07
Deneen, Karen	RES	Elem. Ed.	Personal	1.0	06/14/07
Doyle, Elizabeth	Fr. Leave	English	Family Obligations	15.0	06/30/07
Eschilman, Debra	ELES	Music	Relocation	12.0	06/14/07
Gagnon, Elizabeth	GCES	Spec. Ed.	Relocation	1.0	06/14/07
Gill, Kristin	Fr. Leave	Elem. Ed.	Family Obligations	6.0	06/30/07
Greenberg, Susannah	RES	Soc. Studies	Family Obligations	1.0	06/14/07
Groner, Karen	Fr. Leave	Reading	Family Obligations	19.0	06/30/07
Haller, Mary Ryan	Fr. Leave	Elem	Family Obligations	20.0	06/30/07
Heller, Shawn	FES	Art	Relocation	2.0	06/14/07
Honeycutt, Lauren	Fr. Leave	English	Other Employment	5.0	06/30/07
Jackson, Vicki	RHHS	Spec. Ed.	Relocation	2.0	06/14/07
Kowalski, Ann	AHS	Music	Relocation	4.0	06/14/07
Legler, Nicole	Fr. Leave	Elem. Ed.	Personal	5.0	06/30/07
Loizeaux, Jennifer	ReHS	ESOL	Relocation	2.0	06/14/07
McKay, Rebecca	CRS	Soc. Studies	Relocation	1.0	06/14/07
Nelson, Rebecca	CHS	Chemistry	Relocation	2.0	06/14/07
Neuberger, Leslie	BBES	Elem. Ed.	Family Obligations	1.8	05/02/07
O'Connor, Heather	EMMS	English	Other Employment	2.0	06/14/07
Phillips, Alona	CRS	Music	Personal	1.0	06/14/07
Plenn, Krista	Fr. Leave	Elem. Ed.	Relocation	9.0	06/30/07
Renkevans, Jennifer	Fr. Leave	Elem. Ed.	Family Obligations	7.0	06/30/07
Rezvani, Marjan	OMHS	Foreign Lang.	Relocation	1.0	06/14/07
Robertson, Laura	Fr. Leave	Resource	Relocation	9.0	06/30/07
Rolewicz, Deborah	Fr. Leave	Kindergarten	Family Obligations	17.0	06/30/07
Schwing, Laura	Fr. Leave	Elem. Ed.	Family Obligations	11.0	06/30/07
Shanavas, Reema	WLMS	Math	Other Employment	1.0	06/14/07

Slaughter, Carolyn	MWES	Spec. Ed.	Retrun to School	2.0	06/14/07
Smith, Rebecca	Fr. Leave	Asst. Princ.	Relocation	14.0	06/30/07
Stedman, James	PRES	Elem. Ed.	Family Obligations	1.0	06/14/07
Sumy, Shoshana	WLHS	Spec. Ed.	Personal	2.0	06/14/07
Tipp, Sonia	Fr. Leave	OT	Relocation	5.0	06/30/07
Vandenberge, Rebecca	Fr. Lve.	Elem. Ed.	Fam. Ob.	11.0	06/30/07
Wachter, Nicole	Fr. Leave	Math	Relocation	9.0	06/30/07
Walker, Teresa	GHS	Spec. Ed.	Personal	1.0	06/14/07
Wang, Sheng-Tsung	CLES	Music	Other Employment	1.0	06/14/07

Contracts:

Name	School	Grade or Subject	Place of Last Teaching Assignment	Grade/Step	Effective Date
Daniels, Kahla	OMMS	SPE	Private School	A-01	04/10/07

Leaves of Absence:

Name	School	Grade or Subject	Reason	Years in Howard County	Effective Date
Bradley, Ella	BSES	Elem. Ed.	Childbearing	6.0	08/21/07

Retirements:

Name	School	Grade or Subject	Reason	Years in Howard County	Effective Date
McCarron, William	WLHS	Forg. Lang	Retirement	13.8	4/1/2007

Bids and Contracts – Approved by the Board.

