

A Summary of the Board of Education Meeting Tuesday, May 27, 2008

ACTION ITEMS

- Approved a restricted consent agenda including bids and contracts and a school bus contract transfer.
- Approved a consent agenda including donations, minutes of regular board meetings, the final Legislative Report on the 2008 General Assembly, and appointments to the Board of Directors of the HCPSS Educational Foundation.
- Approved a proclamation in recognition of Custodial, Maintenance, Grounds and Warehouse Personnel.

Language Arts instruction provides the “write” stuff

In a Bridge to Excellence Report on the Language Arts Program, Coordinators Fran Clay and Zeleana Morris presented an update on the status of writing across the grades. The ultimate goal of the Language Arts Program is to prepare students to effectively communicate orally and in writing in the twenty-first century. Toward that end, the school system has adopted the 6+1 Traits of Writing, which are introduced to students in elementary grades and reinforced through high school. In the fall of 2008, students in Grades 3-5 will each receive an *Elementary Writing Guidebook* and high school students will receive the *Writing Standards: A High School Manual*.

Clay and Morris noted that state standards require students receive instruction in listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The HCPSS PreK-12 Language Arts Curriculum encompasses these four areas in an integrated approach. Each standard and the accompanying objectives are supported through print and non-print resources designed to engage students actively in authentic reading and writing activities. Curriculum is interdisciplinary in focus. Students are taught to make connections between and among disciplines. They are taught to understand the global nature of the world in which they live, respecting and drawing on the richness of a diverse society.

Ombudsman presents data on cases

HCPSS Ombudsman Rose Dennison reported to the Board that a total of 57 cases were handled by the Ombudsman's office between November 6, 2007 and May 9, 2008. Dennison presented data about the types of cases brought to her and noted that the problem resolution process provides her with the opportunity to identify trends in the concerns. All data is maintained in a secure manner and reported on an aggregate level only. This feedback provides another data point for use in system improvement.

Board hears report on scoreboard donations

At the Board's request, Assistant Superintendent Linda Wise reported on the funding used to purchase Mt. Hebron High School's new scoreboard system for a

total cost of \$48,011. In FY07, Mt. Hebron began a fundraising effort to upgrade their athletic facilities, which included their scoreboard system. The funds were collected over the course of two years, FY07 and FY08. The scoreboard system was procured under the oversight of the HCPSS Purchasing Office in accordance with Board Policy 4050, Procurement of Materials, Supplies, Equipment and Services.

Wise indicated that Mt. Hebron received cash donations totaling \$25,299.07 for the scoreboard system. The funds received directly by the school were accounted for in the school activities fund. Donations were acknowledged and reported in accordance with Policy 4010, Donations, including acknowledgement letters to all donors and reporting to the Board those donations over \$500.

The Mt. Hebron Viking Backers paid \$14,996 of the total cost directly to the selected vendor for the scoreboard system. In addition, the Class of 2007 directed their school activity fund balance of \$7,715.93 to be used for the costs of the scoreboard system. Funds from the Class of 2007 were originally collected through fundraisers and were handled in accordance with the fundraising policy.

In other action...

In his report to the Board, the Superintendent congratulated the members of the Class of 2008, noted the change in the last day of school from June 16 to June 13, and remarked on the expanded medical coverage being offered by the school system. Deputy Superintendent Sandra Erickson congratulated the following individuals:

- Board member Sandra French, who will receive the Child Advocate Award from Leadership Howard County on Tuesday, June 10, 2008, 6pm at The Spear Center.
- The HCPSS Office of Human Resources, the third grade team at Elkridge Elementary School, and Long Reach High School Coach Chuck Spaulding for receiving Celebration of Excellence Awards from the ARC of Howard County on May 20.
- Phelps Luck Elementary School and Lime Kiln Middle School, who are among 13 Maryland schools selected by the Maryland State Department of Education to receive Students Improving Maryland Awards.
- Hollifield Station, Rockburn and Guilford elementary schools for receiving Howard County's first Healthy School Awards last week.
- The Glenelg High School Boys and Girls Lacrosse Teams that both brought home State Championships this year and Glenelg Coach Josh Hatmaker for his selection by the Washington Post as Metro Coach of the Year for Boy's Lacrosse.

At Public Forum, students Isaiah DuPree, Jake Rhody, and Andrew Wang read poems they had written which were published in Our Voice Literary Magazine. Rhonda Jones, Chairman of the Education Committee of the NAACP, presented awards to schools receiving A's and B's on the NAACP's analysis of performance

and attendance of their African American students. Ilchester Elementary is the first school in the county to receive a special award for earning A's in all categories. Other schools recognized include:

- Bellows Spring ES
- Bushy Park ES
- Clemens Crossing ES
- Clarksville ES
- Dayton Oaks ES
- Forest Ridge ES
- Fulton ES
- Northfield ES
- Pointers Run ES
- Thunder Hill ES
- Triadelphia Ridge ES
- Waterloo ES
- Clarksville MS

Coordinator of Athletics Michael Williams presented the 2008 HCPSS Sportsmanship Award to Glenelg High School. Assistant Principal Celia Carr and Athletics and Activities Manager John Davis accepted the award on behalf of the school.

Board member Patricia Gordon commented on the Simulated Congressional Hearings occurring in 29 elementary schools across the county.

Chris Wertman, Chairman of the Community Advisory Council, addressed the Board regarding the council's concerns with offering monetary rewards to students for information related to violations of policy and/or laws. The Council recommended increased record keeping regarding the use of the option, notification of parents before giving payment to a student, and the development of a policy on the issue, among other things.

The Board held discussion on the formation of a Board Policy Committee and Legislative Committee.

At a budget meeting preceding the regular meeting, the Board approved its fiscal year 2009 Operating Budget in the amount of \$657,088,020 and its fiscal year 2009 Capital Budget in the amount of \$80,466,000. The Board also approved the first year teachers' salary and out-of-county tuition costs for the 2008-09 school year.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Education is scheduled for 4:00 pm on Thursday, June 12, 2008.