

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HOWARD COUNTY

February 21, 2008

The Board of Education of Howard County held a regular meeting on Thursday, February 21, 2008, at 4:00 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.
Andrew Gavelek, Student Member

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

Chairman Frank Aquino called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m., and Ms. Sawyer, Atholton HS student, led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Forum

There was on one present to address the Board.

Approval of Agenda

The following change was made to the agenda:

- Administrative Agenda, B. Evaluation of Alternatives for Administrative Office Allocation – change from Action to Report.

Action: Mrs. Giles moved approval of the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cohen and approved by the members of the Board (8/0).

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Cousin spoke about the Students for Safe Schools Campaign. Ms. Pam Blackwell, Director of Student Services, introduced the winner and runners up in this year's antibullying poster contest. The winning entry was created by Oakland Mills Middle School student Lara Celtnicks. Dr. Cousin said he had the honor of having a wholesome lunch with all the winners. He thanked the Lazarus Foundation for their contribution to the contest.

Mrs. Erickson reported on the results of the Maryland School Assessment Science test. Seventy-eight percent of Howard County's fifth-grade students and 82.8 percent of eighth-grade students scored at proficient or above on the first administration of the Maryland School Assessment in science. The performance of Howard County students well surpassed the state scores of 59.8 percent for fifth graders and 61.4 percent for eighth graders.

Dr. Cousin congratulated:

- Ms. Debbie Bourke, art teacher at Triadelphia Ridge ES, who has been honored by the Howard County Arts Council with the Howie Award for Outstanding Arts Educator.
- Mr. Josh Hatmaker, boys' lacrosse coach at Glenelg HS, who has been named the Maryland State Boys Lacrosse Coach of the Year by the National Federation of State High School Associations.
- Mr. Brian Van Deusen, of River Hill HS, has been named the 2007 Mideast Football Coach of the Year by the National Federation of State High School Associations.

Board Members' Reports

Mr. Gavelek reported that he, Mr. Plunkett, Officer, Business, Community and Government Relations, and Ms. Julie Morse, HCASC Special Elections Coordinator, met with the seven candidates applying for the 2008-2009 student member of the Board position. The interview process will take place on Monday, February 25, 2008, whereas the candidate list will be cut to two candidates. Once the final two candidates are named, they will be introduced to the Board and their campaigning will begin. The election will take place in mid April.

Mr. Cohen reported on his attendance at the Federal Relations Network Conference and the National School Board Association's (NSBA) position on the reauthorization of the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB). NSBA recommends reauthorization with 40 changes. NCLB is

broken but not unfixable according to NSBA; however, the federal government has not lived up to its promise of funding.

Student Representative Report

Ms. Meg Sawyer, Atholton HS student and SGA (Student Government Association) president, reported on recent events, including academic accomplishments, extracurricular activities, and SGA activities. She said Atholton HS recently enforced a new academic integrity policy which was constructed by a collaboration of students, teachers, parents, and administrators. This school's policy outlines the school's rules on cheating and plagiarism, and it encourages students to maintain a high integrity with their work and to take a stand against cheating.

Ms. Sawyer also expressed appreciation to the dedicated staff and the student body for making an inviting atmosphere at Atholton HS.

Mrs. French asked Ms. Sawyer to send a copy of the academic integrity policy to the Board.

Appointment – NAACP 2007 Report Card

Presenter: Dr. Rhonda Jones, Education Chairman of the Howard County Chapter NAACP.

Dr. Jones presented the NAACP's eighth annual report card on the performance of African American students in the Howard County Public School System. The report compiles data for African American students in relation to Maryland State standards. She said there is still much work to be done in the area of suspensions and asked that the Board and school system continue to work with the NAACP. She added that it was Mrs. Woodson who gathered the information in the report that was distributed to the Board members.

Discussion:

Board members thanked Dr. Jones for the report.

Mrs. Mikulis asked if this report is done in every county in Maryland. Dr. Jones said no, but she is hoping to have at least 50% compliance by the end of this year, and 100% compliance by the end of next year.