P-1	Student Transportation				
	Bowen's Bus Service				\$ 53,730
	Adkins Enterprises, Ltd.				59,535
	Woodlawn Motor Coach				62,697
	Sharon A. Ward, Inc.				88,245
	K.A.M. Enterprises				<u>202,284</u>
	TOTAL				\$466,491
P-2	Plumbing Supplies				
	Ferguson Enterprises, Inc.				\$80,000 est.
P-3	Audiovisual Equipment Mounting				
	Kipp Visual Systems				\$16,666 est.
	Nicholas P. Pipino				16,667 est.
	Nelson White System, Inc.				<u>16,667 est.</u>
	TOTAL				\$50,000 est.

P-4	Food Services Mechanical Equipment Service and Preventative Maintenance Total Kitchen Care, LLC	\$83,784
P-5	Cooling Tower – Wilde Lake HS Chesapeake Systems	\$56,296

FY 2007 Operating Budget Monthly Financial Report – Accepted by the Board.

FY 2007 School Construction Financial Report – Accepted by the Board.

Appointment of Local Representative PL81-874 (Impact Aid) – Approved by the Board.

The Board approved Mrs. Sandra Erickson, Deputy Superintendent, as the PL81-874 (Impact Aid) authorized representative for FY 2008, effective immediately.

Project Discovery – Grant Received from the Developmental Disabilities Council – Approved by the Board.

The Project Discovery Grant period is March 1, 2007, through August 1, 2008, and provides \$75,000 to HCPSS.

Donations – Approved by the Board.

Bellows Spring ES:	PTA, in the amount of \$800, designated for the purchase of reading books for the reading cart.
Bushy Park ES:	PTA, in the amount of \$694, designated for the purchase of a computer for the portable computer lab.
Centennial Lane ES:	Chris and Michelle Berry, in the amount of \$2123, designated for the purchase of a portable large jungle gym.
Clarksville ES:	IBM Corporation, IBM Laptop Think Pad 1847, valued at \$1729, designated for students to have an opportunity to work on a laptop to create an original piece of work and be able to use the computer anywhere in the classroom.
Ellicott Mills MS:	Target, in the amount of \$575.14, designated for the purchase of printer supplies.
Centennial HS:	Target, in the amount of \$776.85, designated for the purchase of a computer for student use. Allegis Group, in the amount of \$2500, designated for the after-prom party.

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- Howard HS: Target, in the amount of \$763.72, designated for 9th grade student incentives.
- Long Reach HS: Roland Heurich, in the amount of \$1000, designated to support the 9th grade reading initiative program.
- Anonymous, in the amount of \$1000, designated to offset the cost of the music trip to New York City.
- Boosters, in the amount of \$1000, designated to offset the cost of the music trip to New York City.
- Target, in the amount of \$512.21, designated for the purchase of printer supplies.
- Marriotts Ridge HS: James and Delores Romero, a Marriotts Ridge HS handmade quilt valued at \$625.
- Boosters, in the amount of \$1008.50. \$500 designated for History Alive, a Cultural Arts program, and \$508.50 designated for the purchase of two “Regional Champs” cross-country banners.
- Dr. George A. Hruneni, in the amount of \$500, designated to support awards for the Class Acts program.
- Mt. Hebron HS: Target, in the amount of \$674.04, designated for the purchase of a computer and printer.
- Howard County Youth Program, in the amount of \$8000, designated for the purchase of two scoreboards for the main gymnasium.
- Tom Rekart, in the amount of \$3450.00, designated for the printing of the Mt. Hebron basketball team programs that includes pictures and biographies of the players.
- River Hill HS: Target, in the amount of \$876.87, designated for the purchase of computer supplies for the student computer lab.
- Boosters, in the amount of \$1922, designated for the purchase of uniforms for the girls basketball team.
- Wilde Lake HS: Chatham Mall Merchants, in the amount of \$750, designated for the chemical-free after-prom activities.

Minutes of April 12 (Regular Meeting), April 19 (Official and Confidential – Closed Meeting), and April 26, 2007 (Official and Confidential – Closed Meeting). – Approved by the Board.

Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance (APFO) Chart

Presenters: Mr. Joel Gallihue, Manager of School Planning, and Mr. Ken Roey, Executive Director for Facilities Planning and Management.

Mr. Roey presented the APFO Chart for 2007/2008 for the Board's adoption. The chart lists schools as "open" or "closed" based on the capacities as listed and funded in the FY 2008 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) and the enrollment projections developed for the FY 2008 Capital Budget and CIP/Redistricting Process. Projections have been adjusted to reflect the Board's approved attendance areas from November 2006.

Mr. Gallihue explained that the capacity percentages are rounded, which resulted in Ellicott Mills MS being "open" in 2013 at 115-percent capacity (rounded from 114.95 percent), and Fulton ES is shown as "closed" in 2015 at 115-percent capacity (rounded from slightly over 115 percent).

Mrs. Mikulis noted that the chart provides important information on particular school districts and regions that are experiencing growth issues, particularly in the out years.

Action: Mrs. French moved adoption of the APFO Chart for 2007/2008. The motion was seconded by Dr. Siddiqui and approved by the members of the Board (7/0). Mr. Ayele supported the motion.

School Opening and Closing Times (Final)

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

Mr. Drown reported on the school opening and closing times for next year. He indicated that the original times recommended for the new Veterans ES have been adjusted from a 9:25 to a 9:10 a.m. opening and a 3:55 to a 3:40 p.m. closing. Only three other school schedules will change next year:

Burleigh Manor MS will open and dismiss five minutes later than this year.
Hollifield Station ES will open and dismiss 35 minutes earlier than this year.
Phelps Luck ES will open and dismiss 10 minutes later than this year.

Proclamation to Honor the Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HOWARD COUNTY
PROCLAMATION HONORING
AUDIOLOGISTS & SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS

WHEREAS, an estimated 42 million Americans, or 1 in 10 families, have some type of communication disorder, which has a \$30 billion impact on the U.S. economy due to lost work productivity, the provision of special education services, and medical treatment; and

WHEREAS, the Howard County Public School System is proud to have 116 audiologists and speech-language pathologists offering quality education services to its students; and

WHEREAS, the Howard County Public School System recognizes the expertise of audiologists and speech-language pathologists in developing listening, speaking, literacy, and language development of our students; and

WHEREAS, the Howard County Public School System values the efforts of all audiologists and speech-language pathologists to help individuals with communication disorders reach their academic potential and lead independent, productive, and fulfilling lives; and

WHEREAS, May is traditionally observed as Better Hearing and Speech Month;

THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED that the Board of Education of Howard County designates the month of May 2007 as Better Hearing and Speech Month 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 audiologists and speech-language pathologists in improving the quality of life for students with communication disorders.

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

Mrs. Mikulis expressed appreciation to the Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists and asked that those in the audience stand and be recognized. Mr. Cohen also expressed appreciation for the hard work and services provided by these employees.

Nominations for MABE (Maryland Association of Boards of Education) Board of Directors and Officers

Current Positions: Ms. Pat Gordon, Treasurer
Mrs. Diane Mikulis, Member of the Board of Directors

Mrs. Mikulis explained that MABE offers professional development for board members as well as other school system staff and provides the opportunity to talk with people from other counties about their processes and procedures. Participation is strongly encouraged.

Action: Mr. Cohen nominated Ms. Pat Gordon (current Treasurer) for President-elect of MABE. The motion was seconded by Mrs. French and approved by the members of the Board (7/0). Mr. Ayele supported the motion.

Action: Mrs. Giles nominated Mrs. Diane Mikulis for a second term on the Board of Directors of MABE. The motion was seconded by Mr. Aquino and approved by the members of the Board (7/0). Mr. Ayele supported the motion.

Mrs. French also noted the importance of having Board members on the Board of Directors of MABE and presenting the positive message of activities in Howard County. Members look up to Howard County as a leader in the state.

Revision of High School Technology Education

Presenter: Dr. Rich Weisenhoff, Career and Technology Education Coordinator.

