

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HOWARD COUNTY

March 13, 2008

The Board of Education of Howard County held a regular scheduled meeting on Thursday, March 13, 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.

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. Sarah Calvert of Burleigh Manor MS, led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Forum

There was no one present to address the Board.

Approval of Agenda

The following change was made to the agenda:

- Addition to the Restricted* Agenda, B. Bids and Contracts – Audit Service Purchasing Bid Recommendation.

Dr. Cousin requested to move the Proclamation: Music in Our Schools from the Administrative Agenda to after approval of the agenda.

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

Approved – April 10, 2008

Proclamation: Music in Our Schools

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HOWARD COUNTY

PROCLAMATION

DESIGNATING MARCH 2008

AS

MUSIC IN OUR SCHOOLS MONTH

WHEREAS the *No Child Left Behind Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 2001* identifies music as a core subject and a challenging subject in which all students should demonstrate competency; and

WHEREAS music performance, comprehension, composition, and aesthetic criticism is embedded in the Voluntary State Curriculum and Essential Learner Outcomes for all students in the State of Maryland; and

WHEREAS the curriculum of the Howard County Public Schools requires sequential, comprehensive and rigorous study of music for all students; and

WHEREAS music provides a universal language for the expression of ideas and the emotions of the human spirit and, at the same time, provides a unique means of understanding the diversity of cultures; and

WHEREAS the study of music connects students to our history, traditions, and heritage; and

WHEREAS music education effectively equips students with higher-order thinking and problem-solving skills, creativity, and other habits of mind that are increasingly critical to their success in learning and in life; and

WHEREAS our community's music and other arts organizations and resources are important partners for our music teachers and schools; and

WHEREAS the National Association for Music Education has established Music In Our Schools Month to underscore the importance of music education, to acknowledge the contributions of music educators and to celebrate the musical accomplishments of students;

THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED that the Board of Education designates March 2008 as Music in Our Schools Month in the Howard County Public School System; and

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED that the Board of Education supports the study and performance of music as essential to a well educated, cultured society and most importantly as a means to nourish the human spirit.

Frank J. Aquino, Chairman
Board of Education of Howard County

Sydney L. Cousin, Superintendent
Howard County Public School System

Mr. Robert White, Instructional Facilitator of Music, recognized the students that performed during the reading of the proclamation, and the faculty from the River Hill HS music department. Board members expressed their appreciation for the student's performance and to the staff of River Hill HS for their work with the students.

Action: Mrs. Giles moved approval of the proclamation. The motion was seconded by Mrs. French and approved by the members of the Board. (7/0).

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Cousin thanked the River Hill HS students for their performance, and all of the music teachers throughout the county for the work they do every day.

Dr. Cousin congratulated:

- Howard County's "Great Debaters," who qualified for the Speech and Debate state finals.
- The Howard County Applications and Research Lab (ARL) team, under the direction of Ms. Heilman, Chef Instructor, for taking 1st place in the culinary competition, for the second consecutive year.
- Dr. Rena Bezilla, G/T Resource Teacher at Wilde Lake HS, was honored by the Maryland State Advisory Council on Gifted Education as Howard County's Outstanding Educator for her leadership in the gifted and talented education.
- County champions for 2007/2008 winter sports season.

Student Representative's Report

Ms. Sarah Calvert, Burleigh Manor MS student and Second Vice President of the Howard County Association of Student Councils (HCASC), reported on the HCASC activities. She thanked everyone who attended the "Teacher of the Year" luncheon. She introduced the final two candidates who are running for the 2008/2009 student member of the Board, Mr. Phil Lasser and Ms. Adejire Bademosi.

Mr. Lasser, current President of HCASC and a student at Atholton HS, introduced himself to the Board members and thanked everyone for attending the luncheon and for their work and support of the students in Howard County. He said that Howard County has a reputation of excellence and he would continue that excellence by being the voice for all students.

Ms. Bademosi, a student at Marriotts Ridge HS, introduced herself and said she will bring a new perspective to the Board. She said she is willing and prepared to enlist community and school involvement to ensure a better Howard County.

Ms. Calvert added that a campaign video is being created that will be available to all high schools and middle schools for viewing on April 18, 2008, which will be followed by the voting of the new student member to the Board of Education.

