

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HOWARD COUNTY

April 24, 2008

The Board of Education of Howard County held a regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, April 24, 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.
Andrew Gavelek, Student Member (afternoon session only)

Sydney L. Cousin, Superintendent, Secretary/Treasurer
Sandra Erickson, Deputy Superintendent
Patti Caplan, Director, Public Relations
Barbara Bowers, Recording Secretary

Chairman Frank Aquino called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m., and Ms. Julie Morse, Atholton HS student, led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Forum

There was no one present to address the Board.

Approval of Agenda

The following changes were made to the agenda:

- Change: Item VIII.B. – Change from Nontenured Teachers to Nonrenewal of Teacher’s Contracts – Action.
- Pull for Discussion: Item VIII.C. Administrative Appointments – Action.
- Delete: Item IX.B. – Regular Meeting Minutes.
- Add: Item X.G. - Youth Task Force Nominations (BOE) – ACTION.

Action: Mrs. Giles moved approval of the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Mrs. French and approved by the Board (8/0).

Presentation of *Friends of Education Awards*

The Friends of Education Award was established by the Board to recognize and show appreciation to those who have made exemplary volunteer contributions in support of the school system's mission of excellence in teaching and learning. The award also serves to increase awareness of how community involvement enhances student achievement. Any member of the Howard County community or any group, organization, or business located in or serving Howard County may be nominated for the award.

The Howard County Board of Education recognized the volunteer contributions of four Howard County community members with Friends of Education Awards. Following a reception, the Board presented the awards to Ms. Jean Evansmore, Council of Elders volunteer at Marriotts Ridge HS; Ms. Colleen Terpos, parent volunteer at Northfield ES; and Mr. Don Bard and the Lazarus Foundation. The Friends of Education Lifetime Achievement Award was awarded posthumously to education advocate Dr. Natalie Woodson.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Cousin recognized staff who were nominated by their peers for outstanding service to the Howard County Public School System. All of the award winners are models of excellence and represent thousands of school system employees who are committed to the successful education of children. These outstanding employees and many others will be recognized at the Annual Awards and Recognition Ceremony on Tuesday, May 13, 2008, in the Jim Rouse Theater at Wilde Lake HS, beginning at 4:30 p.m.

- Excellence Award for Custodial & Grounds Service – Mr. Russell Wise, Phelps Luck ES.
- Office Professional Award – Ms. Kathleen Koehnlein, Atholton HS.
- Distinguished Assistant Award – Ms. Pamela Wilburn, Fulton ES.
- First Year Educator Award – Ms. Diana Alvarado, River Hill HS.
- Washington Post Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher – Ms. Kelly Horan, Reservoir HS.
- Howard County Teacher of the Year – Mr. Terry Eberhardt, Marriotts Ridge HS.

Dr. Cousin reported that the school system is collaborating with business partners to ensure that graduates are highly trained in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). He said there are a number of noteworthy STEM-related events scheduled over the next several months.

Other recognitions included:

- Mr. Phillip Sandborn, Wilde Lake HS senior, winner of the Maryland Regional Junior Science and Humanities Symposium (JSHS) for the second consecutive year, will travel to Orlando, Florida, April 29, through May 4, 2008, to represent Maryland in the National Junior Science and Humanities Symposium.
- Mr. Hank Zwally, Centennial HS student, will attend the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair in Atlanta, Georgia, May 11 - 17, 2008.
- Mr. Henry Zheng, Centennial HS junior, will present his paper on "Multi-Sensor Data Fusion for Prosthetic Control" at the International Fusion 2008 Conference in Cologne, Germany, from July 1 – 3, 2008.
- Three Howard County teachers have been selected by Boeing Corporation to participate in Space Camp in Huntsville, Alabama, during the month of July:
 - Jessica Michaelson of Laurel Woods ES.
 - Sue Varner of Hollifield Station ES.
 - Sherri Morisco of Folly Quarter MS.
- Congratulations to the high school students who participated in the 2008 PC (personal computer) Olympics:
 - River Hill HS Team and Coach (Ms. Anne Contney) - First Place.
 - Mt. Hebron HS Team - Second Place.
 - Centennial HS Team - Third Place.
- Mr. Andrew Gavelek, Student Board Member, has been admitted to the Coast Guard Academy in New London, Connecticut.

Student Representative's Report

Mr. Gavelek reported that on April 18, 2008, elections for the new Student Member of the Board of Education were held, and he expressed sadness at having to give up his seat on the Board. Mr. Gavelek noted that the election was a success, and he introduced Ms. Julie Morse, HCASC (Howard County Association of Student Councils) Special Elections Coordinator.

