

# MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HOWARD COUNTY

March 27, 2008

The Board of Education of Howard County held a regular scheduled meeting on Thursday, March 27, 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  
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 4:00 p.m., and Ms. Caitlan Dowling, SGA President of Glenelg HS, led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

## Public Forum

There was no one present to address the Board.

## Approval of Agenda

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

## Superintendent's Report

Dr. Cousin reported that he had attended a meeting in Annapolis with the Deputy Secretary of the Department of Education, Mr. Ray Simon. The topic of discussion was the *No Child Left Behind* legislation and its reauthorization, and what the Federal government could do to

help local school systems better implement the *No Child Left Behind* requirements.

Dr. Cousin noted that 2008 graduation dates and times have been released. As a result of the times, six high school schedules will be adjusted to allow staff and siblings to attend ceremonies. Several graduation dates are earlier than in previous years; therefore, the last day for seniors at Centennial, Atholton, and Marriotts Ridge high schools will be May 22, 2008. The last day for seniors at all other high schools will remain May 23, 2008.

Dr. Cousin congratulated:

- Ms. Kelly Horan of Reservoir HS for her selection as Howard County's 2008 Washington Post Agnes Meyer Teacher of the Year.
- Guidance Counselors Ms. Susan Castelbaum of Hollifield Station ES, Ms. Tina Flynn of Elkridge Landing MS, and Ms. Donna Ueckerman of Oakland Mills HS, who were selected as Guidance Counselors of the Year; and Ms. Debbie Goins, Guidance Secretary at Hammond MS, who was named Advocate of the Year by the Howard County Association of Counseling and Development.

He also introduced Mt. Hebron HS Principal Mr. Dave Brown, who reported on the recognition received by the Mt. Hebron band and band member Ms. Traci Ervin, who was the two millionth *Disney Magic Music Days* Performer at Disney World.

### **Student Representative's Report**

Ms. Caitlan Dowling, SGA President of Glenelg HS, reported on a project that she is working on called *Live 12*. The proceeds of this project will benefit a school in Africa.

### **Board Members' Reports**

Mr. Gavelek reported that the HCASC (Howard County Association of Student Councils) interviewed and filmed the two student candidates that are running to become the 2008/2009 student Board member. The interview will be shown in all middle schools and high schools on April 18, 2008. The interview will also be shown on Comcast cable channel 72 and on Verizon channel 42 during the week.

## Consent Agenda

Donations; Minutes of March 10, 2008 County Council Budget Meeting; Other Post-Employment Benefits Trust (OPEB).

Mrs. Giles asked that the Other Post-Employment Benefits Trust be pulled for explanation.

Mrs. French asked that Donations be pulled for explanation.

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

Minutes of March 10, 2008 County Council Budget Meeting – Approved by the Board.

### Donations

Atholton HS: Booster Association, in the amount of \$642.92, designated for the purchase of field hockey equipment.

Centennial HS: Steven Orr, in the amount of \$2,600, designated for the purchase of fence capping and a windscreen for the baseball field.

Glenelg HS: Walmart, in the amount of \$1,000, designated for the purchase of a new dugout.

Long Reach HS: The Glass Key Inc., in the amount of \$500, designated for the purchase of soccer equipment for the girls' soccer team.

Baltimore Post of Society of American Military Engineers (S.A.M.E), in the amount of \$2,000, designated for Botball registration fees, and materials to be used by students in the Robotics Club.

Boosters, in the amount of \$675, designated for the purchase of wrestling uniforms.

Marriotts Ridge HS: Boosters, in the amount of \$726.32, designated for the purchase of honor roll bumper stickers.

Gamberdella's Bridal Salon, bridal gowns, dress and accessories valued at \$14,900, designated for use by students in the Drama Club.

Natural Check, LLC, in the amount of \$1,125, designated for the students in the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) Club.

Wilde Lake HS: Clyde's of Columbia, Inc., in the amount of \$2,100, designated to offset the students' cost of the choir trip to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

Mrs. French requested more information on the dollar amount of the bridal gown donation that was made to Marriotts Ridge HS. Mrs. Wise said the salon considered the gowns out of date so they donated them to MRHS. Mrs. Davis added that the donor sets the value of the donation and the donor is then responsible for substantiating the value on their taxes.