Board Members' Reports

Mrs. Mikulis reported on the recent Board of Directors meeting of the Maryland Association Board of Education (MABE), which she and Ms. Gordon recently attended. Items of interest include:

- The State Legislature initiated the report from MGT of America, a national consulting firm, which can be located on the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) web site, which shows that school systems are spending Thornton funding on appropriate initiatives.
- Governor O'Malley has a plan to survey all teachers on their working conditions. More information regarding this plan will be coming.

Mrs. Mikulis said the Board attended the annual dinner with the State Board members.

Consent Agenda – Restricted*

Staff Personnel; Bids and Contracts; Minutes - Closed Meetings of February 25, 2008 & March 5, 2008 (Official and Confidential).

The following items were pulled from the Restricted Consent Agenda:

- The purchasing bid recommendation for the renovation and addition to the Glenelg HS.
- The purchasing bid recommendation for the renewal of audit services from Clifton Gunderson, LLP.

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

Staff Personnel – Approved by the Board.**Resignations-Violation of Contract**

Name	School	Grade or Subject	Reason	Howard County	Years in Effective Date
Bethea, Anthony	HCMS	Science	Other Employment	7 months	03/16/08

Resignations

Name	School	Grade or Subject	Reason	Howard County	Years in Effective Date
Brown-Campbell, Cheryl	HWS	Science	Relocation	2.0	06/12/08
Brubaker, Wendy	Fr. Leave	Elem. Ed.	Relocation	8.0	06/30/08
Cavendish, Susan	HAHS	Co. Wk. Exp.	Personal	5 months	02/08/08
Clark, Kelly	BBMS	Soc. Studies	Relocation	5.7	04/01/08
Clark, Michael	CHS	English	Other Employment	7.0	06/12/08
Collins, Deanna	Fr. Leave	Spec. Ed.	Family Obligations	13.0	06/30/08
Cox, Susan	RBES	Elem. Ed.	Relocation	1.0	06/12/08
Crowell, Julie	Fr. Leave	Science	Relocation	9.0	06/30/08
Daly, Kristin	Fr. Leave	Spec. Ed.	Family Obligations	12.0	06/30/08
Eisenberg, Ellen	Fr. Leave	Elem. Ed.	Career Change	9.0	06/30/08
Ellis, Amber	Fr. Leave	Elem. Ed.	Personal	5.0	06/30/08
Johnson-Budziak, Kristen	Fr. Leave	OT	Family Obligations	6.0	06/30/08
Lawrence, Amy	Fr. Leave	Kindergarten	Family Obligations	9.0	06/30/08
McCarthy, Yasmin	Fr. Leave	SLP	Family Obligations	5.0	06/30/08
Pierce, Marnie	Fr. Leave	Media Spec.	Family Obligations	7.0	06/30/08
Powers, Lisa	Fr. Leave	Elem. Ed.	Family Obligations	6.0	07/30/08
Proffitt, Antoinette	Fr. Leave	Guidance	Leave Expired	5.0	06/30/07
Rochester, Lora	SJES	Elem. Ed.	Personal	3.6	02/27/08
Schmitt, Melissa	Fr. Leave	Elem. Ed.	Family Obligations	8.0	06/30/08
Smith, Geri-Marie	Fr. Leave	Elem. Ed.	Relocation	4.0	06/30/08
Weitzel, Jennifer	Fr. Leave	Elem. Ed.	Family Obligations	7.0	06/30/08
Westfall, Jenelle	CRS	Elem. Ed.	Relocation	6.7	03/25/08
Yingling, Melanie	Fr. Leave	Spec. Ed.	Family Obligations	12.0	06/30/08

Contracts

Name	Grade or Effective School	Subject	Place of Last Teaching Assignment	Grade/Step	Effective Date
Ballesteros, Nicholas	OMMS	SST	Cypress, TX	A-03	02/01/08
Cutaiar, Mary	JHES/EES	OT	Leesburg, VA	A-08	02/25/08
Harris, Meegan	HoHS	SPE	Heidelberg, Germany	C-02	02/01/08
Hewitt, Michele	HaMS	SPE	Tulson, AZ	C-08	01/29/08
Mussante, Jessica	LWES	ELE	--	A-01	02/04/08
Mathews, Christopher	HaHS	SPE	HCPSS – IA	A-03	02/25/08
Partridge, Victoria	LES/BSES	PE	--	A-01	01/28/08
Riccio, Maria	LWES	ELE	--	A-01	02/05/08
Thompson, Lisa	BBES	MUS	Carroll County	B-04	01/30/08