Mr. Cohen asked if progress is being seen year to year. Dr. Jones said progress is being seen in the percentages.

Mrs. French asked if the in-school suspensions rates are included or separate from the out-of-school suspensions. Dr. Jones said she didn't know and would get back with the answer.

Mrs. Giles expressed that although Mrs. Woodson would be missed, Howard County is lucky to have Dr. Jones and other folks to carry on where Mrs. Woodson left off.

Appointment – Citizens Advisory Committee Monthly Report

No report was presented.

Consent Agenda

Donations and Minutes of January 10, and January 24, 2008 (Regular Meetings, and January 29, 2008 (Budget Work Session).

Action: Mr. Gavelek moved approval of the General Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Mrs. French and approved by the members of the Board (8/0).

Donations – Approved by the Board.

Hollifield Station ES: Box Tops for Education, in the amount of \$516.70, designated for Handwriting Without Tears materials.

Manor Woods ES: Box Tops for Education, in the amount of \$550.50, designated to supplement the cost of installing and hanging televisions in classroom areas.

Running Brook ES: Sheppard Pratt Health System, Inc. in the amount of \$1,200 designated for students who exhibit positive behavior. Students can earn school supplies such as pencils, notebooks, rulers, etc.

MaryAnn and James Scully, in the amount of \$500, designated to supplement field trips for

students who qualify for free and reduced lunch.

Lucio and Joan Noto, in the amount of \$1,000, designated for special education student awards.

Howard Bank, in the amount of \$500, designated to supplement field trips for students who qualify for free and reduced lunch.

Atholton HS: Booster Association, in the amount of \$11,889.50, (\$1,469) designated for football equipment, (\$7,058) designated for new basketball hoops, and (\$2,362.50) designated for track uniforms.

Drama Boosters, in the amount of \$1,500, designated for the purchase of a new computer.

Glenelg HS: Boosters, in the amount of \$6,460, designated for various student clubs and for the purchase of supplies and equipment for the Special Education Department, the Math Department, the Fine Arts and the World Languages Department.

Edge Space Systems, Inc., in the amount of \$1,000, designated for the Robotics Club.

Meredith Ward, in the amount of \$1,000, designated for the J. Matthew Ward Scholarship Fund.

Michele K. Kratzmeier, in the amount of \$1,000, designated to help with expenses for the Robotics Team.

Long Reach HS: Boosters, in the amount of \$1,600, (\$1,000) designated for the purchase of a taping table to be used by the athletic teams, and (\$600) for athletic awards.

Marriotts Ridge HS: Boosters, in the amount of \$8,498, (\$7,100) designated for improvements to the auditorium sound system, and (\$1,398) to reimburse the school for printing first issue of the school magazine "The Buzz."

William and Jennifer Burgy, in the amount of \$2,500, designated for the purchase of Field Hockey bleachers.

Mount Hebron HS: Viking Backers, in the amount of \$650, designated for the purchase of track equipment.

River Hill HS: Boosters, in the amount of \$800, designated for the purchase of a softball-pitching machine.

William Burgy, in the amount of \$3,000, designated for the Music Technology Lab.

Wilde Lake HS: Baltimore Ravens, in the amount of \$500, designated for the girls' soccer team.

Minutes of January 10, 2008, and January 24, 2008 (Regular Meetings), and January 29, 2008 (Budget Work Session) – approved by the Board.

Consent Agenda – Restricted*

Bids and Contracts; Right-of-Entry/Department of Public Works/Swansfield ES; Minutes of January 3, 2008, and January 10, 2008 (Closed Meetings).

Mrs. French asked that the Right-of-Entry/Department of Public Works/Swansfield ES be pulled for explanation.

Action: Mrs. Mikulis moved approval of the Restricted Consent Agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Giles and approved by the Board (7/0*).

Bids and Contracts – Approved by the Board.

