

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

**Thursday, May 24, 2007**

## **ACTION ITEMS**

- Adopted the fiscal year 2008 Operating Budget of \$612,902,620 by category totals.
- Approved revenue totals for 2007-08.
- Approved 2007-08 tuition rates for in-state and out-of-state residents.
- Adopted the fiscal year 2008 Capital Budget in the amount of \$80.6 million, the fiscal year 2009-2013 Capital Improvement Program totaling \$461 million, and the 2008-2017 Long Range Master Plan.
- Approved the beginning teachers' salary, Step 1, at \$42,407.
- Approved a proclamation honoring student member Wossen Ayele for his service on the Board of Education.
- Approved a consent agenda including the final Legislative Report on the 2007 General Assembly, bids and contracts, donations, and Board of Education meeting minutes.

## **Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) Yields Positive Results**

Director of Student Services Pamela Blackwell introduced a report on the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) Program. PBIS is a systems approach to implementing research-based, school-wide and classroom discipline systems, which focuses on improving a school's ability to teach and support positive student behavior. Schools implement a continuum of positive behavior support ranging from less intensive for the general population to more intensive for students with the most intensive behavioral and/or emotional needs.

Howard County began the PBIS initiative with three pilot schools in 2000. Currently, 34 schools are actively involved with the program, with 11 additional schools and the Homewood Center scheduled to implement PBIS next year. Robert Motley, principal of Patuxent Valley Middle School, and Trisha McCarthy, assistant principal at Bollman Bridge Elementary School, reported on the implementation and success of PBIS at their schools.

## **Science Program Offers Exciting Learning Opportunities Inside and Outside the Classroom**

Science Coordinators John Quinn and Karen Learmouth presented a *Bridge to Excellence* report on the PreK-12 science program. The HCPSS science 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.

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

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. A committee has been formed to identify HCPSS STEM needs and recommend ways to address those needs.

### **Wastewater Treatment Facility Needed to Meet New MDE Standard**

Executive Director of Facilities Planning and Management Ken Roey reported that the Groundwater Discharge Permit covering the wastewater treatment systems at Folly Quarter Middle School and Triadelphia Ridge Elementary School expired in November 2006 and is currently being renewed. The permits are issued for 5-year periods and the Maryland Department of the Environment 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. Roey proposes 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, Roey has informed the Department of the Environment 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 fiscal year 2011 capital budget for construction of the system.

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

At Public Forum, Sally Byrne, Michael Spenard, Jenny Davis, and Thean Sim Yee spoke about their concerns with proposed changes to the policy on exchange students. Bollman Bridge teacher Carrie Freiert, parent Kellie Nuss and fifth grade student Evan Nuss spoke about the benefits of the simulated congressional hearing and encouraged the expansion of the program to all elementary schools.

In his report to the Board, Superintendent Sydney Cousin reported on his attendance at a press conference launching the Attorney General's Internet Safety Initiative. He congratulated Centennial High teacher Will Klingaman, who will be honored by the Phillip Merrill Presidential Scholars Program at the University of Maryland and River Hill High School student Christopher Bowman, who was named a Presidential Scholar in the Arts.

The 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Sportsmanship Award was awarded to Hammond High School.

The Parents for School Music honored Michael Blackman, Triadelphia Ridge Elementary School, with the Music Educator of the Year Award. Jacquelyn DeBella, Cradlerock School, and Kendall Davis, Pointers Run Elementary School, both received awards of Honorable Mention.

HCEA President Ann De Lacy reported on the findings of the 2007 Job Satisfaction Survey.

PTA Council President Mary Jane Grauso reported on the Healthy Schools Survey conducted on April 30.

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