Ms. Morse presented Ms. Adejire Bademosi of Marriotts Ridge HS, as the 2008/2009 Student Member of the Howard County BOE.

Ms. Bademosi thanked everyone for giving her the opportunity to serve as Student Member.

Board Members' Reports

Ms. Gordon reported that she and Mrs. Mikulis recently attended a MABE (Maryland Association Boards of Education) meeting and briefly described what MABE does for teachers, Board members, and anyone involved in education. MABE offers training and workshops for new members as well as experienced members.

Mrs. Mikulis reported that MABE not only provides training for adults, but also provides training for students. The new Student Board Member, Ms. Bademosi, will have the opportunity to attend a MABE training session in the fall. Mrs. Mikulis added that members received an excellent summary of the legislative session at the recent MABE meeting.

Mrs. Giles recognized achievements within HCPSS by MSDE (Maryland State Department of Education):

- The Student Services Program for identifying what makes students achieve.
- Mr. Brown, Mr. Roey, and Mr. Gist for the renovation plans for Mt. Hebron HS.

Mr. Aquino reported that he was a panelist on the Financial Literacy Panel discussion organized by County Council Member Calvin Ball. The discussion included efforts towards improving financial literacy training in the county.

Mrs. Giles reported that on Friday, April 18, 2008, 66 teams of fifth-grade students competed to answer questions about a number of children's books in the first annual *Battle of the Books*, held at Marriotts Ridge HS. This event is part of the A+ Partnership with Howard County Library. She expressed congratulations to all the teams that participated and to the winning team from Triadelphia Ridge ES.

Mr. Cohen reported that he attended two pre-prom assemblies, one at Glenelg HS and one at Centennial HS. He said he felt both programs had a tremendous impact on the students.

Consent Agenda – Restricted*

Bids and Contracts; Nonrenewal of Teacher’s Contracts; Administrative Appointment – Director of Professional and Organizational Development; Administrative Appointment – Administrative Director of Elementary Schools; Appointment of Summer School Principals.

The following items were pulled for discussion:

- Item A – Bids and Contracts
- Item C – Administrative Appointments

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

Nonrenewal of Teacher’s Contracts: Approved by the Board.

Name	School	Grade or Subject	Reason	Howard County	Effective Date
Doris Austin	Mount View Middle	Special Education	Nonrenewal	3.0	6/16/08
Myra Keeler	Murray Hill Middle	Special Education	Nonrenewal	3.0	6/16/08
Maura Manley	Harpers Choice Middle	Special Education	Nonrenewal	8 mo.	6/16/08
Lauren Usatch	Dayton Oaks Elementary	Special Education	Nonrenewal	3.0	6/16/08

Appointment of Summer School Principals – Approved by the Board.

- Comprehensive K-8 Summer School - Northfield ES - Mr. Gavin, Principal
- Comprehensive High Summer School – Howard HS – Mr. Rick Robb, Principal

Bids and Contracts

Dr. Siddiqui asked for an explanation of why the Patapsco MS roofing project would cost more than the roofing project for Atholton HS. Mr. Doug Pindell, Purchasing Officer, explained that the

roofing project for Patapsco MS is a larger project than the Atholton HS project due to recent renovations at Atholton HS.

Action: Dr. Siddiqui moved approval of the roof replacement projects for Patapsco MS and Atholton HS. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Giles and approved by the Board (7/0*).

<u>Exhibit</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
P-1	STUDENT TRANSPORTATION	
	Y + L Transportation	\$ 59,670.00
	Bowen's Bus Service, Inc.	88,177.50
	JFC Bus Tours	116,166.00
	Tip Top Transportation	<u>177,130.80</u>
	TOTAL AWARD	\$441,144.90
P-2	TECHNOLOGY REPLACEMENT PLAN: PHASE 2.0 LEASE AGREEMENT	
	Apple Financial Services	\$4,683,200.16
P-3	ROOF REPLACEMENT PATAPSCO MIDDLE SCHOOL	
	Simpson of Maryland, Inc.	\$1,279,000.00
P-4	ROOF REPLACEMENT ATHOLTON HIGH SCHOOL	
	National Roofing Co. Inc.	\$697,000.00
P-5	FENCING SERVICES	
	Fence & Deck Connection	\$30,705.00
P-6	TRACK RESURFACING	
	American Tennis Courts, Inc.	\$115,860.00
P-7	PARKING LOT IMPROVEMENTS AT ATHOLTON HS AND RUNNING BROOK ES	
	Ross Contracting, Inc.	\$1,272,300.00
P-8	FULL-DAY KINDERGARTEN ADDITIONS – PHASE VI	\$4,293,396.00
	Various Contractors as listed – see attached exhibit	
P-9	TECHNOLOGY INFORMATION BACKUP AND RECOVERY WITH DATA DE-DUPLICATION	
	Data Networks	\$515,813.78

Administrative Appointment – Director of Professional and Organizational Development

Mrs. Erickson reported that Ms. Juliann Dibble has been recommended as the Director of Professional and Organizational Development.