<u>Exhibit</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
P-1	Purchase of Walk Off Mats Abel Industries Acme Paper & Supply Co.	\$ 15,000 - annually
P-2	Purchase of Vehicles Lindsay Ford Criswell Chevrolet Apple Ford TOTAL AWARD	\$ 21,830.00 43,618.00 <u>81,212.00</u> \$146,660.00
P-3	Purchase of School Buses American Bus Sales and Service	\$ 95,954.00
P-4	Student Transportation Nina Transportation Viennas Transportation, Inc. Peele Transportation, Inc. King's Transportation TOTAL AWARD	51,851.25 62,505.00 63,846.00 <u>78,300.00</u> \$256,502.25
P-5	INTERNET SERVICES (ISP) Verizon Business Network Services, Inc.	\$13,708/monthly

Minutes of the January 3, 2008, and January 10, 2008 (Closed Meetings) – Approved by the Board (7/0).Right-of-Entry/ Department of Public Works/Swansfield ES

Mr. Bruce Gist, Director of School Construction, reported that DPW (Department of Public Works) would like to construct a walkway, at no cost to the HCPSS, to connect an existing community walkway to the walkways that feed Swansfield ES.

Mrs. Giles reported that Swansfield ES obtained a Federal grant in support of their walking program that will provide the funding for the walkway that DPW will construct. She added that the walkway will provide access to a walking path that is safe and appropriate for the children.

Action: Mrs. Giles moved approval of the Right-of-Entry/Department of Public Works/Swansfield ES. The motion was seconded by Dr. Siddiqui and approved by the Board (7/0*).

Bridge To Excellence

Goal 2 – Professional Development

Presenters: Ms. Pamela Blackwell, Director for Student Services; Ms. Heather Yo, Alternative Ed Coordinator and PBIS Coach at Dunloggin MS; Ms. Ebony Peppers, 6th Grade Guidance Counselor at Dunloggin MS; Ms. Regina Lewis, Alternative Education Teacher, Phelps Luck ES; Ms. Pamela Akers, Principal, Phelps Luck ES; Ms. Nancy Ottey, Reading Recovery Teacher, Phelps Luck ES; and Ms. Patti Phillips, Reading Specialist, Phelps Luck ES.

Ms. Blackwell reported that positive relationships form the foundation for building safe and nurturing environments, according to a Bridge to Excellence Report on Goal 2 Professional Development. She explained that the school system's first goal promotes the academic achievement of all students, and that goal cannot be realized unless students and staff feel safe, both physically and psychologically.

According to Ms. Blackwell, the framework for Goal 2 centers around four "pillars of support": a culturally proficient school community, positive behavioral supports for students, effective problem solving teams that focus on both student and teacher outcomes, and positive school, family and community relations. These "pillars" are built on a foundation of a shared vision and values, which embrace the idea that positive relationships can have the greatest impact on our quality of life as well as a profound positive effect on student achievement.

Ms. Blackwell's report highlighted some of the systemic relationship-building initiatives, including:

- The Vision of Exemplary Teaching for Student Learning, which emphasizes how culturally responsive teachers and staff understand the role of culture in teaching and learning.
- The New Teacher Orientation presentation, Crossing the Line, which provides guidance to new and veteran staff in understanding and

- recognizing the boundaries of appropriate relationships.
- Professional development, which relates to the pillars of support framework for Goal 2.

In addition, staff from two schools described how relationship-building initiatives being implemented support the goal of safe and nurturing environments for all. Ms. Yo and Ms. Peppers shared information about Dunloggin MS's Family Outreach Program. The Phelps Luck Elementary School Athletes for Achievement initiative was presented by Phelps Luck teachers Ms. Lewis, Ms. Ottey, and Ms. Phillips.

Discussion:

Board members thanked everyone for their presentations and for their wonderful work they do with the students of Howard County.

Mrs. Giles, Mrs. French, and Mr. Cohen attended a presentation of the Athletes for Achievement initiative, and all were very impressed with the way the Howard HS basketball team and the Phelps Luck ES students worked together. The results that are recognized by all involved have been very positive.

Ms. Lewis recognized Mr. Bernard Smith of All Financial Services and Mr. Aaron Lancaster of Carvel Ice Cream for generously donating pizza and ice cream cakes for the first Athletes for Achievement family night celebration.

