

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

April 16, 2008

The Board of Education of Howard County and the Howard County Council held a joint quarterly meeting on Wednesday, April 16, 2008, at 8:15 a.m. The meeting was held in the Ellicott Room of the George Howard Building located at 3430 Court House Drive, Ellicott City, Maryland:

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 Siddiqui, M.D.

Howard County Council

Courtney Watson, Chairperson
Mary Kay Sigaty, Vice Chair
Calvin Ball
Jennifer Terrasa

Sydney L. Cousin, Superintendent
Sandra Erickson, Deputy Superintendent
Raymond H. Brown, Chief Operating Officer
Mamie J. Perkins, Chief of Staff
Robert Glascock, Assistant Superintendent,
School Administration

Sheila Tolliver, Administrator
Jeff Meyers, Senior Admin. Analyst
Haskel Arnold, County Auditor

Susan Shown, Executive Assistant to the Board of Education
Arlene Conway, Administrative Secretary, Board of Education

Mrs. Watson called the meeting to order at 8:17 a.m.

Suspension Rate and Math Testing Rates, Disaggregated by Student Groups

Presenters: Dr. Theresa Alban, Executive Director, Strategic Planning, Assessment and Program Enhancement; and Mrs. Pamela Blackwell, Director, Student Services; Mrs. Marie DeAngelis, Director, Elementary Curricular Programs; Dr. Clarissa Evans, Executive Director, Secondary Curricular Programs.

Approved – May 8, 2008

Dr. Alban provided disaggregated mathematics test results for Maryland School Assessments (MSA), grades 3-5 and 6-8, and for the Algebra High School Assessment (HSA).

The test results show a positive trend in movement of the student groups. The numerical scores change daily for students who need to pass the algebra HSA to meet the graduation requirement, and the performance of those students is monitored regularly.

All performance data is available for the schools to use to identify and provide support and interventions for the students.

Mrs. Blackwell provided the disaggregated suspension data, and she described the tiered approach to support safe and nurturing environments for all students in the Howard County public schools. The multi-tiered behavioral support model includes:

- Universal supports (available in all schools, for all students).
- Secondary supports (in some schools, for targeted students).
- Tertiary supports (in all schools, for individual students).

Mr. Ball asked how schools are selected to receive secondary supports. Mrs. Blackwell responded that decisions are based on both behavioral and academic data. When the data is disproportionate for a particular student group, the group is identified for interventions.

Mrs. Gordon stated that the cultural proficiency initiative is important in helping teachers to know the needs of the students. Mrs. Watson agreed and pointed out that the school system has invited members of the County Council to participate in the program, and she encouraged them to attend.

Mrs. Terrasa asked if there were any initiatives to stop bullying on the school bus. Mrs. Blackwell responded that school bus drivers attend a series of workshops, one which is devoted to recognizing and addressing bullying. During the training, the bus drivers learn how to make a report to the school administration.

Dr. Cousin added that bus drivers also participate in the cultural proficiency training. He emphasized that the training is not just for certificated personnel, but it is for all staff. Mrs. Erickson stated that the training has also been offered to PTA presidents.

Mr. Glascock, Dr. Evans, and Mrs. DeAngelis provided information on the Action Plan for PreK-Grade 12 Mathematics Program and highlighted some components of the plan:

- Curriculum – The Howard County essential curricula is aligned with Maryland’s Voluntary State Curriculum to provide rigorous and challenging curriculum for all students. Teachers are supported with quality resources.
 - Exemplary Program Documents.
 - Electronic Mathematics Instructional Guide.
- Assessments – HCPSS assessments test the local curriculum, but they mirror the MSAs. Using the results from the local assessments, teachers can provide targeted interventions for struggling students.
- Professional Development – Math Support Teachers provided job-embedded professional development for schools with large numbers of low-performing students.
- After-school math tutoring program – The program is available in 13 schools. Teachers work with three students twice a week to assess the strengths and weaknesses of each student and focus on individual instruction.

