

Summary of the Board of Education Meeting

November 21, 2006

Action Items

- Approved a consent agenda including bids and contracts, the State Capital Budget Request Appeal to the IAC, donations, and minutes of Board of Education meetings.
- Appointed Diane Mikulis and Patricia Gordon to serve as the committee to approve the minutes of the current meeting on December 14, 2006 or during a subsequent Board meeting.
- Approved attendance area adjustments for the 2007-2008 school year (see: "Board sets attendance area for Veterans Elementary").

Board sets attendance area for Veterans Elementary

The Board approved the attendance area for the new Veterans Elementary School on Montgomery Road in Ellicott City and in doing so, changed the attendance areas for several elementary schools in the northern area of the county.

Based on the Board's decision, Veterans Elementary will draw its student population from three adjacent elementary schools. Approximately 450 students who currently reside in the St. John's Lane Elementary attendance area will attend the new school. This includes the area bounded by US 29 on the west, Route 40 on the north, the Baltimore County line on the east, and Main Street, Ellicott City from the Baltimore County line to Route 29 on the south. This includes students who reside on or have sole egress to Route 40, including Executive Center Drive and Ridge Road North and all streets that egress onto these streets.

Worthington Elementary School will send 193 students to Veterans Elementary School. This includes students who reside on or have sole access to Main Street, Ellicott City from Ellicott Mills Drive to the Baltimore County line; reside on the north side of Montgomery Road from Old Columbia Pike to Stone Crest Drive, including Stone Crest Drive and streets with egress to this side of Montgomery Road and all streets with egress to this section of Old Columbia Pike.

Also moved to Veterans Elementary School are approximately 100 students from Northfield Elementary School who reside on Tollhouse Road and all streets with sole egress to Tollhouse Road or who reside on Main Street, Ellicott City from Route 29 to Ellicott Mills Drive and streets with sole egress to this section of Main Street, including Klein Avenue.

The Board then used available space at St. John's Lane Elementary to relieve current and projected overcrowding at Hollifield Station and Waverly elementary schools. Approximately 150 students from Hollifield will move to St. John's Lane Elementary next year. This includes students who reside on Old Frederick Road from Mt. Hebron Drive to McKenzie Road, including streets with egress to Old Frederick from Tiller Drive

to McKenzie Road. This does not include streets with egress on Old Frederick Road from Tiller Drive to Mt. Hebron Drive.

In addition, about 150 students who currently reside in the Waverly attendance area will move to St. John's Lane Elementary next year. This includes those who reside on Old Frederick Road from Old Mill Road to McKenzie Road and all streets with sole egress to this section of Old Frederick Road, and those who reside on or have egress to Old Mill Road/Gudel Drive or Diversified Lane, including the east side of Bethany Lane from I70 to Old Frederick Road.

To address a small feed situation, the Board approved moving 35 students from St. John's Lane to Centennial Lane Elementary School who reside on North Chatham Road from Route 40 to the entrance of Resurrection School including the North Chatham Apartments, Chatham Square, and Village Green Shopping Center. This includes those who have sole egress to North Chatham Road.

The Board also agreed to move students who reside on College Square, the north side of Hickory Ridge Road between Broken Land Parkway and College Square, or reside on or have sole egress to Banneker Road from Bryant Woods Elementary School to Running Brook Elementary School.

At the middle level, the Board voted to relieve overcrowding at ElkrIDGE Landing Middle School by moving students to Mayfield Woods Middle School. This includes students who reside in the area bounded by Meadowridge Road on the west, US 1 on the south, and MD 100 on the east and north, including all streets with egress to Meadowridge Road.

The Board also continued the River Hill High open enrollment option for rising ninth graders who make up the 2.8 percent feed from Folly Quarter Middle School to Marriotts Ridge High. Bus transportation for these rising ninth graders and tenth graders, who selected open enrollment last year, will be provided for the 2007-2008 school year.

The Board rejected a recommendation to move students from Northfield Elementary to Thunder Hill Elementary School and postponed any decision about adjustments to the Glenwood Middle attendance area.

