

## **Minutes of the Board of Education**

**May 24, 2007**

The Board of Education of Howard County held a regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, May 24, 2007, at 4:00 p.m., in the Board Room of the Department of Education, located at 10910 Route 108, Ellicott City, Maryland. The following were present:

Diane Mikulis, Chairman  
Frank Aquino, Vice Chairman  
Lawrence Cohen  
Sandra H. French  
Ellen Flynn Giles  
Janet Siddiqui, M.D.  
Wossen Ayele, Student Member (left at 6:00 p.m.)

Sydney L. Cousin, Superintendent, Secretary/Treasurer  
Sandra Erickson, Deputy Superintendent (arrived at 6:02 p.m.)  
Patti Caplan, Director, Public Relations  
Arlene Conway, Recording Secretary

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 4:05 p.m.

### **Public Forum**

Ms. Sally Byrne spoke about the proposed policy changes for exchange students. She reviewed areas where she would like to see revisions.

Ms. Carrie Freiert, teacher, spoke about the Simulated Congressional Hearings (SCH). She noted how excellent the program is for students in learning about the workings of the government, good citizenship, and their sense of accomplishment in completing the program.

Ms. Kellie Nuss, parent, spoke about the value of the Simulated Congressional Hearings and the importance of students learning about citizenship.

Mr. Evan Nuss, student, discussed his experience with Simulated Congressional Hearings and speaking in public in front of a large group.

### **Approval of Agenda**

Item III.C. – Scheduling – Move to the end of the meeting.

Approved – June 28, 2007

*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 (6/0). Mr. Ayele supported the motion.

### **Recognition of the Student Member to the Board of Education**

Board members and Dr. Cousin read the following proclamation:

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HOWARD COUNTY  
PROCLAMATION  
HONORING  
WOSSEN AYELE  
2006-07 STUDENT MEMBER TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

WHEREAS, Wossen Ayele has served in an outstanding manner as Student Member to the Board of Education for the 2006-07 school year; and

WHEREAS, during his term Wossen has demonstrated genuine interest in educational issues and has brought thoughtful, insightful perspective to Board deliberations and discussions; and

WHEREAS, Wossen distinguished himself at Atholton High School as a member of the National Honor Society, by serving as sophomore and junior class president; as a member of the It's Academic Club, as the editor of the Raider Review, and by organizing activities for students with learning disabilities through the Best Buddies Program; and

WHEREAS, Wossen served the school system as a member of the Student Advisory Council to the Black Student Achievement Program; as a student representative on policy committees, and as an executive board member for the Student Learning Conference; and

WHEREAS, throughout his high school career, Wossen has been an active participant in the Maryland Association of Student Councils and the Howard County NAACP Youth Council; and

WHEREAS, Wossen is an accomplished scholar, who through the school system's Internship Program, interned in both the research and clinical areas of the McKusick-Nathans Institute of Genetics at Johns Hopkins and the Johns Hopkins Medicine Department of Neurosurgery and Oncology Laboratory;

THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED, that the Board of Education of Howard County congratulates Wossen Ayele for his numerous accomplishments and wishes him continued success as he pursues his interest in medicine and public health; and

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED, that the Board expresses sincere appreciation to Wossen Ayele for his commitment and responsible participation during his term as

Student Member to the Board of Education and for his outstanding service on behalf of the students of the Howard County Public School System.

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Diane Mikulis, Chairman  
Board of Education of Howard County

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Sydney L. Cousin, Superintendent  
Howard County Public School System

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

Mr. Ayele stated that he will be attending Yale University in the fall. He expressed appreciation for the proclamation and thanked Board members, staff, and the Superintendent for their guidance. In particular, he thanked Mr. Roger Plunkett, Business, Community and Government Relations Officer, for his help throughout the year.

On behalf of the Board, Mrs. Mikulis expressed appreciation to Mr. Ayele for his time and service on the Board.

### **12th Annual Sportsmanship Award**

*Presenter:* Mr. Michael Williams, Coordinator of Athletics.

Mr. Williams presented the annual Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) Sportsmanship Cup to Hammond HS. Mr. Sterlind Burke, Sr., Hammond HS Principal, and Mr. Joseph Russo, Hammond HS Athletic Director, accepted the award. Mr. Williams acknowledged Marriotts Ridge HS as runner up.