Mr. Glascock stated that the trend data is moving upward and showing student improvement.

Mr. Ball complimented school system staff for the support initiatives that are in place to address both student behavior and achievement.

Dr. Cousin stated that the math program action plan is having a dramatic effect, but implementing the program requires people and money. Mrs. Erickson added that additional staff is assigned to schools which are identified with behavioral and academic issues, and it is the additional staff which contributes to the success of the program.

Review of Enrollment Projections

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

Mr. Gallihue explained that the development and review of enrollment projections is a part of the annual planning process for the capital budget, redistricting, staffing, etc. Generally, most schools have error rates below 5%, and the mean percentage error is also very low. The error rates have stabilized.

Mrs. Watson recalled that a discussion among the members of the Board of Education and the County Council several years ago caused a study of the enrollment projections by DeJong & Associates, Inc., and the study's data validated the error rate. The error rate with the "old" and the "new" enrollment projections processes are about the same. There is not a lot more that can be done to result in perfect projections.

Ms. Sigaty stated that problems occur when the number of students is underestimated, and the schools are not prepared to accommodate the additional students.

Dr. Cousin noted that the controversy was around the Open/Closed Chart for the Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance, and whether or not an area was closed to development.

Mr. Gallihue stated that elementary school projections show an improvement over last year. Decisionmakers should use several years of enrollment projections data. When development actually begins, things are learned that will impact the number of students that development will actually generate. The process will begin next year for elementary school redistricting in 2010.

The middle and high school projections are very constant with last year. High school redistricting will occur in 2010, and middle schools will be redistricted in 2013.

Mr. Gallihue pointed out that the enrollment projections are a planning tool, and there is no guarantee that redistricting will occur as indicated in the feasibility studies.

Mr. Roey added that Mr. Gallihue spends a significant amount of time with county staff to obtain data, and the two staffs work very cooperatively with each other.

Mr. Gallihue invited the members of the County Council to visit his office for a comprehensive explanation of the projection process.

Donations

Presenter: Ms. Mary Schiller, Manager, Partnerships Office and Educational Foundation.

The County Council members were provided with the Fundraising and Donations Activity Report, dated January 2008.

Ms. Schiller stated that the 20-member Board of Directors for the Educational Foundation has begun fund raising. The Foundation is built on three guiding principles:

- Equity.
- Life-long learning.
- Innovation.

Mrs. Watson asked that the County Council receive a list of the members of the Board of Directors.

Mr. Ball asked how long the data has been tracked, and Mr. Brown responded that this is the third year. Mr. Ball observed that the dollar amount could fluctuate widely depending on the aggressiveness of a PTA. Mr. Aquino agreed but added that some schools and PTAs deliberately choose not to engage in fundraising. In some instances, a fundraiser could be for one particular project and, once that goal is met, further fundraising is not necessary.

Mrs. Giles pointed out that it is difficult to get a complete picture of community support for a school when the “people power” (volunteer hours) is considered. Mrs. Perkins agreed and noted that the “people power” is evidenced by more than 800 business and organization partnerships with the schools.

Mrs. Mikulis stated that there was confusion concerning the reporting process for donations and fundraisers. Mr. Brown explained that the development of a solid policy and procedures, combined with staff training, helped school staff to understand the reporting process.

County Council's Use of Board Room During Renovation of the George Howard Building

Mrs. Watson stated that the County Council will be displaced from its normal meeting and hearing room during the renovation of the George Howard Building. The Council will need to relocate to a facility where television broadcasting can take place.

Mr. Glascock stated that staff developed an estimate to provide broadcasting services, and it will cost approximately \$12,000 for broadcasting on the education channel. If the Council meetings have to be broadcast on the government channel also, it will be an additional

\$5,000. He agreed that it makes sense for the County Council to use the Board Room and school system staff and equipment.

Mrs. Watson extended the Council's congratulations to Mrs. Shown on her upcoming retirement and expressed appreciation for her years of service to the Board of Education and school system.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by the Council Chairman at 9:10 a.m.