

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HOWARD COUNTY  
AND  
HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL**

**March 10, 2008**

The Board of Education of Howard County and the Howard County Council held a budget meeting on Monday, March 10, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. The meeting was held in the Tyson Room, George Howard Building, 3430 Court House Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043.

Present:

Board of Education

Frank J. Aquino, Chairman

Ellen Flynn Giles, Vice Chairman

Lawrence H. Cohen

Sandra H. French

Patricia S. Gordon

Diane B. Mikulis

Janet N. Siddiqui, M.D.

Howard County Council

Courtney Watson, Chairman

Mary Kay Sigaty, Vice Chairman

Calvin Ball

Greg Fox

Jennifer Terrasa

Sydney L. Cousin, Superintendent

Sandra J. Erickson, Deputy Superintendent

Raymond H. Brown, Chief Operating Officer

Ken Roey, Executive Director, Facilities Planning  
and Management

Florence Jackson, Administrative Secretary

Sheila Tolliver, Administrator

Jeff Meyers, Legislative Assistant

Haskell Arnold, County Auditor

Mrs. Watson called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and welcomed the members of the Board of Education.

Mr. Aquino, in addressing the operating budget, said that this is not an aggressive budget. Among items he noted are:

- Funding the negotiated agreements.
- Ten new middle school technology teachers.
- Training 15 interns for a leadership program to become principals.
- Additional teachers for elementary, middle, and high schools.

Dr. Cousin said that new to the budget this year are:

- 20 student assistants are in the budget staffing.
- Reduce the cap of 34 students to 30 students per class at the high school level - over time.
- \$31 million dollars will be going toward funding the negotiated agreements.
- New coordinator for learning disabled/attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder problems.

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- Replacement plan for media center furniture. The problem will increase if furniture is not replaced in a systemic way.
- Additional cluster nurses.

Mrs. Watson asked if the funding of the negotiated agreements covers central office staff. Dr. Cousin said yes.

Mrs. Erickson stated that building the leadership capacity for prospective principals is critical in looking toward the future. These interns will have some similar duties but will not need administrative certification. They will be paid as teachers on the 10-month scale. It has not been decided where these fifteen interns will be placed.

Mrs. Watson asked about enrollment projections and when the next data is due. Mr. Roey said there will be a discussion tomorrow, and the formal projections will be due in May when the APFO chart comes out. Mrs. Watson asked if there are any anticipated changes. Mr. Roey said that he expects the trends to be the same.

Mr. Ball commented that the maintenance budget looked good. Dr. Cousin said that the goal is to reduce the backlog of maintenance projects. Mrs. Watson asked if there was anything in the operating budget that could be moved to the capital budget. Dr. Cousin said there may be something in maintenance that could be moved.

Mrs. Watson asked about technology in the operating budget. Mrs. Erickson said that, in addition to adding positions, teachers have laptops that need to have a replacement cycle. Staff is needed to support the repair cycle, which is an increasing issue in the future. Technology teachers are being asked to do basic maintenance, and technicians are not being used as much. Dr. Cousin noted that by using a Help Desk, problems can be handled remotely.

Mr. Fox questioned the need for another associate superintendent. Dr. Cousin explained that this position was recommended by the audit that was performed last year. The position has since been modified in the budget.

Mr. Brown addressed the four positions in the transportation category as backup bus drivers, who will drive school-system buses. They will be available to train new drivers and provide administrative support. Ms. Terrasa asked if the school system is moving toward an in-house busing service. Mr. Brown said no and added that the program works well now, and this will just augment what is already in place.

Mrs. Mikulis said that \$4.2 million was deferred from the Waverly ES Phase II addition because the enrollment numbers were not justifying it. Mr. Brown discussed the Mt. Hebron HS project. He said that the Board has requested \$50 million for the planning and renovation. The community feels additional needs are not being met. Staff plans to share ideas and concepts with the planning committee. Mr. Brown added that staff does not want the process to slow down. Mrs. Watson asked if the additional requests to the plan could be in the 2009 budget. Dr. Cousin said it would need to be

deferred to the 2010 budget. Mrs. Watson asked that staff members notify the County Council of the next meeting with the Planning Committee.

Mr. Fox asked for more detail on the New Western Middle School. Mr. Aquino said the numbers do not support it. Mrs. Mikulis noted that the next feasibility study will give staff a better idea.

Mrs. Giles added that systemic renovations cannot be pushed back as they keep the buildings running.

Mrs. Watson said the County Executive will need information, if projects are to be cut, by April 1. Dr. Cousin said other projects would be impacted, and Mrs. French said the Board does not want to push back the other projects.

Mrs. Watson said the county funded \$57 million last year; and if the county funds \$50 million, there is still a \$40 million gap. She asked if there was any project in 2009 removed from the list. Mrs. Mikulis said Waverly ES.

Relocatables were brought up for discussion. Mr. Roey said the school system currently has 110 relocatables, and new relocatables cost about \$100,000 to \$120,000. Dr. Cousin added that it costs \$75,000 to move one, so the school system tries to minimize the number of moves.

Dr. Cousin noted that the maintenance facility is obsolete, and at some time, something will have to be done.

Just before adjournment Mrs. French, referring back to the Mt. Hebron renovation, noted that the Board has received communication from the Atholton HS community saying that whatever renovations are done for Mt. Hebron should also be done to other high schools with similar needs.

Mrs. Watson adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m.