Dr. Cousin reported that Ms. Phillips made a presentation at a recent Superintendent's Business Advisory Committee meeting, and the committee was very impressed by the nature of the program. The business partners were enthusiastic as well.

Mrs. Erickson said that she had promised the Howard HS basketball team special time to come to meet the Board members since the presentation to the Board conflicted with the team's game schedule.

Mrs. Giles wanted to recognize and thank all of the business partnerships that are involved with the HCPSS. She added that the MSDE (Maryland State Department of Education) is paying attention to what the HCPSS is accomplishing.

Legislative Report/2008 General Assembly

Presenter: Mr. Roger Plunkett, Business, Community, Government Relations Officer.

Mr. Plunkett reported that he attended the Maryland Association of Voice of Education legislative luncheon with state political leaders, Dr. Grasmick, State Superintendent of schools, and Board members Mrs. French, Mrs. Giles, Mrs. Gordon, Mrs. Mikulis, and Mr. Cohen. He said the delegates advocated for their bills, Dr. Grasmick reported on the accomplishments of the Maryland School System, and the senators painted a gloomy picture concerning the state's current budget. Delegate Turner and Senator Miller both confirmed that all phases of tax revenue are down in Maryland.

Mr. Plunkett presented 10 bills for discussion and approval by the Board.

HB 199 – Public Schools – Bullying and Cyber-Bullying – Policy and Disciplinary Standards

Recommended Position: **Support – Position Taken – No Position**

This bill is an effort to address the increasing incidents of bullying by requiring the State Board to take the lead in developing a bullying policy and standards for investigating complaints, while requiring each local system to have local standards based on the state model.

Discussion:

- Data received by the State Board is inconsistent from school system to school system.
- Concern about collecting data and the possibility of purchasing new software.
- Make a commitment to review other bullying bills and take a consistent approach towards all bullying bills.
- Taking a "No Position" is a position, offering an opportunity to review other forthcoming bills.

HB 206 – Education – Student Bullying – State and School Policy

The Board of Education had already taken a position in support of HB 206.

HB 696/SB 158 – Farm-to-School Program – Activities and Promotional Events

Recommended Position: **Support**

This bill would promote the sale of farm products grown in Maryland and solicit farmers to sell their products to schools and facilities.

Discussion:

- Last year's bill was a mandate and was opposed by the Board. This bill is a promotional event.
- No cost will be incurred by the HCPSS.

SB 167 – Education – Teacher Certification – National Organization Standards

The sponsor withdrew this bill earlier this week, so it can be deleted.

SB 231 – Public Schools – Certified Teachers – Flagging Investigative Proceedings

Recommended Position: **Oppose**

This bill would require the school system to report to the State Superintendent of Schools a complaint against a certificate holder involving a child abuse or neglect and certain crimes within five days after an investigative proceeding has been initiated by a law enforcement authority, a local department of social services, or a local school system. The school system is not always made aware of investigations of its personnel by other agencies.

SB 373 – Building Opportunities for All Students and Teachers (BOAST) in Maryland Tax Credit

Recommended Position: **Oppose**

The Board has consistently opposed this same bill introduced in past sessions for diverting taxpayer dollars from the State's General Fund to support organizations created to distribute tuition assistance to students attending private schools, given that private schools are not subject to the same accountability standards and regulatory requirements such as special education laws and teacher certification

requirements. The Board's 2008 Legislative Program opposes "[a]ny form of public money going to private schools, under any name, such as vouchers, certificates, and scholarships."

HB 185 – Parental Choice Scholarship Program

Recommended Position: **Oppose**

This bill would provide scholarships to students attending a nonpublic school in the State or a public school outside the county in which a student resides, yet requires local school boards to provide transportation for such students.

Discussion:

- This is being opposed due to direct cost to the school system.

HB – 186 – Great Schools Tax Credit Program

Recommended Position: **Oppose**

This bill blends parts of both of the prior two bills, in that it would allow an income tax credit for scholarship-granting organizations for students attending a nonpublic school in the state or a public school outside the district in which the student resides.