Mrs. Giles asked for a general review of the action the Board is being asked regarding the OPEB Trust. Mrs. Davis said the action asked of the Board today is to allow management to move forward with the county in negotiating steps to join the OPEB Trust, which the county will be establishing in June 2008. The HCPSS liabilities would be provided through the funding of the OPEB Trust. By HCPSS choosing to move forward with the county, this would be the mechanism for funding other future post-employment liabilities, but does not acknowledge a liability for either party at this point of time.

Dr. Siddiqui asked for clarification on HCPSS's representation on the OPEB Trust Fund Board of Trustees. Mrs. Davis said while working with the county, HCPSS management communicated the concerns regarding voting representation on the OPEB Trust Fund Board of Trustees. The modifications being made to the legislation include a change to allow up to two BOE member representatives. All Board of Trustees will have the same fiduciary responsibility for the funds.

*Action:* Mrs. Mikulis moved approval of the Donations and the Other Post-Employment Benefits Trust authorization. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cohen and approved by the Board (7/0).

### **Consent Agenda – Restricted\***

#### Bids and Contracts

Mrs. Giles asked that the Construction Manager for parking lot improvements recommendation be pulled for explanation.

Mrs. French asked that the Stage Rigging Inspection and Repair Services recommendation be pulled for explanation.

Mr. Gist, Director of School Construction, explained the construction projects that are scheduled to take place at Atholton HS, Longfellow ES, and Running Brook ES.

At Atholton HS, the construction needs include:

- A new configuration that will allow at dismissal time 22 buses to be parked in front of the school.
- Elimination of the pedestrian traffic hazard.
- More parking spaces will be added.
- Refurbished existing parking spaces.
- Adding a parent drop-off area that is segregated from the bus traffic.

At Running Brook ES, the construction needs include:

- Adding 50 new parking spaces.

At Longfellow ES, the construction needs include:

- Adding 40 new parking spaces

Mr. Doug Pindell, Purchasing Officer, explained that this contract will be administered by Mr. Ron Miller's office, Safety and Insurance. HCPSS is trying to establish two contractors that will provide inspection and repair services to all school stages throughout the school system. The contractors will inspect all schools and, as the schools need to have certain repairs done, a contract will be in place so all repairs can be done efficiently and quickly.

*Action:* Mrs. Giles moved approval of the Bids and Contracts. The motion was seconded by Dr. Siddiqui and approved by the Board (6/0\*).

## **Bridge to Excellence**

### MSA Science Results

*Presenters:* Dr. Theresa Alban, Executive Director, Strategic Planning Assessment and Program Evaluation; Ms. Karen Learmouth, Coordinator, Science Elementary Curricular Program; Mr. John Quinn, Coordinator, Secondary Science.

Dr. Alban reported on the county's performance on the 2007 field test of the Science Maryland School Assessment. In Grade 5, 78 percent of students scored at proficient or advanced. A total of 82.8 percent of students in 8<sup>th</sup> grade scored at proficient or advanced. Six elementary schools and six middle schools had over 90 percent of their students score at proficient or advanced.

#### *Discussion:*

Board members congratulated everyone from the science department, the administrators within the individual schools, and the system level staff for enabling the children to do as well as they did on the test and for making it run so smoothly.

Mr. Cohen asked how the students were selected to take the two different versions of the test: paper/pencil version or on-line version, and how the results compared. Dr. Alban said the schools were encouraged to have a mixture of students: above average students, average students, and students who were performing below average, to be allowed to participate in both versions. She said that although the analysis for the county results are not yet complete, a statewide study found that there was no statistically significant difference in performance. She added that the state has said that all new test development will be for on-line assessment, and it will save millions of dollars in test materials.

Mr. Cohen asked how the female students did on the test compared to the male students. Dr. Alban said she would get that information and share it with the Board.

Dr. Siddiqui asked if there were plans in terms of addressing the disparities between the different groups that scored lower. Ms. Learmouth assured the Board that plans are in the works to help the students improve their performance. She added that the professional development team is currently working with the principals and the

teachers in the elementary schools. Mr. Quinn said at the secondary level, local assessments are in place in the middle schools. He added that the correlation of the local assessment data along with the MSA's (Maryland State Assessment) will be very instrumental in guiding the next step.

Mrs. Erickson said that school improvement plans and individual student support plans will assist students not only in science, but also in reading and mathematics as well.

Mrs. French asked how stable the science curriculum has been over the last three to four years from the state mandate. Mr. Quinn said it has been a bit of a challenge, but the HCPSS curriculum has always been broader than what the state has focused on in terms of testing. Ms. Learmouth added that what is being taught is not only critically important, but nationally recognized as being important.

