

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

**Thursday, January 11, 2007**

## **ACTION ITEMS**

- Approved a consent agenda including staff personnel, bids and contracts, DANYA International, Inc. Research Request, Howard County Connections/Horizon Foundation Youth Summit Request, donations, the 2005-06 Annual Report and minutes of Board of Education meetings; and received status reports on the operating budget and the school construction fund.
  
- Approved a proclamation designating February 5-9, 2007 as Employee Appreciation Week in the HCPSS.
  
- Approved a proclamation designating February 2007 as African American History Month in the HCPSS.
  
- Approved a proclamation designating February 5-9, 2007 as National School Counseling Week in the HCPSS.
  
- Approved Board positions on education-related legislation under consideration for the 2007 Maryland General Assembly.
  
- Approved the promotion of Katherine Kreidler from GT Resource Teacher at Harper's Choice Middle School to Assistant Principal at Worthington Elementary School.
  
- Approved the designation of the Security Assistant position to the HCEA/ESP bargaining unit.

## **Board Considers Land Swap with St. John Evangelist Baptist Church**

Manager of School Planning Joel Gallihue presented a proposal for the Board of Education to acquire 41 acres of land at 2865 Marriottsville Road, currently owned by St. John Evangelist Baptist Church, in exchange for a 10-acre plot owned by the school system at the intersection of Tamar Drive and MD Route 175 and a monetary amount to be determined. A public hearing on the proposal is scheduled for February 8, 2007.

## **Board Holds Public Hearings on Advisory Committee Policies**

Rose Dennison, Chairman of the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC), and Josh Michael, CAC Policy Subcommittee Chairman, testified on behalf of the CAC at public hearings on revisions to Policies 1211, 1221, and 11200. In reference to Policy 1211, Citizens Advisory Committees to the Board of Education and School System, Michael testified that recommendations to the Board, which grow out of the committee work, should be presented to the Board even when they differ from the superintendent's final recommendation.

Revisions to Policy 1221, Citizens Advisory Committee to the Board of Education, include changing the name of the Citizens Advisory Committee to the Community

Advisory Council to distinguish the CAC from other advisory committees. The change is supported by the committee's membership, according to Dennison. The committee also supports including a member from the Howard County Association of Student Councils on the CAC and requiring Board review of bylaws for all Board committees.

At the hearing on changes to Policy 11200, Public Hearings, Michael and Dennison reported that the CAC concurs with the policy revisions and suggested additional ways for community members to register for public hearings.

**In Other Action...**

Chairman Diane Mikulis congratulated Superintendent Sydney Cousin on receiving the MSTA Minority Recognition Award for Leadership and the Fullwood Foundation Special Recognition Award as Public School Superintendent of the Year.

In his report to the Board, Superintendent Sydney Cousin announced that 42 Howard County elementary and middle schools have been recognized for their achievement on the 2006 Maryland State Assessments. Five Title I elementary schools will receive financial awards of \$2,745 each for improving the performance of student groups.

Dr. Cousin also noted that Howard County is well represented in the 2007 All State Music performing groups and congratulated dance companies from Marriotts Ridge High and Hammond High, which were selected to perform at the Maryland State Dance Showcase on January 5.

At Public Forum, parents Anna Szczepanec-Bialas and Teresa Norman spoke about how they each benefited from the International Parent Leadership Program. Parent Linda Turner spoke about the needs of children with learning disabilities and the extra resources available in Title I schools.

During a PTA Council appointment before the Board, PTAC President Mary Jane Grauso noted that the PTA is pleased to see the increase for maintenance and technology in the Superintendent's proposed budget. She mentioned PTA involvement on the Backpack Weight Committee and a motion passed by the PTA Council asking the Board to consider having a consistent early release day like Arlington (VA) School System.

**The next regular meeting of the Howard County Board of Education is scheduled for 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 25, 2007.**