

A Summary of the Board of Education Meeting Thursday, April 24, 2008

ACTION ITEMS

- Approved the restricted consent agenda including bids and contracts, nontenured teachers, and the appointments of Juliann Dibble as Director of Professional and Organizational Development, Arlene Harrison as Administrative Director of Elementary Schools, and Summer School Principals Rick Robb and Gavin West.
- Approved the regular consent agenda including donations, with amendment, and minutes of regular Board meetings.
- Approved a proclamation designating May 5-9, 2008 as Pupil Personnel Worker Week in the HCPSS.
- Approved a proclamation designating May 5-9, 2008 as Salute to School Food and Nutrition Service Personnel Week in the HCPSS.
- Approved a proclamation designating May 2008 as Asia/Pacific American Heritage Month in the HCPSS.
- Approved a proclamation designating May 7, 2008 as School Health Services Day in the HCPSS.
- Approved a proclamation designating May 2008 as Audiologist and Speech-Language Pathologist Month in the HCPSS.
- Approved the inclusion of the textbook *Child and Adolescent Development* on the Approved Textbook List.
- Approved the appointment of Ms. Giles to serve as the Board's representative on the County's Youth Task Force.
- Approved the Schematic Design for the Elkridge Elementary School addition/ renovation.

Superintendent responds to proposed operating budget reduction

Superintendent Sydney Cousin reported that the County Executive has recommended a reduction of \$4 million to the Board of Education's Fiscal 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 4 new substitute bus drivers (\$36,900)
- Cut 1 new public information specialist (\$72,600)
- Adjust Administrative turnover (\$86,100)
- Reduce legal fees in Administration (\$125,000)
- Adjust Mid-level Administrative turnover (\$95,000)
- Cut 1 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 10 new middle school technology teachers (\$564,400)
- Cut 5 new administrative interns (\$282,200)
- Eliminate 1 new bilingual liaison (\$40,300)
- Cut 1 new special education work study teacher and 1 support teacher (\$112,800)
- Eliminate 0.5 new occupational therapist and 0.4 psychologist (\$61,500)
- Cut 2 new student assistants (\$48,300)

Chief Operating Officer Ray Brown reported on the County Executive's cuts to the Board's capital request and the shortfall in state funding. The County Council will hold a public hearing on the proposed operating and capital budgets for the school system, the community college and the library on Tuesday, April 29 beginning at 4:00 pm.

Special Education parent partnerships expand options for students

A major focus area of the school system's *Bridge to Excellence Plan* is to close the achievement gap that exists for students with disabilities, according to Director of Special Education Jim Walsh. In introducing the Parent Partnership Report, 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 parent 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 the continuous improvement efforts of the Department of Special Education.

Partnerships grow in number and focus

Partnerships Manager Mary 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 system-wide. Schiller noted that the school system currently has over 1,000 partnerships with businesses, non-profit 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 the 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.

Board gets status report on Student Information Management System

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, according to OIT Director Jose Stevenson.

As reported to the Board in previous updates, 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. The Board approved a recommendation to proceed in negotiations with the top three vendors identified through the RFP process.

In other action...

In his report to the Board, Superintendent Sydney Cousin noted that the school system recognizes exemplary service in several categories each year and introduced the following individuals who were nominated for awards and selected by their peers:

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

Dr. Cousin also shared that the school system will recognize these outstanding employees and many others at the Annual Awards and Recognition Ceremony on Tuesday, May 13 in the Jim Rouse Theater at Wilde Lake High School, beginning at 4:30 PM.

Dr. Cousin congratulated the following students and staff members:

- Wilde Lake High School senior Phillip Sandborn, who won the Maryland Regional Junior Science and Humanities Symposium (JSHS) for the second consecutive year, and will travel to Orlando Florida to represent Maryland in the National Junior Science and Humanities Symposium.
- Centennial High School student Hank Zwally, who will attend the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair in Atlanta
- Centennial High junior Henry Zheng, who will present his paper on "Multi-sensor Data Fusion for Prosthetic Control" at the International Fusion 2008 Conference in Cologne, Germany.
- Howard County teachers Jessica Michaelson, Laurel Woods Elementary School; Sue Varner, Hollifield Station Elementary School; and Sherri Morisco, Folly Quarter Middle School; who have been selected by Boeing Corporation to participate in Space Camp in Huntsville, Alabama.
- The River Hill High School team and their coach Anne Contney, who took First Place in the 2008 PC Olympics.
- Chris Wertman, Chairman of the Community Advisory Council, reported that the CAC supports the new administrative intern positions and the plans for the Mt. Hebron High renovation.

The Board honored four recipients of the 2008 Friends of Education Awards. Award recipients included:

- Coleen Turport, for her volunteer coordination of the Math Strategies Program at Northfield Elementary
- Don Bard & the Lazarus Foundation, for supporting technology use for

educational purposes

- Jean Evansmore, Council of Elders member for her volunteer work at Mt. Hebron High School
- Natalie Woodson, who was presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award posthumously, in recognition of her years of support for all the students of Howard County.

Student Government Election Coordinator Julie Morse introduced newly elected student board member Adejire Bademosi from Marriotts Ridge High School. Bademosi officially assumes the position on July 1, 2008.

Board member Pat Gordon reported on the Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE) meeting, including training opportunities for both adult and student board members, and Ellen Giles congratulated the Planning Committee for the Mt. Hebron High School renovation, which was recently recognized by MSDE. Frank Aquino reported that he participated on a panel for Financial Literacy and Larry Cohen reported that he attended a pre-prom assembly at Glenelg High School.

The Board postponed the Work Session on the High School Facilities Assessments.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Education is scheduled for 4:00 pm on Thursday, May 8, 2008.