HB 188 – Smart Start Scholarship Program

Recommended Position: **Oppose**

This bill is very similar to HB 185 above and, thus, the Board should oppose consistent with the 2008 Legislative Platform.

HB 300 – Education – Public and Private Schools – Criminal Law and Criminal Procedure Courses

Recommended Position: **Oppose**

This bill would mandate that all school districts develop for middle school students a mandatory course in criminal law and procedure. The Board's Legislative Platform and past actions of this Board clearly stand in opposition to mandated curriculum by the State Legislature.

Discussion:

- It was suggested that this bill might represent a “scared straight” tactic for middle school students.

Action: Mrs. Giles moved to accept the recommendations from the Superintendent’s designee on the legislative positions as presented except for a change from “Support” to “No Position” on HB 199. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gavelek and approved by the Board (8/0).

Evaluation of Alternatives for Administrative Office Allocation

Presenters: Mr. Ken Roey, Executive Director of Facilities Planning and Management and Mr. Mike Lahowin, Principal, TCA Architects.

Mr. Roey and Mr. Lahowin presented three alternatives for renovating the old Cedar Lane School for administrative use. A minimum of 244 office spaces are required to accommodate all HCPSS Central Office based employees currently at Faulkner Ridge Center and 71 employees currently at ARL who are occupying space necessary for future expansion of the Career and Technology Academy programs. Mr. Roey indicated that option two, which includes a two-story addition, is the only alternative that totally addresses the need.

The FY 2008 Capital Budget contains \$1,020,000 to continue the planning of a renovation and addition to the Old Cedar Lane School to provide administrative offices, conference areas, and a community center for the Department of Recreation and Parks. Based on a previously completed real estate analysis, meeting future needs by expanding Old Cedar Lane is significantly less expensive than leasing or other alternatives.

Mr. Roey said that joint planning will continue for a renovation and two-story addition at the old Cedar Lane facility. He noted that the expanded facility would provide sufficient conference space, which will allow the school system to return Faulkner Ridge Center to Howard County.

Discussion:

Ms. Gordon asked what would happen if Recreation and Parks didn’t accept the HCPSS’s plans for their area in the old Cedar Lane facility. Mr. Roey said Recreation and Parks would be responsible for their own

final design for their portion of the building, and if they want to change the design, then funding would need to accommodate their wish list. The HCPSS would be responsible for its own portion of the building. Dr. Cousin added that the activities and programs that will be housed in the Recreation and Parks portion of the building have already been planned, so now adequate funding will need to be provided. He added the architectural services, the building, and the construction all would come under the management of the school system.

Dr. Cousin presented an overview of how the old Cedar Lane renovation project has developed into an alternative office space for the administrative office.

Mrs. Mikulis asked if building an addition on the central office location or behind Homewood, consolidating all central office staff in one facility was ever considered. Mr. Roey explained that a large enough addition that would meet all of the needs could not be built onto the existing central office location. Mrs. Mikulis asked for more information regarding the consolidation of all central office employees being housed on the existing central office campus.

Mrs. French expressed concerns regarding the size of the meeting rooms planned for the old Cedar Lane renovation project. Mrs. Erickson explained that when the specifications were done, one of the primary considerations was to have a large enough meeting space to house all principals and assistant principals at the same time, and also have breakout rooms that could be used for smaller groups.

Mrs. French asked if the HCPSS could use the entire renovated space at old Cedar Lane and let Recreation and Parks use the Faulkner Ridge Center. Mr. Brown said the location of the Faulkner Ridge Center would not allow the Recreation and Parks programs to be administered as they would like for them to be administered, and that the parking capacity at the site is not adequate for the concept of a community center. He added that old Cedar Lane is being considered because of a partnership with the county and the school system to have a joint use facility. The school system would have access to the community center, and Recreation and Parks would have access to the conference center in the evening, if it was not being used by the school system.

Dr. Cousin said that the idea is to consolidate shared uses and to have a separate recreation community center and a separate conference center. This is an opportunity to work collaboratively with

Recreation and Parks, as done in the past, to meet the needs of both entities. He added that once renovated, the old Cedar Lane site will meet the needs of the community, Recreation and Parks, and the school system.