Dr. Weisenhoff reported that as a result of recent decisions by the Maryland State Board of Education, some current high school courses will no longer fulfill the technology education credit requirement for graduation. Dr. Weisenhoff indicated that beginning with the Class of 2012, four high school courses would fulfill the technology education credit requirement: Computing in the Designed World, Foundations of Technology, Engineering Design, and Principles of Engineering.

In addition, each high school will require three instructional areas for technology education: a production laboratory, a computer laboratory, and a comprehensive laboratory. Three technology education teachers will be required at each high school. Each high school has been evaluated, and 9 out of the 12 schools will need some renovation of existing spaces.

Currently, the school system employs 18.5 high school technology education teachers. Approximately 12 current Business Computer Management Systems teachers will be trained to teach technology education courses and prepare to take the Praxis II exam in Technology. The school system may need to hire an additional 6 to 8 teachers for the 2008/2009 school year.

Discussion:

Mr. Cohen asked if certain courses would be phased out because of the changes in requirements. Dr. Weisenhoff stated that staff is considering a new academy for students who are interested in becoming administrative assistants, which will utilize the Software Applications course in some way. In addition, the Software Applications course is being

rewritten to make it a personal financial literacy course using software applications. Because of the new COMAR requirements, the option for students to receive credit for the course by exam will no longer be available.

Board members and staff expressed concerns about finding certified teachers to teach the technology courses.

Mr. Aquino commented that the proposal to move the Architectural Academy to the ARL appeared contrary to the school system's efforts to move or keep academy programs in the local/home schools. In response to Mr. Aquino, Dr. Weisenhoff explained that there are 45 students across the county currently enrolled in the Architectural Academy. With the need to use technology labs for the new courses, it will be easier to run the architectural program at the ARL (Applications and Research Lab).

Funding for needed renovations to support the new requirements will be requested in the FY 2009 capital budget. Staff will also work with the company that is performing the facilities study of Atholton, Centennial, Hammond, and Mt. Hebron high schools to incorporate the new requirements for those schools.

It was noted that a letter was sent by Dr. Cousin to the state board in opposition of these changes in the curriculum, and Mr. Glascock also testified against the changes. Mrs. French stated that she would like the Board to send a letter to the state board explaining how HCPSS is complying with the new requirements in order to give them a concrete understanding of how it will affect the capital budget, students, teachers, and the classroom.

Dr. Cousin indicated that a more powerful message would be received if communication was sent through MABE, and he noted that the requirements may be a much larger issue with some counties than others. Mrs. Giles noted the importance of reinforcing to the state board the need to work together at finding ways to address needs across school systems and to reiterate that coordination is critical in terms of what teachers are trained to do in relation to the needs of all school systems.

Scheduling

By consensus, the Board moved Scheduling to the end of the agenda.

Policy 8080 (1501) – Acceptable Use of Computer Technology

Presenter: Dr. Jose' Stevenson, Director of Information Technology, and Ms. Julie Wray, Instructional Facilitator, Media and Educational Technology.

Dr. Stevenson presented revisions to Policy 1501 (new 8080) - Acceptable Use of Computer Technology, which among other things, reserves the school system's right to purge files as well as access, archive, and disclose files under certain conditions. The revisions clarify language regarding the reassignment of hardware, and provides for

termination of technology access and accounts. Implementation procedures prohibit cyber-bullying and limit student access to online games.

As a result of public and staff input, staff is amending the original proposal to include the changes summarized in the report. Given the accelerated pace at which technology changes, it is also recommended that this policy should be reviewed at least every three years.

Discussion:

Mrs. Mikulis expressed concern regarding improper Internet use by elementary and middle school students. Mr. Tom Miller, Executive Director of Instruction and Business Technology, explained that content filtering is employed, and the policy indicates that forms for students to sign regarding appropriate use of the Internet could also be used if desired. Mrs. Mikulis asked that consideration be given to this issue to emphasize its seriousness to students. Mr. Glascock stated that the issue will be discussed with administrators to determine if signing pledges regarding Internet use is feasible to implement.