Leaves of Absence

<u>Name</u>	<u>Grade or School</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Years in Howard County</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Gjerde, Kim	CES	Phys. Ed.	13.4	01/08/08
Mason, Zsuzsana	VES	Elem. Ed.	6.6	03/01/08
Rupp, Alyssa	BWES	Elem. Ed.	4.6	03/10/08

Retirement

<u>Name</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Grade or Subject</u>	<u>Years in Howard County</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Antonicelli, Janice	CDC	SLP	24.0	03/01/08

Bids and Contracts: Construction Manager for Elkridge ES Addition and Renovation and Exhibit P-1 through P-6 – Approved by the Board.

<u>Exhibit</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
P-1	PURCHASE OF CLASSROOM PAPER & SUPPLIES	
	School Specialty	\$ 3,036.30
	Standard Stationary Supply Co.	13,161.00
	National Art & School Supply	15,618.00
	Integrity School Supplies	30,708.00
	Xerox Corporation	57,500.00
	Pyramid Office Products	<u>113,420.15</u>
	TOTAL AWARD	\$233,443.45
P-2	PURCHASE OF CALCULATORS & RELATED EQUIPMENT	
	Corporate Express	\$ 200.00 est
	School Specialty	300.00 est
	Science Kit	2,500.00 est
	EAI Education	3,500.00 est
	D&H Distributing	<u>3,500.00 est</u>
	TOTAL AWARD	\$70,000.00 est
P-3	PURCHASE OF APPLIANCES & KITCHEN EQUIPMENT	
	Longo's	\$ 13,016.00
	Calico industries Inc.	22,496.00
	American Energy Restaurant Equipment	25,330.00
	The Stiller Appliance Co.	<u>58,667.00</u>
	TOTAL AWARD	\$119,509.00
P-4	PURCHASE OF PRINT SHOP PAPER	
	Xpedx	\$ 39,307.23 est
	Parsons Paper Co	<u>55,388.08 est</u>

	TOTAL AWARD	\$94,695.31 est
P-5	PURCHASE OF CLASS PLAN BOOKS & FILLERS Alvah M. Squibb Co., Inc.	\$32,050.00
P-6	PURCHASE OF VIDEO PRODUCTION TRAILER Markertek Video Supply	\$27,602.00

Contract packages totaling \$3,145,760:

- 1A – General Construction – MRP Contractors, LLC = \$1,393,900
- 4A – Masonry – KaRon Masonry of MD, Inc. = \$506,000
- 7A – Roofing – R.D. Bean, Inc. = \$83,255
- 15A – Mechanical – Towson Mechanical, Inc. = \$690,000
- 16A – Electrical – Key Systems, Inc. = \$472,605

Bids and Contracts – Renovation and Addition to Glenelg HS

Mr. Pindell, Officer, Purchasing Department, explained that due to the size of the Glenelg HS project, only one masonry bid was received. He noted that the project achieved a minority business enterprise goal of 15%. He added that the cost of the project is under budget.

Mr. Ken Roey, Executive Director, Facilities Planning and Management, explained that since the cost of the project is under budget, some of the remaining funds will be used toward the improvement of the HVAC system at Glenelg HS. He added that the seats in the auditorium will be totally reconditioned and/or replaced if necessary.

Bids and Contracts – Audit Services

Mr. Pindell explained that the renewal of the audit services from Clifton Gunderson, LLP, is the fifth and final year of the original contract. Approval of the bid was recommended by the Board's Audit Committee.

Action: Mrs. Mikulis moved approval of the bid recommendation of the renovation and addition to Glenelg HS, and the bid recommendation of the renewal of audit services of Clifton Gunderson, LLP. The motion was seconded by Dr. Siddiqui and approved by the Board (7/0*).

Minutes of Closed Meeting – February 25, 2008 & March 5, 2008 (Official and Confidential) – Approved by the Board.