Mr. Russo accepted the award and thanked the Board and staff for giving Hammond HS this distinction.

### **Music Educator of the Year Award**

*Presenter:* Mr. Robert White, Instructional Facilitator for Music.

Mr. White introduced Mrs. Hillary Stishan, Parents for School Music Chairman. Mrs. Stishan presented Honorable Mention to Ms. Jacqueline DeBella, Cradlerock School, and Mr. Kendall Davis, Pointers Run ES. The Music Educator of the Year Award was presented to Mr. Michael Blackman, Triadelphia Ridge ES. Mr. Blackman spoke about the quality of the music program in Howard County and introduced band members from Triadelphia Ridge ES (percussionist Logan Faulconer, clarinetists Jackie Cohen and Tim Guertin, and flutist Joy Ko) who performed prior to the meeting.

Board members recognized music educators in the audience and expressed appreciation to staff for all their work with students.

**Howard County Education Association (HCEA) – Job Satisfaction Survey**

*Presenter:* Ms. Ann DeLacy, HCEA President.

Ms. DeLacy gave a report on the Job Satisfaction Survey. She noted the following highlights of the report:

- Approximately 6,300 surveys were distributed.
  - 3,089 individuals (or 49%) responded to the survey.
- Results of the survey were managed by a professional organization.
  - 71% of the respondents indicated overall morale in the worksite was good.
  - 85% indicated confidence in the Superintendent
  - 86% indicated confidence in the leadership exhibited by HCEA.
  - 68% responded that they received appropriate and adequate support and training during their first year on the job.
  - 27% experienced or witnessed harassing behavior from colleagues.
  - 21% experienced or witnessed harassing behavior from supervisors.
  - 60% indicated they had experienced or witnessed harassing behavior from parents.

Ms. De Lacy stated that the HCEA Human and Civil Rights Committee met to analyze the harassment data and made the following recommendations:

- Create a standard definition for “harassment.”
- Create harassment training.
- Complete and distribute guidelines.
  - Administrators should review these guidelines during the August faculty meeting.
- Suggested using the Guilford ES website as a guide.

**Appointment - PTA Council of Howard County (PTACHC)**

*Presenter:* Mrs. Mary Jane Grauso, PTACHC President.

Mrs. Grauso spoke about National Healthy Schools Day, a School Environment Team (SET) walkthrough, and a survey that was sent to schools on April 30, 2007, regarding their facilities. Mrs. Grauso expressed appreciation for the support of HCEA, HCAA, AFSCME, HCPSS, the Superintendent, and HCPSS Counsel on this issue.

Mrs. Mikulis expressed appreciation to PTACHC for their support and efforts on behalf of the school system.

**Superintendent’s Report**

Dr. Cousin updated the Board on the following activities, events, and staff accomplishments:

Approved – June 28, 2007

- Joined with State Superintendent, Nancy Grasmick, and Maryland Attorney General, Douglas Gansler, at Waverly ES to launch a statewide Internet Safety Initiative.
- At the annual In Honor of Excellence and Service Awards Ceremony, 424 educators were honored.
- Congratulated Mr. William Klingaman, AP US History and AP English teacher at Centennial HS, who will be honored by the Phillip Merrill Presidential Scholars Program at the University of Maryland.
- Congratulated River Hill HS senior Christopher Bowman, who has been named a Presidential Scholar in the Arts.
- Invited all employees to attend the Retirement Celebration to be held on Tuesday, June 5, 2007, at 7:00 p.m. at the Ten Oaks Ballroom in Clarksville, Maryland.
- Congratulated all the graduates of the high school class of 2007.

### **Student Member's Report**

Mr. Ayele reported that Governor O'Malley signed HB 513 on Thursday, May 17, 2007, which gives the next Student Member partial voting rights. He also reported on recent activities of the Howard County Association of School Councils (HCASC).

### **Student Representative Report**

Ms. Krista Barber, Mt. Hebron HS, reported on activities at the school, including various extracurricular successes in sports and drama, the Model United Nations competition, the Student Government Association's (SGA) canned food drive and elections, the Red Cross Blood Drive, and collaboration with the new principal to develop guidelines for school dances. She also noted that students and faculty are looking forward to the upcoming decision regarding the Mt. Hebron renovation.

### **Board Members' Reports**

There were no reports from Board members.

