

A Summary of the Board of Education Meeting Thursday, March 13, 2008

Action Items

- Approved a proclamation designating March as Music in Our Schools Month in the HCPSS.
- Approved a consent agenda including donations, flu mist study research project, the 2007 annual report and minutes of regular Board meetings; and received reports on a proposed textbook, the status of the operating budget and the school construction fund.
- Approved a restricted consent agenda including bids and contracts, the extension of the contract for the auditing services of Clifton Gunderson and the minutes of closed Board meetings.
- Approved Board positions on education-related legislation under consideration by the 2008 Maryland General Assembly.
- Approved revisions to Policy 6000, School Site Selection and Acquisition.

Plan Reassigns Nine Relocatable Classrooms

Joel Gallihue, Manager of School Planning, presented a recommendation for reassignment of relocatable classrooms for 2008-2009. Gallihue proposes 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				

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.

HCPSS to Join with County Employee Post-Employment Benefits Trust

Board members agreed by straw vote to participate in a trust being established by Howard County Government in response to new federal requirements concerning Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) for retirees such as health care and life insurance. County Director of Finance Sharon Greisz and HCPSS Director of Finance Beverly Davis 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.

Report Sets Vision for Future of Television Services

Manager of Television Services Mike Dubbs and Broadcast Facility Operator Brian 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 & Business Technology and Television & 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.

PEPCO Performance Contract Saves Energy, Dollars

Executive Director of Facilities Planning and Management Ken 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, venting 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.

Advisory Council Voices Support for Policies

The Board held Public Hearings on two new policies and four revised policies. Steve Estomin, at-large member of the Community Advisory Council (CAC), reported that the CAC supported both Policy 4090, Debt Management, and Policy 4100, Investments. CAC Chairman Chris Wertman testified to the CAC support of Policy 7070, Promotion of Certificated Personnel; Policy 5220, Criteria For Selecting School Bus Contractors; Policy 5230, School Bus Contractors, Bus Operators, and Assistants; and Policy 1000, Charter Schools. The Board will take action on all six policies on March 27.

In other action...

In his report to the Board, Superintendent Sydney Cousin congratulated:

- 12 students who will participate in the Speech and Debate state finals
- The ARL team that won the culinary competition of the 4th Annual Maryland ProStart Invitational
- Dr. Rena Bezilla, G/T Resource Teacher at Wilde Lake High School, who was named Howard County's Outstanding Educator by the Maryland State Advisory Council on Gifted Education
- The county champions for the 2007/2008 winter sports season.

The Board heard brief presentations by Phil Lasser, Atholton High School, and Adejire Bademosi, Marriots Ridge High School, who are candidates for the position of 2008 student member on the Board of Education.

Board member Diane Mikulis reported on the most recent Board of Directors meeting of the Maryland Association of Boards of Education, the release of the MGT report which shows that school systems are spending Thornton funding on appropriate initiatives, and the survey of all teachers proposed by Governor O'Malley.

President Sandra Barry and Executive Director Carl Smith of the Maryland Association of Boards of Education gave a presentation on the Association and its various services.

Mary Jane Grauso, President of the PTA Council of Howard County, reported on the Healthy School Walk-Through which is being conducted in schools.

The Board reviewed its proposed meeting schedule for the 2008-2009 school year and the tentative agenda for April through June 2008.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Education is scheduled for 4:00 PM on Thursday, March 27, 2008.