Consent Agenda – General

Donations; Minutes of February 5, 2008, and February 19, 2008 – Budget Work Sessions; Minutes of February 7, 2008, and February 21, 2008 – Regular Meetings; Minutes of February 26, 2008 – Budget Adoption; Operating Budget Monthly Report; School Construction Monthly Report; Approval of Proposed Textbook; and 2007 Annual Report.

The following items were pulled from the Regular Consent Agenda:

- Budget Work Session Minutes of February 5, 2008.
- School Construction Monthly Report.
- 2007 Annual Report.

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

Donations – Approved by the Board.

Running Brook ES: Mr. and Mrs. J. Paul Bolduc, in the amount of \$2,000, designated to assist families with field trip expenses.

Howard County General Hospital, in the amount of \$3,000, designated to purchase materials and provide professional development for the Arts Integration Program.

Stevens Forest ES: Giant, in the amount of \$1,341.46, to defray the cost of a new school marquee.

Northrop Grumman, in the amount of \$1,000, designated for math and science educational supplies.

PTA, in the amount of \$600, designated for student behavior incentives.

Atholton HS: Booster Association, in the amount of \$1,436, designated for the purchase of cheerleading mats.

Oakland Mills HS: Steven Orr, in the amount of \$700, designated for the purchase of athletic jackets for the boys lacrosse team.

Minutes of February 7 & 21, 2008 (Regular Meetings); February 19, 2008 (Work Sessions); February 26, 2008 (Adoption of Budget) – Approved by the Board.

Operating Budget Monthly Report – Accepted by the Board.

Approval of Proposed Textbook – Accepted by the Board.

Minutes of February 5, 2008 – Budget Work Session

Mrs. Giles made a minor correction to the Budget Work Session minutes of February 5, 2008.

School Construction Report

Mrs. Giles noted that the Waverly ES Phase II project has been deferred. Mr. Roey said the change will be made in the next report.

Action: Mrs. Mikulis moved approval of the Budget Work Session Minutes of February 5, 2008, and acceptance of the School Construction Monthly Report. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Giles and approved by the Board (7/0).

2007 Annual Report

Mrs. French clarified that corrections were made regarding titles of the 2007 Annual Report.

Action: Mrs. French moved approval of the 2007 Annual Report as amended. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cohen and approved by the Board (7/0).

Legislative Report/2008 General Assembly

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

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

Approved – April 10, 2008

HB 520/SB 787 – Education – High School Assessment Requirement

Recommended Position: **Oppose**

These bills would preclude the State Board from imposing the HSAs as a graduation requirement, as is in place beginning with the Class of 2009. Notwithstanding room for criticism over many false starts, statewide mandatory assessments hold school districts and their students to a common standard of performance. The State has been responsive to districts in developing multiple assessment pathways to address the needs of diverse learners. Not only is this legislation an encroachment on the State Board's authority but a step backwards after years of planning.

No discussion.

HB 760 – Public Schools – Interscholastic Sports Teams – Participation at Another School

Recommended Position: **Oppose**

This bill would allow a student who unsuccessfully tries out for a varsity or junior varsity team at a public school to elect to try out for another school's team which has vacancies on its squad in the same sport and, if successful, to play on that team. To say the least, this approach would encourage school shopping and recruitment, and raise concerns over transportation, desired out-of-area transfers, checking eligibility, and monitoring attendance, lost time on game days, etc.

No discussion.

HB 784/SB 457 – Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children

Recommend Position: **Support**

These bills would have Maryland participate in an interstate compact to facilitate the timely enrollment and transfer of records, reciprocity of coursework and assessments for children of military families. With the significant movement of families expected at Ft. Meade due to BRAC, this will foster stability and facilitate adjustment for these students.

No discussion.

HB 920 – Education – Student Who Is a Victim of Violent Crime –
Option to Require Offender to Change Schools

Recommended Position: **Oppose**

This bill would require, for an offender who has committed a violent crime against a victim during the school day or a school-sponsored event, or in transit to or from school, or on school grounds, that a local superintendent promptly notify the victim of his or her right to transfer to another school (presumably with transportation provided) or, unless the offender is expelled, to transfer the offender to another school. In addition to being a further intrusion into the local governance of school districts, this legislation is unnecessary. The *No Child Left Behind Act* and, pursuant to it, COMAR contain provisions that permit any student who is a victim of a violent criminal offense during the regular school day or at a school-sponsored event in or on school grounds to transfer, contingent upon the conviction or adjudication of delinquency of the perpetrator.