Mrs. French asked what percentage of the curriculum in the elementary and middle school levels is being used for hands-on activities for the students. Ms. Learmouth said a majority of the lessons are hands-on in the elementary curriculum. She added that kits are provided for every unit from kindergarten through fifth grade, which means the students are learning by doing, not just reading.

Mr. Cohen asked at what grade science instruction is taught in elementary school. Ms. Learmouth said science is taught as early as pre-k, if the school offers pre-k, or kindergarten and continues through grade 5. Four units of science is offered in every elementary grade. Mr. Quinn said the grade 6 curriculum emphasis is on earth science and some environmental science goals; grade 7 emphasis is on life science with some environmental science; and grade 8 emphasis is on physical science, which includes a semester of physics and a semester of chemistry.

#### African American and Hispanic Student Achievement

*Presenters:* Ms. Diane Martin, Director, Student, Family and Community Services; Ms. Elisa Montalvo, Hispanic Achievement Specialist; Ms. Vera Wilkins, BSAP (Black Student Achievement Program) Specialist; Ms. Patricia Branner-Pierce, BSAP Specialist; Mr. Wardell Lindsay, Council of Elders; Ms. Stephanie Hunter, OMHS Student; Mr. Wei Heng Xue, AHS Student; Ms. Michelle Diaz, LRHS Student; Mrs. Silvia Avila, Parent; Mr. Jason Chandler Lee, RHHS

Student; Mrs. Linda Whitaker, Parent; Mrs. Feli Carter, President, Conexiones; and Mr. Larry Walker, Parent.

Ms. Martin reported that students are more successful when schools and families work together to identify structures and approaches that meet the needs of the students and families in a given community. This is the mission of the HCPSS Department of Student, Family, and Community Services.

In a Bridge to Excellence report to the Board, Ms. Martin supplied data on the achievement of African American and Hispanic students over the past four years on state tests and presented information on the programs and services currently in place to support the academic achievement of students in these two student groups. The BSAP was first implemented in HCPSS during the 1986-1987 school year. HCPSS added a Hispanic Achievement Program to the Department of Student, Family, and Community Services during the 2006-2007 school year.

The system is focusing comprehensively on the achievement of all student groups, including African American and Hispanic students, through its Bridge to Excellence Master Plan. The HCPSS now offers more research-based interventions during the school day and has increased the number of students participating in extended day interventions. Academic Intervention summer school has expanded to include more schools, and the instructional program has been refined to focus more intensely on areas of need revealed on the local assessments. Therefore, the work being done by BSAP and the Hispanic Achievement Program is but one component of the system's comprehensive approach to accelerating student achievement. These two programs focus on supporting students and their families.

Maryland School Assessment data at the system level show that African American and Hispanic elementary students have achieved the system target in reading each year from 2004 to 2007. For the last two years (2006 and 2007), African American and Hispanic elementary students also achieved the system target in mathematics. Of the five ethnic/racial groups, African American and Hispanic elementary students consistently have the lowest performance in both reading and mathematics; however, it is important to note that African American student performance has improved each year, and the improvement from 2004 to 2007 exceeds the improvement of elementary students overall. Hispanic student performance has gone up and down over the four years and the 2007 performance in mathematics is actually slightly lower than it was in 2004.

African American and Hispanic middle school students have been less successful in achieving system targets. The performance of both groups on the reading assessment has gone up and down over the four years and the 2007 performance on the reading assessment is slightly lower than it was in 2004. Both groups have made significant gains in mathematics since 2004, and both African American and Hispanic students are improving in mathematics at a faster rate than middle school students overall.

In general, African American and Hispanic students are improving their performance on all four High School Assessments, and in many cases these groups are improving at a faster rate than students overall. Especially noteworthy is the improvement of African American and Hispanic students on the Algebra HSA.

The school system's ultimate goal is to eliminate the achievement gaps and have all students meeting or exceeding local and state performance standards. The BSAP and the Hispanic Achievement Program are important components of the Master Plan's focus on accelerating the achievement of African American and Hispanic students.

Parents, students, and community volunteers spoke on behalf of the African American and the Hispanic Student Achievement programs.

*Discussion:*

Board members thanked the community members, the Council of Elders, and everyone who gives their time and support to helping students and for the achievements the students have accomplished.