Action: Mrs. French moved approval of the promotion of Ms. Dibble to the position of Director of Professional and Organizational Development. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Giles and approved by the Board (7/0*).

Administrative Appointment – Administrative Director of Elementary Schools

Mrs. Erickson reported that Ms. Arlene Harrison has been recommended as the Administrative Director of Elementary Schools.

Action: Mr. Cohen moved approval of the promotion of Ms. Harrison to the position of Administrative Director of Elementary Schools. The motion was seconded by Dr. Siddiqui and approved by the Board (7/0*).

Consent Agenda

Donations

Mr. Aquino asked to pull and delay the approval of the Mt. Hebron HS donation received from the parents/community in the amount of \$29,463.34 until further research is completed. He indicated the need to review the donation to ensure that all appropriate requirements and approvals have been met prior to granting Board approval.

Action: Mrs. Mikulis moved approval of the Donation Report as amended by Mr. Aquino. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Giles and approved by the Board (8/0).

Partnership Office: Howard County General Hospital, in the amount of \$954, designated to help with expenses for students to participate in the after-school SAT Prep Course offered by the Howard County Public School System.

Clemens Crossing ES: Wells Fargo Foundation, in the amount of \$650, designated for the purchase of furniture, student incentives, and supplies for testing and recognition materials.

Fulton ES: Target, in the amount of \$787.76, designated to help with field trip expenses and to purchase books and materials for the Student Reading Center.

Bonnie Branch MS: Mr. and Mrs. Abe Pollin, in the amount of \$4,800, designated for PBIS awards and incentives.

Glenwood MS: PTSA, in the amount of \$10,000, designated for the purchase of replacement computers for the computer lab and a computer and digital camera for the GT class.

Atholton HS: Charles C. Harrison, in the amount of \$500, designated for the purchase of lacrosse equipment.

PTSA, in the amount of \$1,000, designated for the purchase of a marquee sign.

Boosters, in the amount of \$1,000, designated for the purchase of speakers for the field hockey field.

Glenelg HS: Boosters, in the amount of \$6,600, designated to support the after-school SAT prep class.

Howard HS: Target, in the amount of \$972.18, designated for PBIS awards and incentives.

Richard L. Biniak, Jr., in the amount of \$900, designated to assist with expenses for the basketball banquet.

Marriotts Ridge HS: Boosters, in the amount of \$4,625.06, (\$2,175.80) designated for the purchase of the final rights for *Once Upon A Mattress*, (\$800.26) designated for the purchase of a

camera, memory card and camera bag, (\$1,649) designated for the purchase of shirts and conference registration fees for students in the FBLA Club.

Mount Hebron HS: Target, in the amount of \$796.48, designated for the purchase of a printer and flash drive.

Long Reach HS: Elkridge Youth Organization, Inc., in the amount of \$2,000, designated for the purchase of a batting cage.

Oakland Mills HS: Boosters, in the amount of \$1,000, designated for the purchase of shirts for the Alpha Achievers.

Proclamation: Pupil Personnel Worker Week

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HOWARD COUNTY

PROCLAMATION

HONORING

PUPIL PERSONNEL WORKERS

WHEREAS the Howard County Public School System recognizes each child is unique and valuable and must experience good mental, emotional and physical health to be successful in school; and

WHEREAS Pupil Personnel Workers work to foster awareness of the unique characteristics of every child and the importance of their education in the home, school and community; and

WHEREAS Pupil Personnel Workers help children recognize and solve problems that impede their ability to reach their full potential; and

WHEREAS in their role on Student Support Teams, Pupil Personnel Workers develop and participate in the planning of educational programs that promote academic success; and

WHEREAS Pupil Personnel Workers serve as child advocates by assisting parents in bridging the gap between home and school in issues dealing with a child's physical, psychological, social and intellectual growth, and

WHEREAS Pupil Personnel Workers serve as liaisons with community organizations and social services agencies to ensure that families and children are aware of and have access to appropriate services.

THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED that the Board of Education of Howard County designates the week of May 5-9, 2008, as Pupil Personnel Worker Week in the Howard County Public School System; and

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED that the Board intends that this proclamation serve to launch appropriate activities in recognition of the vital role that Pupil Personnel Workers play in the personal and academic development of students.