No discussion.

HB 1411/SB 849 – Fitness and Athletics Equity for Students with
Disabilities Act

Recommended Position: **Oppose**

This very extensive well-intentioned, but prescriptive, bill seeks to set out the parameters pursuant to which disabled students could participate in physical education and athletic programs, to the maximum extent possible, with the provision of reasonable accommodations. In December, the State Board of Education accepted the report of the Task Force on Student Athletes with disabilities and adopted a Policy Statement on Participation of Students with disabilities in Competitive Athletics. MSDE is planning to promulgate regulations in the area. This should be left to the province of MSDE and local Boards. There is no need for legislation.

Discussion: Mrs. Mikulis suggested that the Board or Mr. Mike Williams, Athletics Coordinator, consider sending a letter to MSDE to provide input since MSDE will be coming up with the regulations regarding this bill. Mr. Plunkett said conversations with MSDE regarding this bill have taken place already and will continue to take place.

HB 1421/SB 447 – Education- High School Diploma – GED Options Program

Recommended Position: **Oppose**

These bills would require mandatory enrollment and attendance in a GED preparatory program for at least 15 hours per week and training in workforce development skills for any student between the ages of 16 and 18 determined to be at high risk for dropping out of high school. No additional funding is provided beyond counting them in the usual student enrollment count, even though this may necessitate additional pupil personnel workers and other staff to be successful. Moreover, enforcement of attendance may be problematic. Although well-intentioned, this would be an unfunded mandate.

No discussion.

SB 297 – Tax Credit For Employer-Established Work-Based Learning Programs for Students

Recommended Position: **Support**

This bill would give a tax credit (15% of wages up to \$1,500 per student) for employers who hire work-based learning students over the age of 16 for at least 200 hours through an approved high school program of study. HCPSS has many students who participate in such learning opportunities each year, as part of a completer program, for which they receive credit for their successful employment experiences. This bill would encourage more businesses to hire our students, particularly small business, offering them a variety of jobs, thereby broadening their career interests.

No discussion.

HB 503 – Brian Moore Student Health and Fitness Act of Maryland

Recommended Position: **Oppose**

This well-intentioned legislation would impose an unfunded mandate to require that all students in K-8 grades receive a minimum of 150 minutes of physical activity each week, including a minimum of 90 minutes of physical education. It would require all high school students to take two years of physical education in order to graduate. For our school system, simply to increase to 90 minutes per week is estimated to require 20 additional teachers at a cost of 1 million dollars, not to mention related facility issues. As stated in the Board's

Legislative Platform, the General Assembly should not be mandate curricular decisions.

Discussion: Dr. Siddiqui suggested that HCPSS continue to offer electives for students in physical education and find alternative ways to increase physical activity during the day.

Mrs. French said a discussion took place at the MABE Legislative Committee meeting concerning ways to get the students more active.

Ms. Gordon suggested that parents need to encourage their children to do more after-school activities, other than watching television.

HB 1271/SB 714 – State Board of Education - Development of Curriculum Content – Financial Literacy

Recommended Position: **Oppose**

These bills would require the State Board to develop curriculum content for a semester course in financial literacy, to be implemented in every high school in the state and for every student to be required to complete in order to graduate. The Board's Legislative platform clearly opposes legislated curriculum imposed by the General Assembly.

No discussion.

HB 1249 – Public Schools – Classes and Extracurricular Activities – Home School Students

Recommended Position: **Oppose**

This bill would require local school systems to allow home-schooled students to enroll in classes as well as participate in extracurricular activities. While we respect the right of parents to home school their children, allowing students to enroll in some courses and not others is not an effective educational practice. In addition, allowing home-schooled students to participate in extracurricular activities is not conducive to maintaining a positive school culture.

No discussion.

Action: Ms. Gordon moved approval of the recommended positions as suggested. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cohen and approved by the Board (7/0).

Bullying Legislation

Mr. Plunkett reported that there are four bullying bills, of which the Board has already taken a position on one, HB 206. He recommended that the Board follow MABE's position and oppose all four bills. He said there is no need for legislation to mandate the procedures.

Action: Mrs. French moved approval that the Board change their current position on HB 206 and oppose all four anti-bullying bills HB 199, HB 206, HB 546, and HB 732. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Mikulis and approved by the Board (7/0).

