

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

Thursday, March 22, 2007

## **ACTION ITEMS**

- Approved a consent agenda including a Bridges over Cradlerock School Grant, donations, and minutes of Board of Education meetings.
- Approved the promotion of Kelley Hough from teacher at Talbott Springs Elementary School to assistant principal at Veterans Elementary School.
- Approved a proclamation designating March 2007 as Youth Art Month in the HCPSS and accepted a work by Wilde Lake High student Anthony Pecoraro for the HCPSS permanent collection.
- Approved a proclamation designating April 2007 as School Library Media Month in the HCPSS.
- Approved a proclamation designating April 15-21, 2007 as Partnerships in Education and Volunteers Week in the HCPSS.
- Approved a proclamation designating April 13, 2007, as PTA Day in the HCPSS in honor of the 80th Anniversary of the PTA Council of Howard County.
- Approved Board positions on bills before the 2007 Maryland General Assembly.
- Approved the appointment of Janet Siddiqui to the Maryland Association of Boards of Education budget committee.
- Approved a motion supporting a delay in linking the High School Assessments to graduation for all students until all concerns raised by stakeholders have been adequately addressed.
- Approved Phase V School Additions for full-day kindergarten (see: "Board Approves Final Phase of Additions for Full-Day Kindergarten").
- Voted to delay action on the Mt. Hebron addition (see: "Board Postpones Vote on Mt. Hebron Addition").
- Approved a National School Boards Association resolution supporting the No Child Left Behind Improvement Act.
- Approved the Board's tentative quarterly meeting agenda for April-June 2007.

## **Board Postpones Vote on Mt. Hebron Addition**

The Board agreed to delay a vote on the proposed renovation to Mt. Hebron High School pending a facility assessment survey of Mt. Hebron, Atholton, Centennial, and Hammond high schools. Executive Director of Facilities Planning and Management Ken Roey reported that Gilbert Architects have been contracted to conduct the assessment using the Council of Education Facility Planners International Guide for School Facility Appraisal. The firm will compare the four schools against the current High School Educational Specifications. The information will be used for baseline purposes only, with investment recommendations based on functional deficits, not square footage deficits.

Roey indicated that a concurrent maintenance assessment would be based on the Association of Physical Plant Administrator's Guidelines. Facility Engineering Associates will team with Gilbert Architects to review the structural elements, both exteriors and interiors, mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems at the schools.

In discussing the fiscal implications, Superintendent Sydney Cousin remarked that the county has to identify some source of sustainable funding for capital needs so the school system can deal with facilities needs in a comprehensive way rather than on an emergency basis. He said the school system has a long-range plan but does not have the funding for the long-range plan.

### **Board Approves Final Phase of Additions for Full-Day Kindergarten**

The Board approved the fifth and final phase of elementary school additions to accommodate the move to full-day kindergarten. The plan calls for the addition of 13 new classrooms and renovations to two classrooms. The Phase V schools include:

Ilchester – Two (2) kindergarten classrooms

Laurel Woods – Two (2) kindergarten classrooms and one (1) Pre-K

Pointers Run – One (1) kindergarten classroom

Swansfield – Two (2) kindergarten classrooms and one (1) Pre-K

Talbott Springs – One (1) kindergarten classroom

Bollman Bridge – conversion of two existing classrooms

Longfellow – One (1) kindergarten classroom, one (1) Pre-K classroom, and one (1) RECC classroom. The Longfellow addition will require the addition of sprinklers.

Based on revised enrollment projections, the addition to Stevens Forest Elementary and the conversion of two classrooms at West Friendship have been deferred. The proposed schedule for Phase V is to bid the work in two packages beginning in mid-May 2007, with contracts awarded in July/September 2007 and all work completed by August 2008.

### **Staff and Board Celebrate the Fine Arts**

Thomas Payne, Coordinator of Advanced Programs and Fine Arts, introduced a report on the school system's dance, music, theatre and visual arts programs. He noted that participation and performance by Howard County students in fine arts programs continues to grow and improve. The maintenance and enhancement process is ongoing and outlined in the Fine Arts Bridge to Excellence Plan. Brooke Kuhl-McClelland, Dance Lead Teacher; Pamela Land, Theatre Lead Teacher; Rob White, Music Instructional Facilitator; and Mark Coates, Art Instructional Facilitator, reported on their respective programs and the numerous opportunities for student participation.

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

In his report to the Board, Superintendent Sydney Cousin reported on a number of events he attended over the past two weeks and recognized the following staff:

- Teri Salmons, Rockburn Elementary, Washington Post Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher of the Year
- Richard Baker, school mental health specialist at Homewood Center, Maryland School Social Worker of Year.
- Doug DuVall, Wilde Lake High, inducted into the State Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame.
- Rick Lloyd, River Hill High, John W. Voight Award for Outstanding Assistant Coach.

- The Outstanding Teachers of the Year as selected by high school seniors: Nena Davis (Atholton), John Costantini (Centennial), Lawrence Glaser (Glenelg), Ben Grabenstein (Hammond), James Burrows (Howard), Heather Johnston (Long Reach), Robin Grey (Marriotts Ridge), Franco Aiello (Mt. Hebron), Jessica Palumbo (Oakland Mills), Kelley Thomas (Reservoir), Roger Demaree (River Hill), Betsy Fetchko (Wilde Lake), and Clarice Custer (Homewood).

At Public Forum, student Thurston Clay spoke about how he has benefited from the reading acceleration program in which he participates at Mt. Hebron High School. Parent Linda Turner alleged that a teacher yelled at her daughter and that the overall treatment of her daughter has been unfair.

Deputy Superintendent Sandra Erickson announced the transfer of Assistant Principal Mary Nimmich from St. John's Lane Elementary to Veterans Elementary.

The Board reviewed the proposed Board meeting schedule for 2007-2008.

Rose Dennison, President of the Citizens Advisory Committee, reported on recent activities of the committee. Dennison presented the CAC position on the Mt. Hebron renovations, which recommends postponing any decision on Mt. Hebron until the comprehensive facilities assessment of all schools is completed.

The Board Chairman introduced Ms. Tricia Gadbury, visiting Board Member in Carroll County.

**The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 12, 2007.**