### **Consent Agenda**

Final Legislative Report/2007 General Assembly; Bids and Contracts; Donations; and Minutes of April 25 (Board of Education/County Council); April 26 (Regular Meeting), May 2 (Retreat Follow Up); and May 10, 2007 (Closed Meeting – Official and Confidential Minutes).

*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.

Final Legislative Report/2007 General Assembly – Approved by the Board.

Approved – June 28, 2007

Bids and Contracts – Approved by the Board.

P-1	Replacement of Generator – Central Office Savage Electric	\$87,000
P-2	Appliances and Kitchen Equipment Landers Appliance Longo's Appliance Calico Industries, Inc. The Stiller Appliance Co. Total Award	\$ 4,344 12,409 29,448 <u>67,613</u> \$113,814
P-3	Service and Preventive Maintenance for Food Service Refrigeration Equipment Reject all bids	
P-4	Roof Replacement – Talbott Springs ES Simpson of Maryland, Inc.	\$979,000
P-5	Roof Replacement – Jeffers Hill ES Reject all bids	
P-6	Roof Replacement – Dunloggin MS CitiRoof Corporation	\$494,920

Donations – Approved by the Board.

Clarksville Elementary:	PTA, in the amount of \$1,234, designated for two cultural arts programs, Class Acts Arts and Young Audiences.  PTA, in the amount of \$3,140, designated for an Artist in Residence program.
Hammond Middle:	PTA, in the amount of \$2,400, designated for the purchase of two PC projectors.
Centennial High:	Boosters, in the amount of \$3,588, designated for the Robotics Club (\$2,388), Future Educators Club (\$200), and the after-prom party (\$1,000).  DSVC Retail, in the amount of \$1,000, designated for the after-prom party.  Serafino's, in the amount of \$610.31, designated for the after-prom party.

WR Grace, in the amount of \$500, designated for the after-prom party.

Howard High:

Lion's Pride, purchase of a scorer's table, student athlete recognition letters and pins, and volleyball cart, valued at \$3,950.

Lion's Pride, purchase of athletic uniforms and warm-ups, and coaches' shirts, valued at \$8,500.

KRA, in the amount of \$585, designated to purchase gift certificates for student incentives.

KLM Youth Foundation, in the amount of \$500, designated for the athletic program.

Marriotts Ridge High:

Boosters, in the amount of \$2,400, designated to offset the cost of theatre lights.

Reservoir High:

Citizen's National Bank, in the amount of \$1,500, designated to support the Project Community Spring Retreat.

River Hill High:

Liberty Mutual, in the amount of \$1,000, designated to offset the cost of the Music Tech Lab.

The Columbia Foundation, in the amount of \$2,200, designated to offset the cost of the Music Tech Lab.

Wilde Lake High:

Boosters, in the amount of \$850, designated to offset part of the cost of mascot costumes.

Minutes of April 25 (Board of Education/County Council); April 26 (Regular Meeting), May 2 (Retreat Follow Up); and May 10, 2007 (Closed Meeting – Official and Confidential Minutes) – Approved by the Board.

### **Building Safe and Nurturing Environments with Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) – Moving Beyond the Green Zone**

*Presenter:* Mrs. Pamela Blackwell, Director, Student Services.

Mrs. Blackwell explained that PBIS is a systems approach to enhancing the capacity of schools to educate all students by developing research-based, school-wide and classroom discipline systems. The process focuses on improving the school's ability to teach and support positive behavior for all students.

The PBIS program started in 2000 in three pilot schools. Currently, 34 schools are actively involved with the program, with 11 additional schools and the Homewood Center scheduled to implement PBIS next year. Mr. Robert Motley, Patuxent Valley MS Principal, and Ms. Trisha McCarthy, Bollman Bridge ES Assistant Principal, reported on the implementation and success of PBIS at their schools.

The following are major focus areas:

- To increase the consistent use of positive teaching and reinforcement strategies among all school staff at schoolwide, classroom, and individual student levels.
- To reduce the use of reactive discipline measures in schools (i.e., office discipline referrals, detentions, suspensions, expulsions) for all students.
- To increase data-based decision-making about behavior and assist staff in developing and targeting specific interventions and supports for students at risk.
- To implement effective comprehensive supports/services/interventions for students with the most intensive behavioral/emotional needs.