Mr. Plunkett said that he and Mrs. French attended a Legislative meeting in Annapolis on March 10, 2008. He and Mrs. French discussed with the Board members the issues that were raised at the meeting. Mr. Plunkett said he would provide more information to the Board members for the March 27, 2008, Board meeting.

Assignment of Relocatable Classrooms

Presenters: Mr. Joel Gallihue, Manager, School Planning, and Mr. Ken Roey, Executive Director, Facilities Planning and Management.

Mr. Gallihue presented a recommendation for reassignment of relocatable classrooms for 2008-2009. He proposed adding or removing the relocatables from the following schools:

Elementary Schools	Middle Schools	High Schools
Bellows Spring +3	Murray Hill +2	Reservoir +2
Centennial Lane -2		
Deep Run -2		
Ilchester -1		
Gorman Crossing +1		
Longfellow -2		
Phelps Luck +1		
Waverly -2		

Mr. Gallihue said the school system will not acquire any additional relocatable classrooms, but will continue to assign from the existing inventory of 192 units. The Board will take action on the proposal on April 10.

Discussion:

In response to Board members questions, Mr. Gallihue clarified information in the "*Justification*" portion of his report. He reviewed the concerned justifications for the placement or nonplacement of the relocatables. He said that although there is a limited budget to move relocatable classrooms to places where they are needed, the report presents the best recommendation given the needs and the resources. One hundred ninety-two relocatables are currently being used.

Dr. Siddiqui asked for an explanation of the request from Hammond ES's principal regarding difficulty seeing students and adhering to IEP requirements. Mr. Roey described the shared space that is being used by two teachers and said a sufficient space for IEP conferences is available.

Concern for the number of relocatables at Phelps Luck ES was expressed by Board members. Mrs. Giles asked if some other method of dealing with the space issues and program delivery at the school were being considered. Mr. Gallihue said that due to the new development in the area, there is a need to look at the feasibility study regarding the redistricting scenarios.

Mrs. Milkulis expressed concern about the unused large modular unit placed at Triadelphia Ridge ES. Mr. Roey said that due to the cost of moving the modular, this will be addressed in the feasibility study. Dr. Cousin assured Mrs. Mikulis that a use for the modular will be found.

Dr. Cousin added that modular buildings, which are integrated into the school facilities themselves, are currently being used at some schools.

Mrs. Giles asked why some of the newest high schools have a need for relocatables. Mr. Gallihue explained that due to the new development occurring in the Reservoir HS area, relocatables will be needed. Mr. Glascock added that relocatables are used at River Hill HS due to the Newcomers Program being housed there.

Pepco Energy Services' Performance Contract

Presenters: Mr. Ken Roey, Executive Director, Facilities Planning and Management; Mr. Tom Kierzkowski, Director, School Facilities.

Mr. Roey presented a progress report on the HCPSS Performance Contract with PEPCO Energy Services. The concept of an energy performance contract is that an Energy Service Company (ESCO) evaluates the energy performance of a building and determines potential energy savings by replacing or upgrading heating, ventilation, and air conditioning equipment, water heaters, lighting, and other building components such as insulation and windows. The ESCO guarantees a level of energy savings, and the owner benefits from having replaced or upgraded equipment and facilities. During Phase I, which involved three schools, the school system realized an energy savings of \$182,000. Ten schools were added this year, with a guarantee from PEPCO of \$396,000 in savings.

Discussion:

Mr. Kierzkowski explained how schools are chosen to be part of the ESCO. He said that the old Bushy Park ES and Glenwood MS are the only two sites that still use oil.

Mrs. Giles thanked Mr. Roey and his staff for their work in improving the steps taken to make thirteen schools part of the Green School program. Mr. Roey said that commissioning, which is also part of the Green School program, is making sure the entire system, including the computer system and the building automation system, are working together as one unit.

Mrs. French expressed a concern about the lighting now being used and whether or not the bulbs will be recycled. Ms. Diane Sweeney, Energy Management Specialist, explained that the bulbs being used have a three-year warranty and will be recycled.