Board receives Cultural Proficiency Progress Report

Jackie Conarton, Director of Professional and Organizational Development, and a number of central and school-based staff reported on the various facets of the school system's cultural proficiency initiative. According to consultants Franklin and Brenda CampbellJones, cultural proficiency is "a way of being, a mindset that esteems the culture of others as one esteems his/her own culture while positively engaging, adapting and responding."

Curriculum leaders have integrated cultural proficiency into the model for exemplary teaching. Administrators have applied training at faculty meetings, in community

outreach and in setting teacher objectives. In addition, cultural proficiency was a facet of the Summer Institute for School Improvement Planning, New Teacher Orientation and Instructional Team Leader Retreats.

Future direction includes expanding cultural proficiency training to the Department of Operations, extending opportunities for training to PTA presidents and embedding culturally responsive teaching practices.

Students lead anti-bullying efforts

Pam Blackwell, Director of Student Support Services, provided the Board with an update on the status of anti-bullying initiatives. She indicated that the school system has developed a *Parent's Guide to Reporting Acts of Harassment or Intimidation Against Students* and added bullying as an offense in the revised Student Code of Conduct. Last year, the school system began collecting data on incidents of bullying, harassment and intimidation that is reported to MSDE.

At the school level, specific anti-bullying strategies are included in School Improvement Plans to support Goal 2. This includes the Students for Safe Schools campaign in elementary and middle schools, which encourages students to act as leaders and role models for other students in providing safe and respectful schools where bullying behaviors are not tolerated. High school students have been participating in school-wide anti-harassment assemblies, poster contests and creating public service announcements for morning announcements.

Recently 56 schools participated in a poster/logo contest. Jurors' Choice Winners are Manor Woods third grader Sophia Martin, Centennial Lane fifth grader Alishia Akhtar and Oakland Mills sixth grader Ashleigh Frazier. The Grand Prize Winner is Syndi Thomas, a second grader at Laurel Woods Elementary. The students will have lunch with the Superintendent on December 13 and receive their awards at the Board meeting on December 14.

Staff has developed a resource guide to assist with the integration of anti-bullying content and skills into the guidance curriculum. Professional Development on the topic has been provided for student services staff who subsequently provided training for teachers, administrators and support staff.

A seminar for parents entitled *Bullying: Effective Intervention Strategies for Parents* was held on November 9. A Youth Empowerment Seminar (YES) for student leaders will bring together student leaders from Clarksville Middle School, Elkridge Landing Middle School and Murray Hill Middle School on Tuesday, November 28 at the Wilde Lake Interfaith Center.

In other action

In his report to the Board, Superintendent Sydney Cousin congratulated the following staff:

- Rod McCaslin, Centennial High School, for receiving the Humanities Scholars Exemplary Teacher Award from UMBC.
- Mary Klatko, Administrator of Food and Nutrition Services, for being named 2006 Outstanding School Food and Nutrition Service Director for Maryland.
- Donna Schwab, Atholton High School, for her selection as the Maryland PTA Educator of the Year.
- Thomas Saunders, Principal of Elkridge Landing Middle School, who was named Howard County's 2006 Washington Post Outstanding Educational Leader.

Dr. Cousin thanked outgoing Board members Joshua Kaufman, Mary Kay Sigaty, and Courtney Watson for their service on the Board. Ms. Sigaty and Ms. Watson were recently elected to the County Council of Howard County.

At Public Forum, parent Linda Turner presented concerns regarding alleged procedural violations related to her daughter's IEP meeting.

The Board reviewed its tentative quarterly agenda for January through March 2007. The agenda will be approved on December 14.

Mary Jane Grauso, President of the PTA Council of Howard County, reported that the PTA and the Citizen's Advisory Committee would present a report on backpack weight at the December 14 meeting. Ms Grauso stated that she appreciates meeting regularly with the Superintendent and having the opportunity to serve on the department's Technology Committee.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Education is scheduled for 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 14, 2006.