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

Sydney L. Cousin, Superintendent
Howard County Public School System

Action: Dr. Siddiqui moved approval of the proclamation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cohen and approved by the Board (8/0).

Proclamation: Honoring School Food Service Staff

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HOWARD COUNTY
PROCLAMATION
SALUTING
SCHOOL FOOD & NUTRITION SERVICE PERSONNEL

WHEREAS May 5-9, 2008, has been proclaimed as the 23rd Annual Salute to School Food and Nutrition Service Personnel Week in Maryland; and

WHEREAS the School Food and Nutrition Service Program provides a valuable service to students, staff, and citizens of Howard County; and

WHEREAS the 230 School Food and Nutrition Service employees in the public schools of Howard County are an integral part of the school system; and

WHEREAS School Food and Nutrition Service Personnel prepare and serve approximately 3,400,000 school lunches annually; and

WHEREAS the School Food and Nutrition Service Personnel of the Howard County Public School System deserve to be recognized for their dedication and continuing commitment to providing healthy, nutritious meals to students;

THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED that the Board of Education of Howard County joins with other school systems in the State of Maryland in designating the week of May 5-9, 2008, as Salute to School Food and Nutrition Service Personnel Week; and

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED that the Board of Education wishes to thank the School Food and Nutrition Service employees of the Howard County Public School System for their outstanding service and dedication.

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

Sydney L. Cousin, Superintendent
Howard County Public School System

Action: Mrs. Giles moved approval of the proclamation. The motion was seconded by Ms. Gordon and approved by the Board (8/0).

Proclamation: Asian Pacific American Heritage Month

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HOWARD COUNTY
PROCLAMATION
DESIGNATING MAY 2008
AS
ASIAN/PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

WHEREAS Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month celebrates the cultural, intellectual, economic, and social contributions of Americans of Asian/Pacific heritage; and

WHEREAS more than 14.9 million Americans are of Asian/Pacific Islander origin and Asian/Pacific Islanders number over 31,877 in Howard County alone; and

WHEREAS the school system has 7,966 students and 135 employees of Asian/Pacific American Islander origin; and

WHEREAS the vitality of the community can be seen in the three Chinese Language schools, over 14 Korean churches, one Buddhist temple, and a number of ethnic businesses contributing to the community; and

WHEREAS Asian/Pacific Americans bring to our society a rich heritage representing more than 47 ethnic groups of many languages, cultural and religious traditions; and

WHEREAS family members, citizens, and involved members of the community, Asian/Pacific Americans reinforce the values and ideals that are essential to the continued well-being of our nation and our community; and,

WHEREAS Asian/Pacific Americans, one of the fastest growing segments of our population, support the standard of educational excellence for every child; and

WHEREAS the theme in 2008 is: Leadership, Diversity, Harmony - Gateway to Success

THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED that the Board of Education declares May 2008 as Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month in the Howard County Public School System; and

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED that the Howard County community joins the celebration by expanding their knowledge of the contributions Asian/Pacific Americans make to our culturally diverse community.

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

Sydney L. Cousin, Superintendent
Howard County Public School System

Action: Mr. Gavelek moved approval of the proclamation. The motion was seconded by Mrs. French and approved by the Board (8/0).

Proclamation: School Nurse/Health Services Day

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HOWARD COUNTY

PROCLAMATION

DESIGNATING MAY 7, 2008

AS

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES DAY

WHEREAS a goal of the Howard County Public School System is to provide a safe and nurturing school environment for all students; and

WHEREAS school nurses and health assistants collaborate with parents, other health professionals and other school staff to provide services for students that promote optimum health for academic success; and

WHEREAS school nurses and health assistants assist students with chronic illness and reduce interruptions in learning; and

WHEREAS school nurses and health assistants function as part of the school's problem solving teams to bridge the gap between health, wellness and learning; and

WHEREAS school nurses and health assistants play an integral role in assisting families to access health care for their children; and

WHEREAS school nurses and health assistants assist students to develop lifelong health habits that prepare them to actively participate in a culturally diverse and changing world; and

WHEREAS school nurses and health assistants emphasize prevention of disease and injury, and promote health utilizing health services, health counseling, and health education;

THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED that the Board of Education of Howard County designates Wednesday, May 7, 2008, as School Health Services Day in the Howard County Public School System; and

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED that this proclamation serves to launch meaningful activities in all schools in recognition of the contributions made by our school health services professionals.