Mrs. Blackwell noted that 17 Howard County schools will be recognized this summer and will be receiving awards from the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) for their outstanding work with PBIS. She also extended an invitation to Board members to attend the celebration and also to participate in new team training regarding PBIS.

### **Public Forum**

Mr. Michael Spenard spoke in support of the International Exchange Student Program and voiced his concern with changes to the policy on exchange students.

Ms. Jenny Davis discussed concerns about the administrative changes to the student visitor programs. The new proposed guidelines restrict access to schools for international students.

Ms. Thean Sim Ye, student from Malaysia attending Oakland Mills HS, spoke about her positive experience while here as an exchange student and how impressed she is with the HCPSS special education program. She also expressed concern with potential changes to the policy on exchange students.

Mrs. Mikulis noted that changes in these procedures are not decided by the Board. She indicated that staff is reviewing the changes, and information will be provided to the public once the review is finalized.

## **Renewal of Groundwater Discharge Permit at Folly Quarter MS and Triadelphia Ridge ES**

*Presenter:* Mr. Ken Roey, Executive Director, Facilities Planning and Management.

Mr. Roey reported that the Groundwater Discharge Permit covering the wastewater treatment systems at Folly Quarter MS and Triadelphia Ridge ES expired in November 2006 and is currently being renewed. The permits are issued for 5-year periods, and the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) has indicated that for the next renewal period, a standard for nitrogen level will be set.

The new 8 mg/L limit will require a level of treatment that the current filters at each of the two schools are not capable of achieving. Mr. Roey said he is proposing replacing the two recirculating sand filters with a Sequencing Batch Reactor (SBR) treatment facility that will serve both schools while keeping the existing disposal field for each school in operation.

Based on a review of the current 2009-2013 Capital Improvement Program, Mr. Roey has informed the MDE that the school system anticipates having the upgraded treatment facilities operational and meeting the new permit limits by 2012. This would require adding a \$5 million placeholder in the FY 2011 Capital Budget for construction of the system.

*Discussion:*

Mr. Roey explained that Lisbon, Manor Woods, and West Friendship elementary schools do not require a groundwater discharge permit because their usage does not exceed 10,000 gallons per day.

Mrs. French noted the importance of informing the public of the school system's foresight and planning to ensure the community that everything possible is being done to comply with the requirements and to do what is best for the community area. She questioned whether funding should be included in the FY 2010 Capital Budget, given the vagaries of funding and construction.

Mr. Roey responded that it would be prudent to include funds in FY 2010, if available, which would move the project along sooner. No additional land is required for the building or the fields.

## **Bridge To Excellence - Elementary and Secondary Science Report**

*Presenters:* Ms. Karen Learmouth, Coordinator of Elementary Science, and Mr. John Quinn, Coordinator of Secondary Science.

Ms. Learmouth and Mr. Quinn reported on the PreK-12 science program. The program is aligned with the MSDE Voluntary State Curriculum and Core Learning Goals

and strives to develop substantive science literacy in all students. The program places a strong emphasis on inquiry and scientific process skills, as well as the acquisition of scientific knowledge. Laboratory experiences are emphasized and supported at all levels.

Funding and support for the PreK-12 science program has enabled the implementation of an inquiry-based program at the elementary school level and formal laboratory experiences for middle and high school students. In addition, partnerships with other content areas, industry, and government and non-government organizations have created extensive learning opportunities for students outside of the science classroom.

Ms. Arlene Harrison, Principal of Waterloo ES; Mr. Jason Cartwright, Science Instructional Team Leader of Cradlerock School; and Ms. Amy Milauskas, Science Instructional Team Leader of Wilde Lake HS, reported on the science instruction at their respective schools. Mr. Phillip Sandborn, Wilde Lake HS student, reported on science mentorships and research opportunities.

Mr. Quinn noted that there is a growing concern that the United States is not preparing a sufficient number of students, teachers, and practitioners in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). HCPSS staff is exploring ways to enhance STEM opportunities, and a committee has been formed to identify HCPSS STEM needs and recommend ways to address those needs.

*Discussion:*

Mrs. French and Mrs. Giles commented on how impressive the Mathematics, Science, and Technology Fair was that they recently attended. Board members also complemented the science department on their expertise and presentation of materials related to science.

**Scheduling**

Board members set dates for upcoming meetings.

**Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned by the Chairman at 6:59 p.m.

**Information Item**

IFAS Implementation Status Report.