Mrs. French asked how many schools offer the BSAP program. Mrs. Martin said the BSAP program is now offered in all 12 high schools, 3 middle schools, Cradlerock School, and 12 elementary schools. Mrs. French asked for a list of schools where the BSAP and Hispanic liaisons provide services.

Dr. Siddiqui asked how the success of these programs is tracked and reevaluated to make changes if necessary. Ms. Pierce explained the tracking methods used and stated the staff attempts to make data-driven decisions based on data resulting from monitoring tools, as well as MSA and report card grades.

Dr. Siddiqui asked why the African American and Hispanic students tend to score higher on the Government HSA's versus the other HSA's. Ms. Montalvo said the Hispanic students were not attending many of the programs that were being offered, but now that more students are attending these programs, their scores have been rising. Dr. Cousin added that the community volunteers, the Council of Elders, and others who donate their time to helping the students, are contributing to the students being successful.

Mrs. Erickson said it is the collaboration between the in-school programs, the school improvement plans, the individual student support plans, and the achievement programs that supplement all the intervention programs that are in the school. The combination of these programs is what helps students and their families gain access and helps change attitudes towards participation in these programs and attitudes towards school in general. The full responsibility of student achievement should not be placed on these programs.

Dr. Clarissa Evans, Executive Director of Secondary Curricular Programs, added that the Social Studies teacher should also receive some of the credit for the scores rising. The elementary teachers have been working with a program called "Social Studies Alive," and the middle school and high school teachers have been working with a program called "History Alive," which has made for more engaging instruction for the students and a rise in the test scores.

### **Proclamation: School Library Media Month**

*BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HOWARD COUNTY*

#### **PROCLAMATION**

DESIGNATING APRIL 2008

AS

SCHOOL LIBRARY MEDIA MONTH

WHEREAS, April 2008 has been proclaimed School Library Media Month in Maryland: and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the library media program is to ensure that students and staff are effective users of ideas and information; and

WHEREAS, the library media specialist's role is to provide the leadership and expertise necessary to ensure that the library media program is an integral part of the instructional program of the school; and

WHEREAS, library media specialists in each school teach the skills of locating and using information through traditional resources and new technologies, provide literature appreciation activities, and guide and encourage content and recreational reading for every student; and

WHEREAS, lifelong learning begins and is systematically developed through the library media curriculum of the elementary and secondary schools; and

WHEREAS, the library media program contributes to the individual growth and development of all students, while fostering both excellence and equity in education; and

WHEREAS, library media centers provide materials to meet individual needs, varied interests, abilities, diverse backgrounds and maturity levels of the students served; and

WHEREAS, the library media specialists of Howard County have dedicated themselves to work for quality library media programs for all students;

THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED, that the Board of Education of Howard County does hereby proclaim April 2008 as School Library Media Month in all of the public schools of Howard County and calls upon school administrators, teachers, students and citizens of Howard County to recognize and support this action and to participate throughout the month of April in the celebration of School Library Media Month.

Frank J. Aquino  
Chairman, Board of Education

Sydney L. Cousin  
Superintendent of Schools

*Action:* Mr. Gavelek moved approval of the proclamation. The motion was seconded by Mrs. French 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.

HB 1134/SB 579 – Immunity from Liability – Medical Emergency-Use of Automated External Defibrillator

*Recommended Position:* **Support**

These bills add language to existing law, so as to protect facilities and individuals that acquire, own, manage or are responsible for premises on which automated external defibrillators (AEDs) are

located from the use or failure to use an AED in response to a perceived sudden cardiac arrest, provided that the activity is deemed not to be gross negligence, willful or wanton conduct, or intentionally tortuous conduct. HCPSS has complied with the current law in providing AEDs in many locations throughout the school system, available for students, staff, and community, and at athletic events. We have made a good faith effort to maintain the AEDs and to train personnel in the use of them. These bills will be beneficial in encouraging the use of AEDs in emergency circumstances, without the fear of liability.

*Discussion:*

Dr. Siddiqui asked if these bills were covered under the Federal Good Samaritan Law. Mr. Plunkett said he wasn't sure and he would look into it, but that a lawsuit did initiate these bills.

*Action:* Mrs. Mikulis moved approval of the staff recommendation to support HB 1134/SB 579 – Immunity from Liability–Medical Emergency-Use of Automated External Defibrillator. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gavelek and approved by the Board (7/0).