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

Sydney L. Cousin, Superintendent
Howard County Public School System

Action: Mrs. French moved approval of the proclamation. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Giles and approved by the Board (8/0).

Proclamation: Audiologists/Speech-Language Pathologists

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HOWARD COUNTY
PROCLAMATION
HONORING
AUDIOLOGISTS & SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS

WHEREAS, an estimated 42 million Americans, or 1 in 10 families, have some type of communication disorder, which has a \$30 billion impact on the U.S. economy due to lost work productivity, the provision special education services, and medical treatment; and

WHEREAS, the Howard County Public School System is proud to have 120 audiologists and speech-language pathologists offering quality education services to its students; and

WHEREAS, the Howard County Public School System recognizes the expertise of audiologists and speech-language pathologists in developing listening, speaking, literacy, and language development of our students; and

WHEREAS, the Howard County Public School System values the efforts of all audiologists and speech-language pathologists to help individuals with communication disorders reach their academic potential and lead independent, productive, and fulfilling lives; and

WHEREAS, May is traditionally observed as Better Hearing and Speech Month;

THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED that the Board of Education of Howard County designates the month of May 2008 as Better Hearing and Speech Month in the Howard County Public School System; and

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED that this proclamation serve to launch meaningful activities in all schools in recognition of the contributions made by audiologists and speech-language pathologists in improving the quality of life for students with communication disorders.

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

Sydney L. Cousin, Superintendent
Howard County Public School System

Action: Mr. Cohen moved approval of the proclamation. The motion was seconded by Ms. Gordon and approved by the Board (8/0).

Approval of Proposed Textbook

Presenter: Dr. Clarissa Evans, Executive Director of Secondary Curricular Programs.

Dr. Evans reported that a new student textbook on child development for a Family and Consumer Science course was displayed from March 14 through April 7, 2008. No public request for reconsideration or comments have been filed. This student textbook replaces a previous textbook that raised comments and concerns.

Action: Mrs. Giles moved acceptance of the proposed textbook to be added to the approved list. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gavelek and approved by the Board (8/0).

Youth Task Force Nominations

A Council Resolution to create a Youth Task Force has been introduced. The Howard County Council is requesting that the Howard County Local Children's Board convene and oversee the Youth Task Force. The task force will be charged to study and evaluate the desirability, feasibility, potential structure, membership, and responsibilities of a permanent youth commission and make recommendations to the County Council. The work of the task force is expected to be concluded by the end of May 2009.

Membership on the Youth Task Force shall include an individual nominated by the Board of Education of Howard County and the Student Member of the Board of Education. The individual and the

Student Board Member, along with other task force members, will help articulate a vision for youth in Howard County and encourage youth engagement in our community.

Mrs. Giles and Ms. Bademosi, (newly elected Student Member) offered to participate on the Youth Task Force.

Action: Mr. Gavelek moved approval of Mrs. Giles as the individual nominated by the BOE to the Youth Task Force. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cohen and approved by the Board (8/0).

Bridge to Excellence – Special Education Parent Partnerships

Presenters: Mr. James Walsh, Director of Special Education; Ms. Anne Hickey, Instructional Facilitator, Early Intervention Services; Ms. Shannon Barrett, Autism Specialist Early Intervention Services; Ms. Jane Berman, Minc-EL Teacher, Pointers Run ES; Dr. Sherri Braxton-Lieber, Parent; Ms. Patti Mackey, LRE Facilitator; Ms. Maggie Workman, Speech, Language, Pathologist; Ms. Debbie Engle, Parent; Ms. Ellen Hill, Instructional Facilitator, High Schools; Ms. Julie Foley, Parent; and Ms. Donna Weaver, Parent.

Mr. Walsh explained that a major focus area of the school system's *Bridge to Excellence Plan* (BTE) is to close the achievement gap that exists for students with disabilities. In introducing the Parent Partnership Report, Mr. Walsh noted the alignment with BTE focus areas and parent partnerships that have resulted in expanded service options for students and improved student outcomes. The report highlighted the significant contributions of the collaborative efforts of parents and staff in improving the capacity and effectiveness of the Department of Special Education to support the school system goal of success for all students. Committee members summarized the work and recommendations of the following committees:

- Early Intervention Charter Committee.
- Preschool Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) Workgroup.
- Transition Workgroup.
- Learning Disabilities/Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disability (LD/ADHD) Committee.

Recommendations from the work groups will be implemented as a part of continuous improvement efforts of the Department of Special Education.

Board members thanked staff and parents for the informative presentation.

