

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HOWARD COUNTY

January 3, 2008

The Board of Education of Howard County held a meeting on the Superintendent's Proposed FY 2009 Operating Budget on Thursday, January 3, 2008, at 7:30 p.m. in the Board Room of the Department of Education, located at 10910 Route 108, Ellicott City, Maryland. The following were present:

Frank J. Aquino, Chairman
Ellen Flynn Giles, Vice Chairman
Lawrence H. Cohen
Sandra H. French
Patricia S. Gordon
Diane B. Mikulis
Janet Siddiqui, M.D.

Sydney L. Cousin, Superintendent, Secretary/Treasurer
Sandra Erickson, Deputy Superintendent
Patti Caplan, Director, Public Relations
Florence Jackson, Recording Secretary

Chairman Aquino called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m., and Mrs. Giles led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Aquino noted that the only order of business was the presentation of the Superintendent's Proposed FY 2009 Operating Budget.

Dr. Cousin presented the FY 2009 Proposed Operating Budget. This presentation begins the public portion of the budget process. The entire budget development and approval process takes nearly ten months. The process begins in late summer when account managers of all programs begin to identify the needs in each of their program areas. After several levels of critical review, the items that remain form the basis for the proposed budget. The theme for the FY 2009 budget is "Maintaining Quality in Uncertain Times." Dr. Cousin also thanked the many people involved in the process.

Dr. Cousin pointed out that last year *Forbes Magazine* named the Howard County Public School System among the top ten school districts in the nation that provide the best public education for the

price. The FY 2009 budget has been crafted to maintain momentum towards improved academic performance.

FY 2009 Bottom Line

The proposed budget totals \$656.7 million, which is an increase of \$43.8 million (or 7.2%) over FY 2008.

FY 2009 Funding Sources

- County – 70.4%
- State – 28.0%
- Other – 1.6%

The county's contribution has increased by \$35.4 (or 8.3%). The state increase is \$5.2 million (or 2.9%). Increase in other sources is \$3.2 million (or 44.0%).

Impact of State Funding

- In FY 2008 nearly \$27 million more was received in state funds.
- A \$12 million increase was slated for FY 2009.
- State funding has been decreased and only \$5 million more will be received in FY 2009.

FY 2009 Expenditures

- Instruction - 44.6%
- Mid-Level Administration - 7.8%
- Administration - 1.8%
- Capital Outlay - 0.1%
- Community Services - 0.9%
- Fixed Charges - 15.9%
- Maintenance - 3.5%
- Operation of Plant - 6.6%
- Transportation - 5.0%
- Health Services - 0.9%
- Pupil Services - 0.4%
- Special Education - 12.4%

Expenditures represent 71% of the budget.

Major Cost Increases

- Salary increases - \$31.0 million
- Enrollment growth/program staffing - \$4.8 million
- Transportation – \$1.0 million
- Utilities – \$2.7 million
- Technology/printing support – \$1.2 million

- Buildings/grounds maintenance – \$1.3 million
- Replace instructional equipment/texts – \$1.0 million

Administration

- Includes increased postage, auditing, and information management costs.
- Adds 4.5 positions for business services, public information, and student assessment.

Mid-Level Administration

- Includes a coordinator to support students with learning disabilities/attention deficit disorders.
- Adds 10 leadership interns to build capacity and provide additional administrative support to schools.
- Adds a cultural proficiency facilitator.
- Includes additional school security services and staffing.
- Supports new video streaming and Web TV initiatives.

Instruction

- Adds teachers to support ESOL enrollment.
- Updates technology education labs.
- Adds staff to support growth of prekindergarten.
- Includes additional staff and services to assist students who fail required high school assessments.
- Adds staff for enrollment growth in technology education, music, and advanced placement/gifted & talented programs.
- Supports enrollment growth in summer school.
- Adds staff required by elementary and high school enrollment growth.
- Adds counseling and other support positions.
- Improves the replacement cycle for school equipment and furniture.

Special Education

- Adds occupational/physical therapy services and staff.
- Funds 20 student assistants that were previously paid by Medicaid reimbursement.
- Adds positions to provide services to community preschools and for kindergarten enrollment growth.
- Adds teachers for extended year services.
- Includes new speech language and psychological services positions.
- Adds other staff required by special education enrollment growth.