Mr. Cohen indicated the need to review this policy more frequently than every three years because computer technology changes so quickly. It was noted that staff could make changes in the implementation procedures at any time to keep the policy updated with changes in laws, COMAR, etc.

Action: Mr. Aquino moved approval of Policy 1501 (8080). The motion was seconded by Mrs. Giles and approved by the members of the Board (7/0). Mr. Ayele supported the motion.

Policy 5100 (4111) – School Health Services

Presenter: Ms. Donna Heller, Coordinator of Health Services

Ms. Heller reported on changes to Policy 5100 (4111) and noted that the proposed policy updates licensure and certification language, emphasizes the legal and regulatory underpinnings of school health services, and provides for emergency medication and treatment of employees under certain conditions.

Based upon approval of this policy, evaluation procedures must be refined, and professional development is needed for HCPSS health staff and administrators regarding the evaluation procedures. Professional development would also be needed regarding health services for employees and visitors. Forms and procedures would need to be developed in addition to a process by which staff could request some of the more complex procedures that might be needed for emergency treatments.

A public hearing is scheduled for June 14, with action scheduled for June 28. The effective date of the policy will be July 1, 2007.

Discussion:

Ms. Heller explained that health assistants must be certified nursing assistants to be hired and that certification must be renewed every two years in order to continue working for the school system. HCPSS provides training for health assistants to become certified medication technicians and also renews that certification every two years.

Plans are developed between cluster nurses and administrators to determine who administers medications in the school in the absence of the health assistant or cluster nurse. Plans are also developed for dispensing medications on field trips.

In response to Mrs. Mikulis, Ms. Heller stated that the school system works jointly with the Howard County Health Department regarding policy and implementation procedures related to communicable diseases.

In response to Dr. Siddiqui, Ms. Heller explained that records are kept in the schools and in the Risk Management Office of employees who are certified in CPR and first aid. In the Health Room, the information is recorded in the substitute folder as to who in the school is certified in CPR and first aid. Nurses are also training staff in the schools in an effort to increase the number of employees certified to 10 percent in each school.

The Health Services Office provides medication certification training at least four times a year, and professional development on general health topics is also provided twice a year. Cluster nurses work with their own health assistants and occasionally bring them together for professional development on various health topics on days when students are dismissed early. Training in identifying signs of children who may have mental health issues has been provided in the past, and staff is currently looking at providing more education on mental health symptoms.

Mrs. Mikulis thanked everyone who was involved in the draft of this policy. A public hearing is scheduled for June 14, 2007, and the Board welcomes comments from the community, staff, and students.

Policy 10010 (3131) – Publications/Communications

Presenters: Mrs. Patti Caplan, Public Relations Director, and Mr. Mark Blom, General Counsel.

Mrs. Caplan and Mr. Blom introduced revisions to Policy 10010 (3131), Publications/Communications. The policy committee recommends separating the current policy into two separate policies (Policy 9030 – Student Publications and Productions and Policy 10010 – Distribution and Display of Materials and Announcements in Schools). The first would address student publications and productions and specifies when a

principal may disapprove a publication or production. The second policy would define the procedures for distribution of materials and announcements in schools, including the dissemination of student publications that are not school sponsored.

Public hearings on Policy 4111 and Policy 3131 will be held on June 14. The Board is scheduled to take action on both policies on June 28, 2007.

Discussion:

Policy 9030 – Student Publications and Productions

Mrs. French indicated a need for more emphasis on the professional journalistic standard of fact checking and checking sources. The professional standard that should be addressed in this policy is that students verify the truth of what they are writing.

Concerns were expressed regarding language in the policy related to students having the right to express their viewpoints without harassment. Mr. Blom indicated that the language could be improved. Mrs. Caplan noted that the intent was to clarify that a student would not be disciplined for their opinion, but disciplinary action can be taken if the opinion is expressed in a defamatory or libelous way. Mrs. Giles suggested taking out the word harassment.

Board members also indicated the need to evaluate whether the language “unprivileged statements” is needed or whether it is confusing and should be removed.