Mrs. Mikulis asked for an explanation of what the school system does regarding the process of early identification. Ms. Hickey explained that children from birth to age three are referred to the Howard County Infants and Toddlers Program, and children ages three through five are referred to the Child Find Team. Dr. Siddiqui added that parents can contact these offices without a physician referral.

Dr. Siddiqui asked what percentage of students involved in the Minc-EL (Multiple Intense Needs Classes – Early Learner) Program are autistic. Ms. Hickey explained that children in the Minc-EL Program all have characteristics of autism. An educational disability of autism diagnosis is not necessary for a child to participate in the Minc-EL Program. The autism treatment evaluation checklist is used even though a child may not have an official diagnosis. She added that often times parents are not ready for an autism diagnosis, so the developmental delay category is used until the child becomes school age and the diagnosis is looked at specifically as autism.

Dr. Siddiqui asked if students who attended the Pals program (a Partnership for Preschoolers in Community-Based Programs) at the two religious sites had more opportunities for social growth within their own community than the students who attended the Pals program at the community college site. Ms. Hickey stated that data has not been compared to see if children in a certain community program have or have not made more progress. She added that all sites have different curriculums, different daily schedules, and different staff members.

Mr. Cohen said he has heard that an autism diagnosis can be determined on a child between six months of age to one year old. He asked about the validity of this statement and how parents know where to get help for a child. Ms. Barrett reported that Kennedy Krieger is conducting studies on trying to make a diagnosis on children as young as six months old but are currently unable to make the diagnosis at such a young age. She stated that the Howard County Autism Society has no cost to join, is very helpful to parents, and works very closely with HCPSS. Ms. Hickey said that if parents have a concern, they should talk to their pediatrician and call the school system. Dr. Siddiqui added that as a pediatrician, she starts screening a child between 15 and 18 months of age.

Mrs. Gordon asked for an explanation of the difference between ADD and ADHD and if HCPSS offers programs directed towards students having ADD or ADHD. Mr. Walsh explained that the "H" in ADHD stands for hyperactivity. ADD stands for Attention Deficit Disorder, and ADHD stands for Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder. He added that HCPSS does not offer a program for ADD, ADHD, or LD (Learning Disability), but some students receive services through an IEP (Individual Educational Plan).

Mrs. French asked if the school system will be able to accommodate all Minc-EL students due to the reduction from six classes to five. Ms. Barrett explained that ten students have been identified as needing more of a kindergarten- or first-grade-level focus. Moving these ten students will not only accommodate all children who need EL placements next year, but will provide room for more students who move into the area or may be identified later in the year. Ms. Hickey added that transportation will be provided as necessary.

Mrs. French asked how many children one year old and younger are being accommodated in the Infant and Toddlers Program. Ms. Hickey explained that currently there are 335 children in the birth to three-year-old Infant and Toddler Program, but she did not have the exact number of children one year old and younger. She stated that about 1.18 percent of all the birth to one-year-olds in Howard County have been identified and are receiving services. She added that a community health nurse serves on the Howard County General Hospital Discharge Committee and is available to assist families with referral information when babies are discharged.

Dr. Cousin thanked the parents for speaking during the report and thanked all parents involved in supporting the school system through efforts of volunteering to serve and by challenging the school system to provide the best education possible for students. He said the responsibility of the education of children is a shared responsibility between parents, families, the school system, and the community.

Recess: The meeting was recessed by the Chairman at 6:20 p.m. and reconvened at 7:32 p.m.

Public Forum

There was no one present to address the Board.

Appointment – Community Advisory Council Monthly Report

Presenter: Mr. Chris Wertman, Chairman of the Community Advisory Council (CAC).

Mr. Wertman reported that the CAC supports the new administrative intern positions and the plans for the Mt. Hebron HS renovation.

Partnership Report

Presenters: Ms. Mary Schiller, Manager, Partnership Office, and Ms. Joan Fox, Specialist, Partnerships Office.

Ms. Schiller provided the Board with an update on the status of the school system's Partnership Program. The Partnerships Office provides strategic direction, oversight, and review of HCPSS partnerships and handles the following functions:

- Facilitates relationships between partnering organizations and schools, program offices, or other HCPSS entities.
- Offers training, tools, and tips on starting, maintaining, and enhancing partnerships.
- Provides structure to partnership agreements, helping to ensure consistency and sustainability.
- Aligns partnership agreements with Board of Education policies and HCPSS legal and risk management guidelines.
- Offers recognition and appreciation to partnering organizations with signing ceremonies and press releases for new partnerships, an annual report and celebration for existing partnerships, and publicity for partnership activities.
- Oversees tracking, monitoring, and review of data associated with established partnerships.