Pupil Services, Health Services, Transportation

- Adds nursing positions to complete the cluster staffing model.
- Adds secretarial support in health services.
- Adds a substitute nurse position.
- Includes new bus routes and increased bus contract costs.
- Adds 4 bus drivers to drive school system-owned buses and provide backup when contracted buses are not available.

Operation and Maintenance of Plant

- Adds positions to improve building maintenance and custodial services.
- Increases funding for contracted building repairs, grounds, and maintenance projects.
- Includes increases in utilities costs.
- Increases computer maintenance and technology support costs.

Fixes Charges

- Includes health insurance funding:
 - \$1.1 million for new positions in the budget.
 - \$4.8 million in projected cost increases.
 - (\$7.0 million in prior year funds/cost savings).
- Adds social security funding:
 - \$2.2 million for negotiated pay raises.
 - \$0.4 million for new positions.

Mr. White explained the \$7.0 million surplus. He said the amount of health insurance claims submitted were less than expected, and additional funding that was remaining in other areas of fixed charges were added into the health insurance fund.

Community Services and Capital Outlay

- Adds bilingual liaison, interpreting, and translation services for limited English proficient students and families.
- Includes additional facilities operating costs that support community use of schools and grounds.

In Conclusion

The Howard County Public School System has made tremendous progress towards improved academic performance of all students.

FY 2009 is a critical year in which this momentum must be maintained and accelerated.

Budget Meetings

Board Public Hearing:

- Tuesday, January 22, 2008 (7:00 p.m.)

Board Work Sessions:

- Tuesday, January 29, 2008 (7:00 p.m.)
- Tuesday, February 5, 2008 (1:00 p.m.)
- Wednesday, February 13, 2008 (7:00 p.m.)
- Tuesday, February 19, 2008 (1:00 p.m.)
- Tuesday, February 26, 2008 (9:00 a.m.)

County Executive Public Meeting:

- Thursday, March 6, 2008 (7:30 p.m.)

County Council Public Hearing:

- Tuesday, April 29, 2008 (4:00 p.m.)

Council Work Sessions:

- Friday, May 9, 2008 (9:00 a.m.)
- Friday, May 16, 2008 (9:00 a.m.) *if needed*

Budget Adoption:

- County Council: May 22, 2008 (11:00 a.m.)
- Board: May 22, 2008 (3:00 p.m.)

Topics for Board Work Sessions:

- Tuesday, January 29, 2008 (7:00 p.m.)
 - Revenues
 - Instruction (plus Health-Athletics, Special Education-Psychological)
- Tuesday, February 5, 2008 (1:00 p.m.)
 - Operation of Plant
 - Maintenance
 - Community Services
 - Transportation
 - Administration (plus Pupil Services Student Accounting program)
 - Mid-Level Administration
 - Capital Outlay
 - Fixed Charges
 - Restricted funds

- Wednesday, February 13, 2008 (7:00 p.m.)
 - Pupil Personnel (except Student Accounting program)
 - Health Services (except Health Services/Athletics)
 - Special Education (except Psychological Services)
- Tuesday, February 19, 2008 (1:00 p.m.)
 - Unresolved issues and tentative budget decisions
- Tuesday, February 26, 2008 (9:00 a.m.)
 - Adoption of budget request

Discussion:

Mrs. French asked for clarification on the five new positions included in Operation of Plant. Mr. Brown said the positions are for three HVAC specialists and two custodians.

Mrs. Mikulis asked if the revenue chart listed on page 10 of the proposed budget included grant funds. Mr. White said that grant funds are not included in the chart and that grant-funded programs are listed in the back of the budget booklet.

Mrs. Giles commented on the \$7.9 million surplus. She said that although some money was found, legislators need to make additional cuts beyond those already accomplished in special session.

Mrs. French requested that the Superintendent's budget presentation be e-mailed to all Board members. Mr. White said he would take care of this request.

Mr. Aquino announced that a public hearing is scheduled for January 22, 2008, at 7:30 p.m. Anyone interested in testifying can sign up through the Board's office.

Adjournment

Action: Mrs. Giles moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cohen and approved by the members of the Board (7/0).