HB 1518/SB 850 – Education – Collective Bargaining – Public School Labor Relations Board

*Recommended Position:* **Oppose**

Very similar to a bill this Board opposed last session, this very far-reaching bill would significantly reduce the authority of the State Board of Education and State Superintendent of Schools, replacing their authority as to public education labor relations with a new Labor Relations Board, two of whose five members would be selected from a list of candidates submitted by designated exclusive representative organizations representing certificated and non-certificated employees. The decisions of the Labor Relations Board – which would not have the benefit of being knowledgeable as to the impact of its decisions on school operations – would be final, per the terms of this bill, whether as to appropriate subjects of bargaining, impasse determinations, or charges of unfair labor practices. Moreover, this bill would change current law to remove the prohibition against taking “permissive” subjects of bargaining through the impasse procedure, mandate final and binding arbitration to resolve collective bargain impasses, and permit the arbitrator to consider the “final best offer” of each party on an issue-by-issue basis.

*Discussion:*

Mr. Plunkett stated the State Board sets the parameters, the guidelines, and the policy for the school systems in Maryland. These bills are the total antithesis to the Maryland structure that has worked so well, and has made Maryland number three in the country, along with many other recognitions.

Board members expressed strong concerns of disapproval in opposition of HB 1518/SB 850. Mr. Aquino said he felt that the passage of this legislation would further reduce the involvement of the HCPSS Board. Mrs. Giles said she believes the key issue is that educational policy is in question.

Dr. Cousin stated that the opposition recommendation is based on the fact that the current system works well and that there is not a need for a change. This legislation will have an effect throughout the state and would have an impact on how the HCPSS does business in Howard County.

*Action:* Mrs. French moved that the Board oppose HB 1518/SB 850 – Education – Collective Bargaining – Public School Labor Relations Board. The motion was seconded by Dr. Siddiqui and approved by the Board (7/0).

HB 49 – Education – Maryland High School Assessment Test Results

*Recommended Position:* **Oppose**

This bill would require that MSDE present HSA data on or before July 1<sup>st</sup> of each year to local school districts. Currently, we receive such data long after the administration of the assessment, too late to plan for future assessments and, most importantly, too late for remediation and interventions over the summer or prior to the October administration. Although this would be wonderful were it to occur, simply legislating it may be unrealistic to what MSDE can accomplish (the bill would be effective this coming June). The state has already decided to eliminate the use of Brief Constructed Responses (BCRs) on the HSAs, thereby reducing the time lag for the return of the results to between four and six weeks. Moreover, this and many school boards have traditionally opposed the legislature's intrusion into matters better left to the State Board of Education.

*Discussion:*

Mrs. French stated that the Legislative Platform wanted test results within two weeks of administration, and the MABE Legislative Committee voted unanimously to support this bill with the amendment that the test results come within 30 days of each test administration.

Mr. Plunkett said staff recommendation of this bill is to oppose it because staff does not want the General Assembly to usurp the authority of the State Board of Education, which is working closely with local school systems and hearing the concerns about getting the test results in a timely manner. He added that the goal is to receive test results instantly, as was done with the functional test.

Mrs. Erickson stated that a concern staff has is that the state would push back the test date into earlier in the year, which leaves less time to teach the curriculum for the test.

Dr. Cousin stated that when the Legislatures want to impose upon the State Board or local boards, whether it is curriculum or this type of requirement, they do not always have all the facts on the impact that it could have on local school systems. He added that local school boards should oppose legislation that imposes upon them requirements that really are the purview of the State Board of Education.

*Action:* Mrs. Giles moved to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and oppose HB 49 – Education-Maryland High School Assessment Test Results. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cohen and approved by the Board (6/1), being opposed by Mrs. French.

HB 21 – Education – Compulsory Attendance – Age of Withdrawal

*Recommended Position:* ~~NO POSITION~~ **Oppose**

This bill would alter the age at which a child may withdraw from school to 18 years, without any funding for additional services, alternative programs, staffing, or space capacity. As salutary as the intention of the sponsor is, she has not addressed these and many other issues considered by the Compulsory School Attendance Task Force which issued its report this past December. One finding of the Task Force was that raising the compulsory age, in and of itself, would not reduce the dropout rate, but that supports, alternative education, multiple pathways to a diploma, and addressing the needs of English Language Learners and disabled students were paramount.

Mr. Plunkett stated that the Superintendent's recommendation is that the Board oppose HB 21.