Policy 10010 – Distribution and Display of Materials and Announcements

Mrs. Mikulis asked that the term “established criteria” and the state law governing appeals be referenced in the policy.

Both policies will be the subject of public hearings on June 14, 2007, and the Board welcomes all comments.

Mt. Hebron HS Project Discussion

Mrs. Mikulis provided a brief history on decisions that have caused a delay in the Mt. Hebron HS project. A facilities assessment study for Mt. Hebron, Atholton, Centennial, and Hammond high schools has been undertaken, and the Board deferred its decision on Mt. Hebron until the results of that study are available.

Dr. Cousin presented the Board with an option for keeping the Mt. Hebron HS renovation project on schedule, even though \$18.9 million designated for the project was cut from the Board’s FY 2008 Capital Budget request. Dr. Cousin suggested using funds remaining in the Site Acquisition and Construction Reserve category in this year’s budget and the \$5 million in that line item in the FY 2008 budget to proceed with planning. He

also noted that \$850,000 in planning money remains in this year's capital budget for the Mt. Hebron project.

Discussion:

Dr. Cousin assured the Board that the money taken from the Site Acquisition and Construction Reserve fund would not have a dramatic impact on its future use. The fund currently has \$8 million, and an additional \$5 million will be added once the capital budget is approved. Dr. Cousin's recommendation would only require the use of \$1.2 million to provide for architectural planning, keep the project on track, and give it priority for future construction funding.

Mrs. French pointed out that the Board did not choose to defer funding for the Mt. Hebron project, as indicated in the County Auditor's May 11, 2007, letter to the County Council. The Board has only chosen to defer the decision on how to spend the funding for the project.

Board members discussed the feasibility of various project timelines, funding needs, the importance of the facilities study, and their commitment to the Mt. Hebron project. Discussion also entailed the need to go forward with the budget as presented to the County Executive and to request the restoration of the \$18.9 million. Concerns were also expressed about the need to have a specific plan for the funds requested.

Motion: Mr. Cohen moved that the Board accept the Superintendent's recommendation that the Board provide planning funds for the Mt. Hebron project in FY 2008 using the Site Acquisition and Construction Reserve account in an amount to be determined after the feasibility study involving Atholton, Centennial, Hammond, and Mt. Hebron high schools. The motion was seconded by Ms. Gordon.

Discussion:

Dr. Siddiqui stated that the Board has demonstrated its commitment to the Mt. Hebron community and indicated the need to continue with the budget as originally presented.

Motion: Mrs. Mikulis moved that the Board amend the motion to state that in the event that funding is not provided for Mt. Hebron in the FY 2008 capital budget, then the Board would proceed as stated in Mr. Cohen's motion. The amendment was seconded by Ms. Gordon.

Discussion:

Mr. Aquino indicated that it was premature to make any motions regarding the capital budget at this time. The County Council work session on both the capital and operating

budgets is scheduled for Friday, May 11, 2007. The County Council will determine the amount of capital funding the school system will receive for FY 2008.

Action: The amendment to the motion failed by a vote of 3-4, with Mr. Aquino, Mr. Cohen, Mrs. Giles, and Dr. Siddiqui voting no. The student member opposed the motion.

Action: The original motion failed by a vote of 2-5, with Mr. Aquino, Mrs. French, Mrs. Giles, Mrs. Mikulis, and Dr. Siddiqui voting no. The student member opposed the motion.

Scheduling

By consensus, the Board agreed to postpone Scheduling.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned by the Chairman at 7:50 p.m.

Information Items

- A. Food and Nutrition Services Financial Report
- B. Policy 9050 (2050) – Attendance – Minor Revision/Procedures
- C. Policy (3711) Child Abuse – Minor Revision/Procedures
- D. Policy (2700) – Testing – Minor Revision/Procedures
- E. Policy (3301) – Rehabilitation Act of 1973 Compliance: Section 504 – Minor Revision/Procedures
- F. Septic System Requirements at Folly Quarter MS and Triadelphia Ridge ES.