

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HOWARD COUNTY

January 25, 2008

The members of the Board of Education of Howard County held a retreat on Friday, January 25, 2008, at 11:00 a.m., in the Patuxent Room of the Faulkner Ridge Center, 10598 Marble Faun Court, Columbia, MD 21044. The meeting was open to the public. 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.

Kitty Blumsack, Facilitator, Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE)

Sydney L. Cousin, Superintendent

Sandra J. Erickson, Deputy Superintendent

Raymond H. Brown, Chief Operating Officer

Mamie J. Perkins, Chief of Staff

Robert Glascock, Assistant Superintendent, Curriculum, Instruction, and Technology

Linda Wise, Assistant Superintendent, School Administration

Board Office Staff: Barbara Bowers, John Connors, Arlene Conway, Rose Dennison, Florence Jackson, and Susan Shown

The purpose of the retreat was to discuss information obtained through the Board's self-evaluation and input from staff. The self-evaluation focused on the following areas:

- Board Operations
- Board Performance
- Board/Staff Relationships
- Board and Community

Participants discussed the evaluation areas and identified the strengths, gaps, and their importance for each area.

Next steps:

- Decide if the Board will expand its use of Board Committees and/or Liaisons.
 - Request additional legal advice.
 - Evaluate what has worked so far.
- Conduct initial discussion on the roles and responsibilities of Board Office staff.
 - Talk about structure, supervision, evaluation, staff development.
 - Look at draft policy as part of decision making process.
- Confer with other counties to learn about initiatives to promote community engagement.
- Communication – Actions to be determined.

Adjournment - The retreat concluded at 2:00 p.m.

Approved – February 7, 2008