Mr. Aquino questioned how the increase energy use per square foot in the buildings and the after-school hours use of the buildings relate. Mr. Roey said community usage of our buildings is increasing as well as the energy usage. He added that HCPSS needs to look at the after-school hour usage and go back to the stakeholders with the true cost of using the buildings. Mr. Kierzkowski added that the air flow standards regarding how much air has to be passed through the building has increased substantially, which also impacts on the energy usage.

TV Services Task Force Report

Presenters: Mr. Michael Dubbs, Manager Television Services; Mr. Brian Bassett, Broadcast Facility Operator.

Mr. Dubbs and Mr. Bassett presented an overview of a plan to address the challenges of today's high-tech world of rapid information exchange and map a vision for the future of HCPSS Television Services. According to their report, a TV Services Task Force was established in June 2007, and charged with developing a strategic plan. Members of the TV Services Task Force crafted recommendations to aid in the development of a long-term Action Plan for Television Services. The Task Force developed over 60 recommendations for the Action Plan.

The recommendations were aggregated, evaluated, and refined to constitute seven strategic goals, which form the framework for the action plan. Those goals are to:

- Link television services' programs to the instructional needs of the school system.
- Produce effective programs for students, teachers, parents, and staff.
- Establish a centralized network for delivery of programs.
- Support professional development for teachers and staff.
- Meet the community's needs.
- Upgrade the physical plant and infrastructure for the 21st century.
- Increase television services' visibility.

Staff from Information and Business Technology and Television and Video Production Services will develop an action plan to implement the Task Force recommendations. The action plan will include a timeline, costs, and future budget projections, beginning with the 2010 Operating Budget.

Discussion:

Board members thanked Mr. Dubbs, Mr. Bassett, and the Task Force for their report.

Mrs. Mikulis asked if the interns would be paid interns or given a grade. Mr. Dubbs said the interns would be paid interns. He added that students in a small internship program from CTE (Career Technology Education) work in the television studio for credit and are

given a grade. Mr. Glascock added that the alignment between the television production facilities and the curriculum program offered at ARL will need to be explored to see what is feasible.

Mrs. Mikulis asked if there are guide-lines about the use of distance learning education. Mr. Glascock said if a vendor would like to provide a curriculum on line, he would have to submit the proposal to the State Board for review. He added that currently there are about 30 courses that students can take on line.

Dr. Cousin said the need is there to think differently about the opportunities that are available in this changing world. He added that the television initiative is connected with an overall communication plan that is in the process of being developed. He said we should not limit ourselves on how we think about providing instruction in the future, whether it is distance learning or locally produced instruction.

Dr. Siddiqui asked if leasing equipment would be a better option than purchasing equipment, due to the expense. Mr. Glascock said it was decided for the replacement cycles to take the route of leasing. He added an analysis will have to be done to determine whether leasing or purchasing would be best, but the direction industry is taking is leasing. Leasing will offer the opportunity of having current equipment; whereas, the same equipment, if purchased, must be used for a long period of time.

Mr. Cohen asked how Howard County's strategic plan compares to the other counties in Maryland. Mr. Dubbs said that Howard County is the only county that has a long-term strategic plan. He added that twelve other counties in Maryland have some sort of video or television production facility, but not all have educational access channels and/or websites.

Mrs. French asked if the three key recommendations written in the report would be the only recommendations that would be implemented. Mr. Dubbs said there were a total of 168 recommendations, and the three key recommendations were the most prominent recommendations.

Mrs. Mikulis asked about the supplemental funding. Mr. Dubbs said ideas of supplemental funding include grant funding and programming sponsorships by community and businesses. Dr. Cousin said the services are going to benefit not only the school system but the community as a whole, so a way would have to be found to involve the

community so it doesn't become just a school system's television operation.

Policy 6000 – School Site Selection and Acquisition

Presenter: Mr. Joel Gallihue, Manager of School Planning

Mr. Gallihue presented the changes that were made to Policy 6000 Site Selection and Acquisition.

Board members thanked Mr. Gallihue and the committee for making the suggested changes and for implementing them in the policy.

Action: Mrs. Mikulis moved approval of Policy 6000 – School Site Selection. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Giles and approved by the Board (7/0).

Appointment – PTA Council of Howard County Monthly Report

Mrs. Mary Jane Grauso, President, reported on the Healthy School Walk-Through which is being conducted in schools.

Presentation – Maryland Association of Boards of Education

Presenters: Ms. Sandra Barry, President, and Dr. Carl Smith, Executive Director of the Maryland Association of Boards of Education.