HCPSS partnerships fall into three general types: school, program office, and/or systemwide. Ms. Schiller noted that the school system currently has over 1,000 partnerships with businesses, nonprofit organizations, education agencies, government agencies, and volunteers. HCPSS educational partnerships are aligned with the school system's primary goals of enhancing student achievement and supporting safe, nurturing schools. A relationship is characterized as a "partnership" when it is two-way and collaborative, ongoing (a year or more in duration), renewable, and formalized via a written agreement.

The Partnerships Office has developed a variety of tools to assist schools and program offices in establishing effective partnerships. The intent of these tools is to ensure that all HCPSS partnerships have the basic components needed for effective implementation and alignment with the goals and policies of HCPSS. The tools can be found on the "For Employees" section of the HCPSS website. A second website for partners and potential partners has also been developed with guidelines and information targeted toward an external audience.

Discussion:

Mr. Cohen asked how partners are acquired and if all partners are from the Howard County area. Ms. Schiller explained that most of the existing partners pursued the HCPSS regarding establishing a partnership. She added that most partners are within the region and the majority are located in Howard County, but this is not a restriction.

Mrs. Mikulis pointed out that not all partnerships give financially and some offer their time or expertise. She said that establishing partnerships is not about money but about enhancing the education of children in some way. Mrs. Giles said that the benefits of partnerships are not only for students, but for teachers and staff as well. She added that the level of partnership participation is encouraging and a reflection of how strong the community is invested in HCPSS.

Mrs. French asked if the wording in the standard partnership template was mandatory or just a sample. Ms. Schiller explained that it is only a sample for the schools to use when establishing a partnership. She added that for each partnership to be effective, specific goals and objectives need to be met by the parties involved.

Mrs. French asked if some of the business partners could participate in school-sponsored events. Ms. Fox stated that as some partnership agreements are written, the partner agrees to participate in school events, as a judge for example. Ms. Schiller added that partners are asked to participate in school events as long as the event is a strategic focus for the school system.

Mr. Cohen asked if communication occurs with a partner on a regular basis. Ms. Fox said that when she and Ms. Schiller meet with a school, keeping open communication with the partner is stressed. Schools are encouraged to communicate with their partnerships on a regular basis.

Mr. Aquino inquired about the difference between a sponsorship and a partnership. Ms. Schiller explained that a sponsorship may offer something one time, like a donation, whereas a partnership is an on-going relationship.

Ms. Gordon asked how a member of the community can volunteer for the Simulated Congressional Hearings. Mr. Glascock explained that community members may contact a particular school and ask to speak to the coordinator or call or email the Elementary Social Studies Department.

Elkridge ES Addition/Renovation – Approval of Schematic Design

Presenters: Mr. Bruce Gist, Director of School Construction, and Mr. Christopher Lester, Principal of George Vaeth Associates, Inc. (GVA Architecture).

A Schematic Design report for Elkridge ES was presented to the Board. The scope of work includes adding five classrooms (125 students) grades 1 – 5, two kindergarten classrooms (44 students), a cafetorium, an entrance lobby expansion, and a new music room. Additional support spaces such as storage areas, bathrooms, and the teacher planning spaces are included.

Three options were presented that meet the intent of the FY 2009 capital project. Option #1 is the most economical but substantially impacts the school's existing outside play areas. Option #2 is the most costly and has the longest construction duration. Option #3 has the least construction impact to the existing school, is median in construction cost, and will be the quickest to build. Option #3 is the plan that is recommended.

Project alternates include a roadway widening of the school entrance road from 2 lanes to 4 lanes for egress and access, additional entrance canopies, and a stage enlargement/chair storage addition.

Timeline:

- April 2008 - Board approval of schematic design.
- July 2008 – Design documents presented for approval.
- August 2008 – Bid process.
- September 2008 – Board approval and bid awarded.
- October 2008 – Start construction.

Discussion:

Mrs. French asked if parking could be increased at the school. Mr. Gist explained that as part of the road widening, parking behind the middle school will be expanded.

Board members discussed schemes other than the three options presented. As each alternative scheme was presented, Mr. Lester explained why various schemes were not part of the final three options.

Mrs. Mikulis asked how the bidding would be conducted due to the uncertainty of the budget and the construction cost estimates for two of the three options, including additional alternatives, which are over budget. Dr. Cousin said that money from the Contingency Reserve Account could be used. He said that although the road expansion is important, it is not critical.

Action: Mrs. Giles moved approval to accept the recommendation of Option #3 for the additions and alterations to Elkridge ES. The motion was seconded by Dr. Siddiqui and approved by the members of the Board (7/0).

