

# **Summary of the Board of Education Meeting**

## **October 26, 2006**

### **Action Items**

- Approved a consent agenda including bids and contracts, staff personnel, transfers and terminations of school bus contracts, donations, and minutes of Board of Education meetings.
- Approved a proclamation designating November as American Indian Heritage Month.
- Approved a proclamation designating November 15, 2006 as Educational Support Personnel Day.
- Approved procedures for Board of Education Committees: Finance, Audit and Budget; Policy; Legislative; Curriculum and Strategic Planning; and Facilities and School Planning.
- Approved the HCPSS PreK-12 essential curriculum and curriculum-based assessments for 2007-2008 (see: "Board Inspects Curriculum and Assessments").
- Approved the addition and deletion of courses for the Catalog of Approved High School Courses, 2007-2008.

### **Attendance Area Proposed for New Northeastern Elementary**

The new Northeastern Elementary School would receive students from Northfield, St. John's Lane, and Worthington elementary schools according to the Superintendent's recommendations presented to the Board. The plan gives relief to Hollifield Station Elementary School by moving approximately 153 students to St. John's Lane. St. John's Lane would also receive 147 students from Waverly Elementary. St. John's Lane Elementary would then send 35 students to Centennial Lane Elementary, which is receiving a 125-seat addition.

Other attendance area adjustment recommendations include sending 33 students from Northfield Elementary to Thunder Hill Elementary and sending 66 students from Bryant Woods Elementary to Running Brook Elementary. At the middle school level, it is recommended that Elkridge Landing Middle send 118 students to Mayfield Woods Middle and that Glenwood Middle send 99 students to Folly Quarter Middle.

The Board will hold work sessions on the proposal on November 2, November 14 and November 16 at 7:00 p.m. A public hearing is scheduled for November 9. Action on the proposal is scheduled for November 21.

### **Task Force to Consider Backpack Weight**

Curriculum Coordinator Linda Rangos reported that a task force would be convened shortly to study issues related to the weight of backpacks and make recommendations to the Superintendent. As part of its deliberations, the committee will consider research and data collected on the topic by the Citizens Advisory Committee and the PTA Council of Howard County.

Chief Operating Officer Ray Brown provided a brief update on initiatives related to the new wellness policy. He reported that the pilot program on vending machines has begun at Oakland Mills High School and that INTEAM, Inc. has begun its independent study of the Food and Nutrition Services Program.

Jackie French, Instructional Facilitator, reported that a new related arts staffing formula ensures a consistent level of physical education instruction in elementary schools. A new *Sport for Life* course has been added to the high school curriculum and a physical activity tool kit is being piloted in five elementary schools.

### **Board Inspects Curriculum and Assessments**

After approving the PreK-12 essential curriculum and related local assessments for the 2007-2008 school year, the Board had an opportunity to view displays of curriculum work completed over the past summer and talk informally with curriculum staff.

Instructional Facilitator Julie Wray reported on a locally compiled collection of media resources, entitled eKits, designed to give teachers and students easy access to high quality supplemental materials. Currently, 62 eKits are available for Grades K-8.

### **Residents Express Support for School Name**

At a public hearing on the naming of the new northeastern elementary school, David Catania, representing VFW Post 7472, and Roger Lerner both spoke in support of naming the new facility Veterans Elementary School. Resident Laura Ressler asked the Board to consider the name, Veterans Crest, which reflects the geography of the area. Joetta Cramm was the lone speaker testifying against the recommended name, suggesting instead that the Board consider a name with more historical significance such as Hilton, Old Columbia Pike, or Ellicott City. The Board will take action on the name at its meeting on November 9.

### **In Other Action...**

Deputy Superintendent Sandra Erickson reported that Dr. Cousin is recuperating from a back injury suffered in a car accident on October 7. He is planning to return to work next week. She also reported that all 12 high schools and Cedar Lane School met Adequate Yearly Progress and recognized the following staff accomplishments:

- Alicia Holter, teacher at Bryant Woods Elementary School, MCTM 2006 Elementary School Mathematics Educator of the Year
- Rick Hollenbeck, teacher at Harper's Choice Middle School, MCTM 2006 Middle School Mathematics Educator of the Year.
- Jon Wray, Secondary Mathematics Instructional Facilitator, elected President of the Maryland Council of Teachers of Mathematics
- Sherri Kennedy, Principal's Secretary at Patuxent Valley Middle School, MAEOP Educational Office Professional of the Year
- Janet Tlanda, Swansfield Elementary School guidance counselor, MSCA Elementary School Counselor of the Year

- Pauline Phillips, Oakland Mills High School guidance counselor, MSCA High School Counselor of the Year
- Shawna Pincus, Fulton Elementary, MAEA Howard County New Elementary Art Teacher of the Year
- Monica Stroter, Cradlerock School, MAEA Howard County Career Elementary Art Teacher of the Year
- Michael Bracco, Ellicott Mills Middle, MAEA Howard County New Middle School Art Teacher of the Year
- Laurie Basham, Glenwood Middle, MAEA Howard County Career Middle School Art Teacher of the Year
- Evan LaLonde, Reservoir High, MAEA Howard County New High School Art Teacher of the Year
- Laverne Miers-Bond, Marriotts Ridge High, MAEA Howard County Career High School Art Teacher of the Year.

At Public Forum, parent Ginny Patzer and student Laura Patzer addressed the Board with concerns about inconsistency among honor roll standards across high schools. Alex Barnes, a dAP participant, his father Jon Barnes, and dAP participant Larry Hughes asked the Board to provide financial support for the disability Awareness Program. Students Zemi Herring-Escoto, Oakland Mills High School, and Dylan Singleton, Wilde Lake High School, shared their GT Summer Institute experiences.

Rose Dennison, Chairman of the Citizens Advisory Committee, reported on the recent activities of the committee.

**The next regular meeting of the Board of Education is scheduled for 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 9, 2006.**