Mr. Roey recommended scheme 2 for the redevelopment of old Cedar Lane. He said the TV staff and the print shop staff would remain at the ARL building, but the other staff as well as the Faulkner Ridge Staff would move into the renovated site.

Dr. Siddiqui asked if the playing fields that will be lost during the renovation will affect Harper's Choice MS. Mr. Lahowin said all fields necessary for Harper's Choice MS will be retained, other fields will be removed. Dr. Cousin added that the community use of fields will be affected.

Mr. Cohen asked what the advantage is to HCPSS of declaring a building or land surplus and giving it back to the county. Dr. Cousin said the cost of maintenance alone can be very costly, and he explained the process with declaring a building surplus. Mrs. Mikulis expressed concern about enrollments that might result from planned development of the Town Center and suggested that it be studied before returning Faulkner Ridge Center to the county.

Mrs. French asked if there is a possibility of having a road that would link directly to the renovated Cedar Lane site. Mr. Roey said it would have to be looked into, but would probably not be allowed.

Mrs. Mikulis asked the approximate office size per staff member at the renovated site. Mr. Lahowin said 80 to 100 sq. ft. per person is the conceptual size used in the renovation plan.

Mr. Aquino asked for a budget status recap for this project. Mr. Roey reported FY 2006 initial dollars along with planning dollars received this year total approximately 1.3 million, plus the potential \$600,000 from Recreation and Parks. He added 13.7 million in construction dollars are being requested in the FY 2009 budget, with an additional 18.7 million in FY 2010. If the FY 2009 request is approved, phase 1, which would be the school system's portion of the building, can be started. Phase 2 would be the community center. This project will follow a two-year construction schedule, and all funding will come from county funds.

Mrs. French was concerned that the Recreation and Parks site would be seen as direct competition to other centers already located in the general area. Mr. Roey explained that the Recreation and Parks vision is to have five different centers throughout the county, and the old Cedar Lane site is in the area that they would like to locate one of the five centers. Recreation and Parks would be using the Glenwood Community Center as their model for the site. Dr. Cousin added that some of the programs that would be offered at the Cedar Lane site would be different than what is offered at the Glenwood Community Center.

Proposed Textbooks/Instructional Materials

Presenter: Mr. Robert Glascock, Assistant Superintendent, Curriculum, Instruction and Technology.

Mr. Glascock reported the proposed textbook list was presented to the Board of Education on December 13, 2007. In compliance with Policy No. 8040, *Selection of Instructional Materials*, proposed instructional materials were displayed from December 17, 2007, to January 16, 2008, at the Department of Education. There were requests for reevaluation for the following three textbooks:

- *Infants, Children and Adolescents*, proposed for use in Grades 9-12 Family and Consumer Science.
- *EnVision Math* series proposed for use in elementary mathematics.
- *Calculus: Graphical, Numerical, Algebraic* proposed for use in Grades 9-12, Calculus 1, 2, and 3.

The textbook, *Infants, Children and Adolescents*, 5th and 6th Editions, was reevaluated by the Criteria Review Committee, and the committee unanimously voted to recommend the removal of the textbook.

The textbook, *Envision Math* was reevaluated by the elementary Mathematics Textbook Review Committee, and it was recommended that the textbook be included in the list of proposed instructional materials.

The textbook, *Calculus: Graphical, Numerical, Algebraic* was reevaluated by the Secondary Mathematics Textbook Review Committee, and it was recommended that the textbook be included in the proposed instructional materials.

Action: Mrs. Giles moved to accept the recommendation of the textbook list for the HCPSS. The motion was seconded by Ms. Gordon and approved by the Board members (8/0).

Scheduling

The Board scheduled an upcoming meeting.

Adjournment

Action: Mr. Gavelek moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:37 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Mikulis and approved by the Board members (8/0).

*Under Section 3-701 of the Education Article of the *Annotated Code of Maryland*, the Student Member may not vote on these matters. Passage of a motion by the Board on these matters requires the affirmative vote of four (4) Board members.