Update on Request for Proposals (RFP) for a New Student Information Management System

Presenter: Mr. Jose Stevenson, Director, Office of Information Technology.

Mr. Stevenson reported that a recommendation to purchase a Student Information Management System (SIMS) solution will be presented to the Board in June 2008. Throughout the system upgrade process, the Office of Information Technology will continue to employ thorough testing measures and best practices to ensure that district student information needs are met and aligned with end-user expectations.

Mr. Stevenson noted that rollout of the new SIMS is planned to take place during the 2008/2009 school year. This deadline is dependent upon the success of the RFP process to identify a qualified vendor and a package that can fully support HCPSS requirements with minimal customization. Development of components may extend the timeline. Total implementation of the new SIMS program will take approximately three years.

The SIMS Evaluation Committee was involved in developing the scope of requirements and services that were included in the RFP for the new SIMS. The Evaluation Committee consists of school-based and community stakeholders, including principals, assistant principals, data clerks, registrars, teachers, school administration, health services, the Technology Advisory Council, the PTA, and the CAC (Community Advisory Council). Input was also solicited from Gartner, a leading information and technology research and advisory firm.

Discussion:

Mr. Stevenson stated that site visits, testing, and calling people who are currently using the vendors will be conducted to verify that the network requirements and the actual operation of the system perform as needed. Vendors of interest are currently in school systems serving 5,000 to one million students, and some vendors are serving school systems within the entire state. Two vendors are currently working in two different school systems in Maryland.

Dr. Cousin explained that the Board is being asked by the SIMS Evaluation Committee for their approval to proceed with negotiations with the three highest ranked vendors to identify the most desirable SIMS solution for HCPSS.

Action: Ms. Gordon moved approval of staff's recommendation to proceed with negotiations with the top three vendors identified through the RFP process for SIMS. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Giles and approved by the Board (7/0).

Superintendent's FY 2009 Operating and Capital Budget Priorities in Response to County Executive's Proposed Budget

Presenters: Dr. Cousin, Superintendent, and Mr. Ray Brown, Chief Operating Officer.

Dr. Cousin reported that the County Executive has recommended a reduction of \$4 million to the Board of Education's FY 2009 Operating Budget Request. The budget has been forwarded to the County Council for review and approval. In the event that reductions are required, the Superintendent and staff have prepared a list of potential reductions, including:

- Reduce legal fees for nonpublic (\$50,00)
- Eliminate four new substitute bus drivers (\$36,900)
- Cut one new Public Information Specialist (\$72,600)
- Adjust administrative turnover (\$86,100)
- Reduce legal fees in Administration (\$125,000)
- Adjust Mid-Level Administration turnover (\$95,000)
- Cut one new WebTV position and supplies (\$132,600)
- Reduce building maintenance projects (\$867,300)
- Trim networks/technology projects (\$200,000)
- Reduce grounds projects (\$225,000)
- Cutback environmental supplies (\$200,000)
- Reduce emergency textbook purchases (\$100,000)
- Pre-purchase textbooks (\$200,000)
- Reduce replacement equipment (\$500,000)
- Defer ten new middle school technology teachers (\$564,400)
- Cut five new administrative interns (\$282,200)
- Eliminate one new bilingual liaison (\$40,300)
- Cut one new special education work study teacher and one support teacher (\$112,800)
- Eliminate a new 0.5 occupational therapist and 0.4 psychologist (\$61,500)
- Cut two new student assistant positions (\$48,300)

Mr. Brown reported on the County Executive's reductions to the Board's capital budget request and the shortfall in state funding. The County Council will hold a public hearing on the proposed operating and capital budgets for HCPSS, Howard Community College, and the Howard County Library on Tuesday, April 29, 2008, beginning at 4:00 p.m.

Discussion:

Mrs. Mikulis explained that the Board was not cutting the budget at this time but was preparing a plan in case HCPSS receives less money than requested.

Ms. Gordon expressed concern with the potential reduction of technology teachers and new administrative interns. Board members agreed and expressed their concerns as well. Mrs. French suggested only making a partial reduction to the technology teacher positions and new administrative interns rather than cutting these positions totally out of the budget.

Dr. Cousin explained that the potential reduction list is the Superintendent's recommendation and reminded the Board that much time, energy, and scrutiny went into the preparation of the list.

Mr. Brown explained the potential reductions to the FY 2009 Capital Budget.

Due to technical difficulties, the meeting was adjourned at 10:02 pm.

High School Facility Assessments – *Unable to be presented.*

Information Item

Technology Replacement Plan, Phase 2.0 – School Administration

*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.