*Discussion:*

Mrs. French stated that MABE's (Maryland Association of Boards of Education) position is to support HB 21 with an amendment that the age be 17 years, which she supports.

Board members and staff expressed concern about MABE's position on HB 21. Lack of research concerning whether or not raising the age would prevent students from dropping out of school, led Board members to believe that an additional burden would be put on truancy officers, pupil personnel workers, teachers, staff, administrators, and parents. Mr. Gavelek expressed concern for the students that want to be in class to learn. Mr. Cohen added that if a student does not want to be in school, he or she will do anything possible to avoid attending school.

Mr. Plunkett reported that if HB 21 were to pass, the total state aid for local school systems would increase by approximately 97.5 million in FY 2012, but Howard County is one of three jurisdictions that would realize a reduction in state funding. Dr. Cousin explained that if the mandatory attendance age is increased, more students will be in school, which will cost more money. Howard County has a low drop-out rate, so Howard County would not participate in an increase in funds. He added that the reason for opposition goes beyond the financial considerations.

Mr. Brown explained that the rationale for the calculation has to do with the wealth equalization in the state formula, and the fact that a number of less wealthy jurisdictions have a higher drop-out rate.

Mrs. Erickson said learning is a commitment a person has to make themselves. Nobody can make you learn. The commitment has to come from the student and their family. She added, that the HCPSS will continue to try and reach every single student regardless of whether this law is changed or not.

Mrs. Giles expressed concern about finding alternative programs for the students who do not want to be in school.

Dr. Siddiqui expressed that the reason some students drop-out of school is not always that students have no interest in school, but for

other personal and family needs. She added that by getting students focused in educational programs and intervention programs earlier in the younger grades, will make a difference for them in staying in school.

Mr. Plunkett said several major districts will be opposing the bill. Dr. Cousin added that a mandatory attending age at 17 is still not a guarantee that the student will graduate from high school, and that by law, the school system is responsible for students until they are 21 years old.

*Action:* Mr. Cohen moved approval of the Superintendent's recommendation to oppose HB 21 – Education – Compulsory Attendance – Age of Withdrawal. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gavelek and approved by the Board members (6/1), being opposed by Mrs. French.

### **Schedule of 2008/2009 Board of Education Meetings**

*Presenter:* Mrs. Patti Caplan, Director, Public Relations.

Mrs. Caplan reported that the changes that were recommended by the Board members have been made. She noted that in addition to the previous recommended changes, the following changes will also be made to the schedule:

- The NSBA conference days listed will be cut by two days.
- Shading on days that are school days will be corrected.

*Discussion:*

Mr. Aquino noted that he would be out of the country on the scheduled July 10<sup>th</sup> BOE meeting. Board members decided to continue with the scheduled meeting.

Mrs. French asked if the Coffee and Conversation scheduled for Saturday, April 25, 2009, either be moved up a week or back a week, due to a prior commitment. Board members agreed to move the Coffee and Conversation to Saturday, April 18, 2009.

Mr. Gavelek stated that he will abstain from the voting since he will not be the Student Member for the next school year.

*Action:* Mrs. Giles moved acceptance of the proposed schedule for 2008/2009 BOE meetings, with the adjustment to the April 2009,

Coffee and Conversation date, as suggested by Mrs. French. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Mikulis and approved by the Board members, (6/0), with Mr. Gavelek abstaining.

### **Quarterly Agenda, April – June 2008**

Due to there being three high school graduations scheduled on Thursday, May 22, 2008, and Board members will be attending the graduations, Board members decided to reschedule the BOE adoption of the FY 2009 Operating and Capital Budgets, FY 2010-2014 Capital Improvement Program, and the regular scheduled BOE meeting, to Tuesday, May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2008.

Mrs. Erickson announced that at the April 10, 2008, regular BOE meeting, under Information Items, the Early Admission to Kindergarten will be reclassified as a Report, not as an information item.

The Board will recognize the services of Mr. Gavelek as Student Member of the Board at the June 12, 2008, regular Board meeting. He will serve in his position until June 20, 2008.

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

### **Appointment – Community Advisory Council Monthly Report**

Mr. Wertman, Chairman of the Community Advisory Council, updated the Board on recent activities of the council.

### **Scheduling Board Meetings and Other Activities**

The Board scheduled upcoming meetings and activities.

### **Adjournment**

*Action:* Mr. Gavelek moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Giles and approved by the Board members (7/0).

\*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.