Ms. Barry and Dr. Smith gave a presentation on the Association and its various services.

Recess: The meeting was recessed at 6:55 p.m. by the Chairman and reconvened at 7:50 p.m.

Public Forum

There was no one present to address the Board.

Presentation – Other Post-Employment Benefits

Presenters: Mr. Ray Wacks, Howard County Budget Administrator; Ms. Sharon Greisz, Howard County Director of Finance; and Mrs. Beverly Davis, Director of Finance (HCPSS).

Mr. Wacks, Ms. Greisz, and Mrs. Davis gave a presentation on OPEB (Other Post Employment Benefits). They reported on Howard County's plan to meet the new Government Accounting Standards through the establishment of an OPEB Trust.

HCPSS officials worked with county officials on a joint OPEB Task Force in FY2007. This Task Force reviewed the results of an actuarial study, documented the impact on the county and the Board, and completed a report to the County Executive with recommendations for funding the OPEB liability. The next step is to establish a dedicated OPEB trust account to ensure that dedicated funds and associated earnings will be available to pay future benefits. The Board will take formal action on March 27.

Discussion:

Board members discussed the information that was presented. Points of interest regarding the OPEB Trust included:

- The Board will not incur any costs for management and/or investment of an OPEB Trust.
- In the current budget, Fiscal Year 2008, the county has taken fifteen million dollars of surplus funds from the previous year and designated it as an appropriation to start paying the OPEB Trust cost.
- There is no real disadvantage to the BOE belonging to the OPEB Trust.
- HCPSS does not negotiate retiree benefits.
- There is an understanding that the percentage that HCPSS contributes towards the payment of benefits is based on years of service.
- HCPSS and the Board (the governing bodies) determine the benefit levels.
- Money in the OPEB Trust consists of employer money, not employee money.
- Employees will pay deductibles and premium cost, but this money will not be held in the OPEB Trust.
- There is no employee contribution into the OPEB Trust.
- The OPEB Trust is a cost of funding the educational services, so it will be included in the education section of the budget as a separate line item.
- The OPEB Trust Legislation does allow for withdrawal by any of the employers.
- A new actuarial study is required every two years.

The Board members unanimously agreed by straw vote to participate in the OPEB Trust being established by Howard County Government, in response to new federal requirements concerning benefits for retirees such as health care and life insurance.

Public Hearing - Policy 4090 – Debt Management

Mr. Steven Estomin, at-large member of the Community Advisory Council (CAC)

- Views this provision as extremely beneficial to both the school system and the county.
- The CAC supports this policy.

Public Hearing - Policy 4100 – Investments

Mr. Steven Estomin, at-large member of the CAC

- Defines monitoring and control responsibilities and balances competing investment goals.
- The CAC supports this policy.

Public Hearing - Policy 7070 – Promotion of Certificated Personnel

Mr. Chris Wertman, CAC Chairman

- The CAC supports this policy.
- Agrees with the reduction in the pool time for the promotion of certificate personnel.

Public Hearing - Policy 5220 - Criteria for Selecting School Bus Contractors

Mr. Chris Wertman, CAC Chairman

- The CAC supports this policy.
- Suggested that when the policy comes up for review again, to perhaps involve a larger community presence.

Public Hearing - Policy 5230 – School Bus Contractors, Bus Operators, and Assistants

Mr. Wertman, CAC Chairman

- The CAC supports this policy.
- Suggested that the challenges involved in determining school opening delays and closures be publicized so the community would have a better understanding of how the final decision is made.

Public Hearing - Policy 10040 – Charter Schools

Mr. Wertman, CAC Chairman

- The CAC supports this policy.

Schedule of 2008/2009 Board of Education Meetings

Presenter: Mrs. Patti Caplan, Director of Public Relations

Mrs. Caplan presented the schedule to the Board members and modifications were discussed and made to the schedule.

Quarterly Agenda, April – June 2008

No changes were made.

Scheduling Board Meetings and Other Activities

The Board scheduled upcoming meetings and activities.

Adjournment

Action: Mrs. Giles moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cohen and approved by the Board members (7/0).

Information

Food and Nutrition Services Financial Report
Policy 9050 – Student Records and Confidentiality/Implementation Procedures

*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.